

# Goodfellows deliver cheer to residents



Robertson Bros. employee Tom McNaughton helps Harrison senior Steve Hempel and North senior Chuck Voss load food baskets Saturday morning.



Farmington Area Goodfellows Chuck Schulkins (seated), Bill O'Connor (left) and Dick Tupper have more than 100 years of Goodfellows service among them.

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

North Farmington High senior Chuck Voss assisted the Farmington area Goodfellows by brightening the holiday season for the less fortunate in a "worthy cause."

Harrison High senior Steve Hempel pitched in, too. And the experience has made him "more thankful" this holiday season.

Voss and Hempel were two of many National Honor Society high school students who helped deliver specially packed holiday baskets Saturday morning to 123 needy families and 151 low-income seniors.

All three local senior highs — North Farmington, Harrison and Farmington — were represented in the goodwill effort.

Voss found the morning enlightening. "It's good to see how the less fortunate live, and it's good to help them out."

Hempel also found it eye-opening. "You don't realize how many are needy in Farmington Hills."

What made their day was the reaction of the recipients. "They were all really happy," Voss said. "They were all really thankful we showed up."

THE NUMBER of seniors served this year was up 10 from last year. The number of families

served was down seven, possibly a reflection of an improved economy, said Dick Tupper, Goodfellows general chairman.

General chairman for the past 17 years and an active member since 1964, Tupper said he has a special attachment to the Goodfellows.

"I've lived in this community a long time, since 1936," he said. "I just feel I've got to keep the Goodfellows going. I adopted it as my project."

Each basket contained canned goods, apples, corn flakes, dried beans, fresh bread and gift certificates to a local grocery and discount store.

Families also received toys, knitwear and children's clothing. Seniors also received stationery, stamps, soap, lotion, paper goods and knitwear.

Most of the food was donated through student-sponsored drives in the Farmington Public Schools. Businesses, churches and residents also donated food.

Family makeup dictated the size and content of each basket. Potential recipients had to document special dietary requests were honored when practical.

VOLUNTEERS FROM Farmington-Farmington Hills civic, school, church and community groups worked from an empty storefront at The Village Commons in downtown Farmington preparing their special brand of joy.

Farmington-based Nelson/Ross Properties donated use of the storefront during the weeks leading up to delivery Saturday.

On delivery Saturday, Farmington Hills-based Robertson Brothers Pool Service donated use of several trucks and drivers.

Financial support enables the Goodfellows to buy what's needed to round out the baskets tailored to each recipient's needs.

This year, the Goodfellows raised \$21,000, much of it during the annual newspaper sale the day after Thanksgiving.

The Goodfellows worked with Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, St. Alexander Catholic Church and the Salvation Army to help identify needy area families and seniors.

The needy could have been laid off from work, at the poverty level, or victims of a major illness, a serious accident or a bad fire.

BEST KNOWN around the holiday season, the Goodfellows offer limited emergency assistance throughout the year.

Virtually all cash donations come back to the community, minus the cost of baskets and stamps. Spreading good cheer has been at the heart of the Goodfellows' cause for 40 years. It's a natural outgrowth, Tupper said, of the Goodfellows' motto: "A Time to Share — A Time to Care."

# EDC using computer to study city's future

By Casey Hens  
staff writer



The new computerized model follows what the EDC has been doing for the past decade. 'We have tried to follow that philosophical approach. The market determines the whole thing.'

— Robert McConnell  
EDC chairman

Acting in its new role, the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation has offered a computerized tool for projecting the future of the city.

Called the EDC's Demographic and Economic Forecast Model, the microcomputer program will allow city officials to simulate population growth, budgets, property values and generally show where the city will be in the year 2000, according to EDC chairman Robert McConnell.

Developed by Plante & Moran CPAs, the new model dovetails with the city's "Year 2000" program. The timing of this very significant and planned before the Year 2000 committee got started," said city manager William Costick.

The Year 2000 steering committee, to be headed by outgoing Oakland County commissioner Jack McDonald of Farmington Hills, will receive copies of the model with its projection as it begins the project in January. McDonald will step down from his county post Jan. 1 to continue his private legal practice.

The model projects approximately the same residential/commercial blend in the city in the next decade, with a budget that could double.

ACCORDING to figures from Richard Sporrer of Southfield-based Plante & Moran, the city is projected to have:

- 9,000 to 11,300 more people,

- 5,600 to 6,600 more households,
- 2,300 to 2,700 more single family homes and condominiums,
- 3,400 to 3,900 more apartment units,
- 19 to 23 more police officers and firefighters,
- between \$1 billion and \$3 billion increase in state equalized value.

In addition, the city will be fully mature, with only 30 to 390 acres left undeveloped.

"The major benefit . . . is that you can quickly change assumptions; do a lot of 'what if' situations," Sporrer added.

For example, the city used conservative figures in forming the model, but built in expected costs such as 20 percent per year for garbage collection and disposal.

The new computerized model follows what the EDC has been doing

for the past decade, said councilwoman Jan Dolan. "We have stuck close to the predictions from 10 years ago," she said. "We're just putting it in a computer."

"WE HAVE tried to follow that philosophical approach," McConnell said. "The market determines the whole thing. You've got to keep your finger on it."

The focus of the EDC board was changed in 1984 with the Tax Reform Act, which limited the availability of tax-exempt EDC bonds.

The focus of the board has shifted to long-range planning, including designing a boulevard plan for 12 Mile Road and a beautification plan for Northwestern Highway.

Money spent by the EDC is from developer fees charged for past EDC projects; it is not taken from the general fund.

# Pretrial delayed in rape case

A pretrial hearing for the Ohio man accused of being Oakland County's ski-masked serial rapist was postponed until Jan. 4 in Cleveland, where he is awaiting trial on charges that he raped, robbed and assaulted a woman Nov. 10.

Former West Bloomfield resident Steven A. Szeman Jr., 25, appeared briefly before Judge James J. McMonagle of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in the Cleveland Justice Center Monday morning.

Postponement of the hearing will provide more time for Szeman to be examined by a Ohio neurosurgeon for possible neurological after-effects of a head injury sustained when

Szeman's car left a West Virginia mountain road in 1984.

The judge granted defense attorney James Burke's request to postpone the pretrial hearing, and Cuyahoga County chief assistant prosecutor Carmen Marino didn't object.

Plea bargaining could take place at the pretrial hearing, Marino said he'd consider dropping the three lesser charges if Szeman pleads guilty to the five major charges.

Szeman's Ohio trial date is Jan. 9.

At his Ohio arraignment Nov. 10, Szeman pleaded not guilty to four counts of aggravated rape and aggravated robbery. He also pleaded not guilty to aggravated burglary,

felonious assault and possessing criminal tools in connection with the attack of a 24-year-old woman in North Olsted, Ohio. Szeman is being held in the Cuyahoga County Jail in Cleveland in lieu of \$250,000 cash bond.

In Oakland County, Szeman is charged with 49 criminal counts, including 36 counts of criminal sexual conduct and nine counts of armed robbery. He is charged in 10 attacks between April 1987 and March 1988: three rapes each in Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township, an Independence Township rape, an attempted rape in Birmingham and an armed robbery in West Bloomfield.

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