

Goodfellows in spirit of the season

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area clinic, school, church and community groups worked from an empty storefront at the Village Commons shopping center in downtown Farmington last week. Farmington-based Nelson/Ross Properties donated use of the site.



Jerry Poole and Jerry Smith were among the employees of Farmington Hills-based Robertson Brothers Pool Service who helped deliver Goodfellow "baskets of joy" Saturday morning.

Each basket of joy typically contained canned foods and knitwear. Each included gift certificates redeemable for fresh food and winter clothing. Toys, games, dolls and children's clothing were included when appropriate.

FAMILY MAKEUP dictated the size and content of each basket. Potential recipients had to document need. Special dietary requests were honored when practical.

The number of seniors served this year was up 21 from last year.

The number of families was down 47, a reflection of this year's stronger economy. "Referrals were down this year," said Dick Tupper, Goodfellows executive director.

In addition, many families served last year were better off

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— Dick Tupper
executive director

financially this year. "They felt they didn't need our help," Tupper said. "They wanted us to help somebody else. We haven't had that kind of situation in a long time."

This year's fund-raising totaled \$30,000, down \$5,000 from last year. The Nov. 27 Goodfellows newspaper sale raised \$20,300, up \$8,000 from last year. But corporate contributions this year were down because of a change in tax laws, Tupper said.

Pending automotive layoffs could boost the workload for the Goodfellows next December. "If the economy slips a little, we may be back in the same situation we were last year, or it may be worse," Tupper said. "We'll just have to wait and see."

BEST KNOWN around the holiday season, the Goodfellows' spirited work isn't limited to year-end activities. They offer limited emergency assistance throughout the year.

Virtually all cash donations come back to the community. About the only things the Goodfellows have to buy are stamps to mail solicitation letters and boxes to make into baskets. Volunteers are the Goodfellows' backbone.

Spreading good cheer has been at the heart of the Goodfellows' cause for 40 years. It's a natural outgrowth, Tupper says, of the Goodfellows' motto: "A Time to Share — A Time to Care."

Clifford Culham's wish to die with dignity granted

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commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The disease attacks the cells that control muscle movement. Culham was diagnosed with the disease in January 1983.

The Culham family had struggled through the court system for the past

year for the right to have his life-sustaining equipment removed. After a personal visit with Culham, Oakland County Circuit Judge David Breck issued the order allowing the artificial life support equipment to be removed by Birmingham physician Mark Glasberg. Attorney David McCleary of Troy represented the Culhams.

THERE ARE no tears, said his wife, Joan. Only happiness that his burden is gone, and his trial finally over.

"He always told everyone he wanted no unhappy hearts at his funeral," she said. "The family's so happy for him. The sad part was the past year, and all the legal fighting."

"I feel he was special, but then we are special. It took a special family to lead this battle."

Clifford Culham cried tears of joy as he crossed the state line into Michigan from his Ohio nursing home, coming home to Farmington Hills to be with his family during his final moments.

"He directed things, right up to the end," said Joan. "It kind of tells you about the man."

"He was a private man, but if you needed something, Cliff would be there."

CLIFFORD CULHAM lived his life as a perfectionist, according to Joan. He was a builder by trade and served as an Army paratrooper in the Korean War. He loved his family, his gardening and flowers, and he loved life, despite the problems that plagued him during the past several years.

"I'm not saying Cliff was a saint, he was anything but a saint," she added, "but he really enjoyed life immensely."

More than 200 friends and family members attended Culham's funeral service, held Dec. 20 at the Traynor-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington. The Rev. Philip M. Seymour of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church officiated.

Family members held a wake at daughter Melinda Welch's Farmington Hills home, as Cliff had requested.

Another final request was that his body be used to further ALS research. "It was so important to him," his wife said. Before life support equipment was removed, he checked to make sure the arrangements were made.

Culham is survived by Joan Culham, his wife of 33 years; two daughters, Melinda Welch and Cynthia Recker; two sisters, Gertha Sandell and Ellen Juttilla; and two grandchildren, Christopher Welch and Marissa Recker.

New regulations for parks introduced

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Vagnozzi questioned rules surrounding "loitering" in the parking lot and whether the overall regulations were necessary. Alkateeb spoke in favor of allowing pets.

then wait and see if we need all of this." As in previous discussions, Alkateeb spoke out against the "Face It, animals are part of the United States households. Are we doing too much government?"

AS AN option, council member Terry Sever suggested the council might create a designated area for

animals. But council member Jody Soronen said a policy of "all or none" would be best. "The danger is they're somehow in an undesignated area. It just happens. The minute you open the door, you're in trouble."

Mayor Ben Marks spoke in favor of the park rules, saying, "The saving grace is that it's left up to the discretion of the park ranger. This does not really upset me. The only

time a person is going to have a problem . . . is when they are doing something disruptive."

The park rules were proposed by city administrators, who brought the issue to the council Monday for discussion. "It may be an overreaction, but I think we need the teeth there to protect the park and public," said Dan Potter, director of the special services department, which oversees park operations.

Potter said his department reviewed park rules in 10 communities before preparing the proposed rules ordinance.

CITY MANAGER William Costick said the rules are needed for park enforcement. "For enforcement purposes, it is more effective to have a list of rules and regulations," he said. "It's a far more effective tool. They are all designed to protect the rights of the property, and the people's right to use the property."

Estate House's fate in limbo

As Hills council members firm up rules for city-owned parks this week, the issue of what to do with the Estate House in Heritage Park was again discussed.

water) but when can we expect some recommendation on the use of the house?" asked council member Aldo Vagnozzi. He said "expenditures here and there are starting to add up."

Council members were told the city's Parks and Recreation Commission are reviewing the house's use, and would have a recommendation in six months to a year.

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