

# Santas in blue

## 'Cops for Christmas' program helps needy

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Yes. There is a Santa Claus — about 73 of them in Farmington Hills police uniforms.

The Santas in blue may not be driving a sleigh pulled by Rudolf and his buddies but to 10 Farmington-area families in need, the officers and their efforts are just as good.

Clothing and toys for the families — 30 children in all — will be under the tree Christmas Day thanks to the Farmington Hills Police Officers Association's new program, "Cops for Christmas."

"This is the first major project the POA have gotten involved in," Connor said. "We hope to do this project again next year. We'd like to make this a seasonal effort."

The association's first step was to contact the Salvation Army and Neighborhood House, which provided a list of Farmington area families in need through their "Adopt-A-Family" program.

"We have some of the most generous people in this community," said Cheryl Carter of Neighborhood House. "This crosses racial and religious ties. Everyone pulls together to make sure these kids have a Christmas."

WITH THE list in hand, the officers went to work.

"I had a meeting with the moms. They brought me their kids' wish lists for Christmas," said program coordinator Tim Connor, a Farmington Hills police training officer.

"The lists weren't what I expected. They were Johnnie needs boots, pajamas and things like that. But we made a point to buy one toy for each child," Connor said.

The officers also decided that the icing on the cake would be a good and hearty traditional Christmas dinner for the 10 families. "This is not a show up in a hall for a mass dinner. We will provide all the fixings for dinner. Mom will provide that dinner as she sees fits," Connor said.



SHARON LAMIEUX/Staff photographer

Farmington Hills officer Tim Connor and 72 other members of the Farmington Hills Police Officers Association bought and wrapped 125-150 Christmas gifts for 10 Farmington area families in need. Gifts will be delivered today.

The next step was another blessing. Target, 30020 Grand River, Kmart, 30800 Orchard Lake Road, and Kroger, 25780 Middlebelt, offered discounts for the special Christmas shopping.

Target and Kmart opened their stores an hour early so the officers could beat the Christmas squeeze and shop quietly. "The merchants have been fantastic," Connor said.

The mothers — most of the families on the association's list as single-female head of household families — already know what their children will receive from the police association.

THE BOY Scouts at Hillside Elementary also came to the rescue. Each of the 11 scouts donated one toy to the effort.

To add to the fun, POA members and their families got together for a

gift-wrapping party. "We wrapped about 125-150 gifts in about 14 hours," Connor said. Thanks to POA spouses, gifts for each family will be complete with a batch of delicious Christmas cookies.

The wrapped-and-ribboned gifts were stored in the police department basement until today when they will be delivered to the families. Groceries for the traditional Christmas dinner also will be delivered. "The merchants have been fantastic," Connor said.

To show their thanks, the POA is having plaques made for each merchant by Contemporary Awards, 34753 Grand River. "It acknowledges their participation in Cops for Christmas 1190," Connor said.

The Christmas program is supported by union dues.

As of the first week of December,

278 individuals were signed up to benefit from the Adopt-A-Family program with 70-80 percent from Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Another 404 people are helped through the Salvation Army-Neighborhood House program's regular Christmas program, including the Toy Shoppe, which is available to families not participating in the Adopt-A-Family program, Carter said.

"There's a wide variety of circumstances that brings people in. We're getting a lot of people coming in with the auto layoffs. And there are those whose spouses have died," Carter said.

## obituaries

### HILDEGARDE WILKINSON

Mrs. Wilkinson, 87, of Farmington Hills died Dec. 12 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Westphalia, Mich., Mrs. Wilkinson was a self-employed beautician.

Survivors include her daughter, Sharon Wilkinson; two sisters, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mass was celebrated at St. Fabian Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery, Livonia.

Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington.

### ROBERT JAY COOK

Mr. Cook, 55, of Farmington Hills died Dec. 13 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Detroit, Mr. Cook worked in the automotive industry.

Survivors include his sons, Robert, Randy, Donald and Michael; mother, Thelma Cook; brothers, Allen and Phillip; sister, Debbie; three grandchildren.

Burial was in North Farmington Cemetery. Arrangements were made by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

## Sculpting workshop offered

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts offers a two-session Figurative Sculpting Workshop on Fridays Jan. 18 and 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Students will learn how to create the bust of a person, using each other as models. Registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 11. For more information, call PCCA at 651-4110.

The Paint Creek Center will also

offer a three-session Ceramic Tile-Making Workshop on Wednesdays, Jan. 16-30, from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Participants will make three-dimensional tiles from plaster molds they create. Glazing and decorating techniques will be covered. All skill levels welcome. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 9.

## Straight teeth talk... ORTHODONTICS FOR ADULTS

One out of every five orthodontic patients today is over the age of twenty. This increase is evidence of a growing awareness of the benefits of orthodontic treatment not only for a beautiful smile but also for a normally functioning bite.

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Most adults request clear braces to avoid the "metal mouth" look. Removable braces or even inside lingual braces are available in a few selected types of problems. Some group dental insurance plans cover about one third of the cost.

Since orthodontic treatment is a one-time lifetime investment it is imperative that it be done correctly. The full time orthodontic specialist is best trained to customize the treatment techniques to create striking and dramatic improvement in dental and facial appearance.

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Thomas D. Jusino, D.D.S., M.S.  
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## The Farmington Observer

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