

NEWS

FARMINGTON NOTES

Joining forces

McCabe Funeral Home of Farmington Hills has joined forces with the Harrison High School chapter of Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) to prevent seniors from driving while intoxicated with the annual "Stay Alive! Don't Drink & Drive!" program.

The two organizations will distribute a voluntary contract to more than 200 seniors at 8:45 a.m. Friday, May 28, at Harrison High on 12 Mile Road.

By signing the document, the seniors promise to refrain from drinking and driving beginning on Thursday, June 3, through Sunday, June 6 — the prom/graduation season.

If found in violation of this agreement by either a school official or SADD representative, the student agrees to perform five hours of school-sanctioned community service.

Since 1989, Harrison High has participated in the "Stay Alive! Don't Drink & Drive!" campaign to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Judge is honored

Judge Myron H. Wehls of the Michigan Court of Appeals will be inducted into the Mercy High School Hall of Fame in a ceremony during the annual spring concert Sunday, May 23, at the school on 11 Mile Road at Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

The concert begins at 2 p.m. The Mercymates, Mercy Dance Company, Mercy Orchestra and all the school's choral groups will perform. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 476-3270.

The school's Art Department will have an exhibit and sale that Sunday from 1-5 p.m. The sale will continue Monday-Tuesday, May 24-25, from 3-8 p.m.

Honored in sales

Michelle Andrusiak of Farmington was honored recently for her sales achievements with House of Lloyd, Inc.

She has just returned from a cruise to Acapulco, Mexico, sponsored by House of Lloyd, a nationwide home party plan firm. She qualified for an expense-paid cruise as a representative for Christmas Around the World, which specializes in Christmas decorations and holiday gifts and toys.

Schoolkids learn from SAGE advice



They may be retired and some have a few years on them, but they have a lot to give to the youngsters of the community. And the Farmington Schools' Senior Adults Giving to Education programs offers them an opportunity.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

He provides historical facts, dispenses advice and imparts wisdom.

Sometimes Harold Bartling can't help himself, though. He slips in a joke now and then in front of fifth graders he helps as a SAGE (Senior Adults Giving to Education) volunteer at Gill Elementary School.

"I'm not serious all the time. Maybe I should be," said Bartling, 66, who lives in Farmington. "But, heck, I'm a grandfather. That's all I know how to be."

That's OK. Children and teachers think Bartling is a fine addition to their classroom.

The retired Ford Motor Co. technician is in his first year in the SAGE program. Bartling started this spring.

SAGE is in its eighth year. Seniors in the Farmington area work with students and teachers in the classroom.

The program is coordinated through the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Division at the Mercy Center.

SAGE allows kids to gain practical knowledge while seniors have a chance to get involved with the schools. Bartling fits the requirements.

Bartling loves working with children, telling them bits and pieces about the Civil War or about experiences amassed from 66 years of vibrant life.

"I'm just passing the knowledge on, pass on some of what I know onto them," Bartling said. "They may get it later on in life."

Bartling said he always wanted to

be a history teacher. This offers him the opportunity.

Linda Murphy, who coordinates the SAGE program, said seniors usually seek her out to join. So far, 18 seniors volunteer in Farmington schools.

"It really doesn't suit everybody," Murphy said. "The ones who are involved in it are gung ho about it, though."

Larkshire has SAGE volunteers as does Flanders. Gill Elementary has the most, though.

Lee Constantini is in her third year as a SAGE volunteer. The job's a natural. She's a retired elementary school teacher, having worked in Garden City for 18 years.

To first graders in Judy Saterfield's class, she's known as "Mrs. Lee." She sits down with the children and helps them learn how to read or get acclimated to the first grade.

"Sometimes I don't have enough time to work with each child individually," Saterfield said. "She helps me in that way."

For Constantini, the two days she volunteers brings back memories. Though she admits education has changed a lot since she taught.

"The children are very relaxed," she said. "It's not a rigid classroom. I feel it's more conducive to learning."

Henry and Ilene Rubin of Farmington Hills have been volunteers for five years. She works with second graders at Gill; he helps out the kindergartners.

Said Henry Rubin, a retired city of Detroit employee: "It's like having 25 grandkids around you all at the same time."

SHARON LEMMONS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Some SAGE advice: Philip Bolton, a SAGE volunteer, helps student Joe Pauley in Evelyn Kaplan's fourth grade class at Gill Elementary School. SAGE, which stands for Senior Adults Giving to Education, is in its eighth year in the Farmington District.

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