

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1992

SOCIAL EYES



Denise Lucas

'Army' honors its volunteers

To enlighten Social Eyes with information on upcoming events including Greater West Bloomfield/Lakes, Farmington and Southfield area residents, call 442-2339 or mail information to Denise Lucas at The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

If you think the mission of the Salvation Army is to drive around in big trucks and pick up old toys, clothes and furniture, you are as naive as I was.

In 1991, the Salvation Army served more than 5,000 meals per day and housed nearly 1,000 people per night in metro Detroit, helping victims of domestic violence, homelessness and substance abuse. This is part of the services provided to metro Detroiters in need.

Salvation Army founder William Booth said it all in one word: "others." The Salvation Army's mission is to "help others in need."

"The Army of Stars Civic Dinner" on May 11 presented awards to 17 unsung heroes who work with the army as volunteers. Southfield resident Gene Taylor (writer and "hugman" on Dick Purtan's morning-music) was one of the deserving recipients. Every week Taylor drives a "bed and bread" truck around the city of Detroit, feeding the hungry.

The "Civic Dinner Celebration" at the Grand Manor of Fairlane in Dearborn provided an unusual (and most delicious) dinner — a soup-kitchen line of stew served in individual, round, pumpernickel bread-bowls.

Hoger McCoy of WKBD-TV in Southfield (who attended with wife Joanne) and Gene Taylor (with wife Helen) were MCs of the evening, introducing a 30-minute capsule video on the Salvation Army and the "Planet Earth," as well as introduction for all the Army of Stars.

The William Booth Award was presented to Mort Crim (WDIV-TV anchorman) for his work in community service. It was noted by Gene Taylor that at the recent Detroit Emmy Awards Dinner Mort Crim won an Emmy but was not at the Awards Night Soiree to receive the award — Crim was volunteering his time as master of ceremonies for the Michigan Cancer Foundation annual dinner fund-raiser.

Henry the VIII

The eighth annual Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village Antique Show in Dearborn was a bloody success (so the English might say). Farmington High graduate Emily Murphy and Ruth Johnston of Farmington Hills with great enthusiasm pursued the corridors of Lovett Hall at the Village Antique Show's black-tie-optional preview party after spending many volunteer days preparing for this treasured fund-raiser.

The quality of crystal, silver, furniture and jewelry brought in from around the country has dubbed this antique show "one of the finest in the country."

Spotted in the crowd were Diana and Jershi Webb of Orchard Lake. Diana was preparing for her second annual, three-day, all-female road rally collecting food for the Children's Alliance of Michigan. Glamorous Diana will be driving an 18-wheeler "semi," donning stretch pants, rhinestones and cowboy hat (we'll get an update on this one).

The preview evening chairman and chairwoman were Southfield businessman and Lionel's chief engineer Richard Kughn and Linda Kughn, who worked with Ronald and Ellen Weber on the

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Ready for dinner: West Bloomies Jim and Sandy Mueller prepare for the International Visitors Council's dinner dance, set for Friday, June 5, at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.



Consideration and mutual respect are important

"Would you be my... Could you be my... Won't you be my... neighbor?" — Mister Rogers.

"Fences make for great neighbors." — age-old saying

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Are we neighborly? Are we a good neighbor? What does it mean to be a good neighbor?

That all depends when you were asking, quite frankly. Before, someone living next door was something out of a Norman Rockwell painting. They could be counted on for a cup of sugar, to keep an eye on the kids for a minute and for some good gossip while leaning over the back yard fence.

Today, it's up for interpretation. Bureaucrats say? Sorry, we only use NutraSweet. Watch my child? Sure, but touch him and you'll be talking to my attorney.

We've grown a little more cold, somewhat distant. Our yards have become our own fiefdoms.

Confide in the person living next to you? Heck, some of us haven't figured out how to talk to our own kids and spouse yet.

Support network

"We have of a notion of a time when we were concerned about one another without being intrusive... the availability of a support network of people but not necessarily friends," said Helen Weingarten, who is a University of Michigan professor and chairwoman of

Conflict Management Alternative.

Those days appear gone in some neighborhoods, not necessarily through the fault of people themselves.

In the name of economic development, viable neighborhoods such as Polktown have been leveled. Another place for congregation, the local market for example, has been replaced by the mega shopping center.

As Weingarten points out, the most common way for neighbors to be introduced was through their kids.

"Now you may have a couple in their 40s who are just starting a family and you may have another couple in their 40s who are just becoming grand-

parents," Weingarten said. "You have so many diverse situations now."

For many, though, the firm belief in the good neighbor creed is still common.

Masie Kurzeja and Carol Boyd have been living side by side for 31 years in

their Farmington Hills neighborhood. They've worked for political candidates together, been involved in the Olde Town Mendocbrook Heights Home-owners Association and been good friends.

Respecting one another

"We respect each other's individuality," Carol Boyd said. "We basically have the same values."

"A good neighbor allows you to have your rights while you allow them to have their own," Masie Kurzeja added. "I'd yell at her kids and she would yell at mine."

"This morning she was watching my dog. She even has permission to yell at my dog."

Such trust has been nurtured through mutual respect and understanding. Kim Wagner of Southfield holds similar memories of her Wayne-Westland neighborhood growing up.

Then, all parents would get together for card parties; their children would play together.

Wagner, along with the rest of the members of the Green Dolphin Home-owners Association to which she and her husband Mark belong, tries to in-

still that same community spirit in their subdivision. Her neighbor's alarm rings into her home and when her family goes on vacation, he comes over to feed the dog. As much as she loves her subdivision, Wagner admits something is amiss.

"That bothers me," said Wagner, who has two children. "I like to be able to talk with all my neighbors... and feel like I could be able to leave my children with them for a minute if I had to. No one around here is like that because there are so many two-income families and there's no time for interaction."

Laura Myers, who lives in the historical district of Farmington, gets along well with her neighbors. But, like Wagner, says things are not the same as when she grew up in Southfield and northwest Detroit.

"There was a time when everyone in a subdivision was the same age," Myers said. "That isn't true anymore. There's a lot more turnover. You don't know people as well anymore... I'm sure that's not true of my mom and dad."

Myers adds she's always had friends wherever she's lived, including her neighbor of 11 years who is 10 years younger. They exchange flowers from their yards and keep abreast of neighborhood events.

Getting along in subdivision is all relative

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The people in Shady Beach subdivision will tell you they are good neighbors relatively speaking.

That's mainly because 25 of the 127 households in the Orchard Lake community are related, according to resident Jean Keeskes.

"The sub has everything from grandparents to grand kids living on the same street, including Keeskes whose parents Bill and Ruby Montgomery only live a block away."

"The kids grew up and moved away to go to college and get married," said Keeskes, who works for West Bloomfield Continuing Education. "Four or five years later, they end up coming back."

In times when the extended family means extended in distance from each other, Shady Beach is something of an anomaly. Those who live there wouldn't have it any other way.

Residents with relatives for a neighbor speak of the many perks such as having someone to watch the house when they're on vacation or take care of their kids in a pinch.

For Lucille and Glenn Mannor, whose son and wife live across the street, they get to share a tractor in order to do yard work. Lucille Mannor adds there's more than a tractor pulling them together.

"For me, there's a certain feeling of having family living close by," she said. "It's a warm feeling. We feel



Relative neighbors: Some of those related in Shady Beach include Glenn (back row, left) and Lucille Mannor, Bill Montgomery and Jean Keeskes; Otto Carlson (back row, right), Paul Fink, Cliff Kott and Howard Sherman; Ron Mannor (front row, left), Ruby Montgomery and Elizabeth Mannor; Marge Fink (front row, right), Louise Kott and Judy Sherman.