

# 'Pay it Forward' program wins Romney award

BY PAUL R. PACE  
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Anyone who has ever "paid it forward" received an award this week.

Joan McGlinchey of the Commission on Children Youth and Families, said the award committee decided to highlight a program started by the Farmington Community Library that encouraged people to read the book "Pay it Forward" and follow its principle of doing something nice for someone just because you can.

"It occurred to us that this was

a nice way to honor individual acts of kindness," said McGlinchey. The Romney award typically highlights a person or family that has shown outstanding achievement in volunteering in their community.

"We decided to honor those that pay it forward and to pass (the principle) on," McGlinchey said. "We decided to do something different."

To preserve the idea, the Farmington Observer will continue to work with the library in publishing stories about people who deserve recognition for "paying it forward," McGlinchey said. "Hopefully, people will contin-

ue to share their stories," she said.

The Romney award typically goes to the city council. Monday engraved that this year's recipient were those people who have paid it forward.

Instead of using the funds to host their annual volunteer recognition party, the commission honored its recipients by donating the money to help support a local child or two - whose families could otherwise not afford to pay - to attend the local YMCA's Summer Camp.

"In lieu of the party this was a nice way to pay it forward," McGlinchey said.

## RECREATION NEWS

For more information on the following events call the Recreation Division at (248) 473-1800.

### AMISH COUNTRY

Take a trip to the Amish Flea Market in Shipshewana, Ind. The trip includes transportation and a family style dinner at the Dine Dutchman Essenhaus. Trip dates are June 28 and Aug. 7. The cost is \$55 per person and pre-registration is required.

### SUMMER FUN CENTERS

This year's Summer Fun Cen-

ters take place 9-11:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at several locations now through Aug. 2. Activities include arts and crafts, group games, sports, contests and more. Summer Fun Centers are free for kids ages 6-12 with registration taking place at Fun Center locations.

### SAFETY TOWN

The Recreation Division is now taking registration for the Safety Town program. The Safety Town

program is designed for ages 4-6 and consists of two week sessions (morning or afternoon) that teach several safety aspects to kids.

### ADULT CO-ED KICKBALL

Yes, kickball, the game you played in elementary school, is making a comeback. Get your friends, family, and co-workers organized and form a team. League play is on Monday nights and the season begins June 24. Registration is now being taken.

## CAMPUS PIPELINE

### ALBION OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Some local Albion College students are currently spending the spring 2002 semester studying with programs around the world, as part of Albion College's Off-Campus Programs.

Albion's off-campus programs allow students to study different cultures and work in professional environments with internships and studies offered in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and the United States.

Amanda E. Dobkowski is currently spending the spring 2002 semester studying in Seville, Spain. Dobkowski is a senior majoring in Spanish and art and completing the secondary education program. She is the daughter of Robert Dobkowski and MaryJo Dobkowski of Farmington Hills, and a graduate of North Farmington High School.

Elizabeth A. Vanderveen is currently spending the spring

2002 semester studying in New York City. Vanderveen is a junior at Albion College. She is the daughter of William Vanderveen of Northville and Kara Vanderveen of Farmington and a graduate of Ladywood High School.

### ST. MARY'S PREP HONOR ROLL

Local students qualifying for the Honor Roll for the fourth card-marking period of the 2001-2002 year at St. Mary's Preparatory are: Kyle Goodroe, senior; George Gropolin, junior; Christopher Jones, freshman; Kyle Miller, sophomore; Juan Rojas, senior; and Andrew Williams, senior. To qualify for the honor roll, students must have earned a grade point average of 3.7 or better.

### MIAMI UNIVERSITY DEAN'S LIST

Three Farmington Hills students were named to the First Semester Dean's List at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. They are: Rachel Cate Barnes, Sara

Ruth Biederman, and Jennifer Lauren Dwyer. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn at grade point average of 3.5 or better.

### MICHIGAN STATE HONOREE

Sarah Martinez, a 1998 graduate of Farmington High School, was named to the Dean's Honor List in the College of Education at Michigan State University this past Fall semester. Sarah is in her senior year there, and just recently passed her certification test to begin her student teaching this fall.



**Crusade:** Susan Clayton is on a mission to remove diseased ash and elm trees in her Farmington Hills neighborhood.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEXLER

## Trees from page A1

Clayton is very concerned about losing the trees in her front yard, which is filled with the ash variety.

"It would cost me \$4,000 to take down my front yard," she said. "I wish there was something the city could do. I would love to see an ordinance that addresses this."

She said the city of Birmingham has a program where officials tag dead or diseased trees for removal and if the homeowner doesn't take care of it, the city does the job and bills the person.

Hills city officials could not be reached to comment on the issue.

Tom Gregory, owner of Tom's Tree Service based in Redford was out in the subdivision this week to offer an estimate on taking down diseased ash and elm trees in the commons area.

He said he's been in the business 20 years.

"The only way to combat it is to remove them," he said, adding that ash/elm disease in running rampant in parts of Wayne County.

Simply taking down a tree

won't help, he said. The tree must be removed from the area to halt the spread.

David L. Roberts, Ph.D., a plant pathologist for Michigan State University, agrees on his Web site that trees suffering from the disease should be destroyed.

"Any tree with 50 percent or greater branch loss should be removed," he said of ash trees.

He stated while there is no exact known reason the trees become diseased, there are no insects associated with the affliction.

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