

Keeping up the PACE for Thanksgiving



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Food for needy: John Santgerath, marketing manager at the PACE warehouse in Farmington Hills, helps load food for 10 needy families into a Farmington Hills police vehicle. Ron Shankin, the chairman of the holiday project, and fellow officers load the truck. The Farmington Hills Police Officers Association paid for the food.

Farmington High, EMU make match

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High and Eastern Michigan University have become tag-team partners in the educational ring.

Through the partnership, the university and high school will together learn the ropes on such things as faculty exchange, interactive video instruction and North Central Accreditation.

EMU and Farmington High already have developed a counseling program in which graduate students counsel high school kids and adults.

Farmington High is EMU's first associate school, which is a term used to reflect a strong relationship between a university and high school.

"The big thing is we pulled off a coup because Eastern produces more teachers than anyone in the country," said Farmington Public Schools superintendent Michael Flanagan, "and we are their only partnership. Any resources they want to put into practical training are going to us."

"It's a perfect match," said Jerry Robbins, dean of EMU's College of Education. "We had been talking about doing something similar to this and all of a sudden Farmington comes along and says, 'How about doing this with us?'"

The partnership is considered mutually beneficial for many reasons.

Farmington High students and staff reap the expertise and resources of a major university; Eastern Michigan gets an outlet where pre-student teachers receive more hands-on training.

The counseling program offers

an example. Farmington High students and adults, who may be experiencing personal or emotional difficulties, can receive advice from graduate students training in the field. Professional counselors oversee the program.

"Rather than having artificial exercises here at our buildings here on campus, we got our counseling students working on real life students and adults," Robbins said.

The partnership also includes a graduate course on restructuring schools, which is taught by two EMU professionals and two Farmington Public Schools officials on Wednesday nights in the Farmington Training Center. Those in the class pay tuition and receive graduate credit.

A signing ceremony Nov. 17 marked the event. Attending were Farmington Public Schools superintendent Michael Flanagan, EMU president William Shelton, Farmington High principal Jim Myers and Robbins.

The idea of associate schools was developed by the Renaissance Group, an organization of 24 teaching colleges and universities. EMU is also interested in developing a similar relationship with an elementary school, perhaps one closer to the university's Ypsilanti campus, Robbins said.

A university's mere presence in a high school building has immediate impact, school officials say. "I think the impression kids will have with more adults in the building . . . being in class and observing makes the atmosphere a positive one," said Farmington High assistant principal John Barrett, "and that this is a serious academic place of learning."

City plots to expand Oakwood Cemetery

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The city of Farmington is letting people in on the expansion of a place where they don't let them out: Oakwood Cemetery.

The cemetery at Grand River Avenue is down to 100 burial sites, many of which are single sites that are close to the road or to fences. Some 636 sites will be added under the plan, which will cost between \$42,000 and \$44,000.

At present, the city sells 12 to 15 plots a year. The increase in sites available is expected to spark interest, especially among

those who want plots side-by-side and those who want to be buried in Farmington.

"It's home to a lot of people," city manager Frank Lauff said. The cemetery will be expanded to include city property east bounded by Locust Street. The city bought property in the 1970s with the intention of expanding the site, which includes burial sites for members of the Power family as well as several other prominent Farmington citizens.

Before expansion plans got under way, though, the city worked out a land transfer with one residential property owner.

The resident had been using part of the city property along the northern boundary for a septic disposal system. Officials and the owner agreed to transfer the land, which allows the family to maintain the septic field.

To accommodate both sides, the northern boundary was lowered on the east side of the property and the west side was raised. Evergreen bushes and an ornamental fence will be placed along the property line.

Current grave sites will remain undisturbed during the work.

"This does not affect the cur-

rent cemetery," Lauff said.

"This is an expansion."

The village of Farmington took over the site in 1871. The city has provided upkeep since 1898.

The cemetery, according to Lee Peel's book "Farmington: A Pictorial History," drew interest because of a vault that would hold up to six bodies during the winter months when gravediggers could not shovel through frozen ground. The vault is no longer in use.

Strategy for volunteer work urged

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Local political, civic, church and business leaders must devise a strategy that includes all groups in volunteer efforts to turn around the country's social ills.

On that point, the 30 or so Farmington and Farmington Hills officials attending a volunteer initiative breakfast seemed to agree. But coming up with that strategy — and making it one that includes Detroit as well as the suburbs — is still an unresolved question.

"We need to have an overall strategy, instead of all kinds of groups going in different directions," said Eddie Edwards, president of Joy of Jesus, a volunteer organization. "We need to be going in the same direction. This is tied directly to leadership."

Edwards, a black Detroit, was one of the speakers at the breakfast at the Mercy Center Monday. Former Gov. George Romney, honorary chairman of the Michigan Campaign for Volunteerism made it clear that the city and suburbs could not afford racism if the area was to turn itself around.

Detroit Mayor-elect Dennis Archer is enthused about the initiative, Edwards said.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates, who has made family issues her focus in her term as mayor, used the breakfast as a means of not only motivating community leaders to encourage volunteerism, but also to recruit and encourage corporate leaders to encourage their employees to volunteer.

Despite its reputation as a prosperous community, Farmington Hills has its share of needy, she said. A 1989 study showed 2,202 Hills residents, including 414 children, living below the poverty line.

"If poverty is our challenge, we



Nancy Bates



George Romney

don't have to look far to find it," she said.

Romney, who has compiled a long career in government, business and volunteer efforts, said businesses should pay more than lip service to volunteerism, for some sound financial reasons. "An exploding underclass and social problems such as drug abuse, divorce, murder, poverty and educational underachievement are worse now than they were 30 years ago despite "trillions of dollars of government money and billions of dollars of private money."

Establishing effective volunteer programs through corporations improves morale and employees with better morale are more productive, he said.

"Social problems are undercutting our economic future," he said. "It (volunteerism) helps the bottom line."

For corporations to actively participate in volunteer programs, a networking mechanism is important. In the Farmington area, the library has bought a computer program that can access any area agency.

At the regional level, United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit is providing comput-

er matching services for volunteers as well, said its vice president for volunteer services, Edward Egnatius.

"We're trying to establish the habit of cooperation," he said.

Robert Reid, community relations director with Ford Motor Co. and president of the Southeast Michigan Corporate Volunteer Council, said 85 percent of employees who were asked to volunteer by a supervisor, would.

Reid cited a study by a UCLA professor done for IBM showing that companies that had volunteer coordinators and programs outperformed those that did not.

It's important to include churches in volunteer efforts because they have a "mandate" to help, Edwards said.

The Detroit area had the rare chance to link volunteer efforts between city and suburbs, something that has not been done in this country, Romney said.

The former three-term governor also pointed to the dangers of not acting by quoting author John Steinbeck.

"He said that 'no great nation has achieved plenty, comfort and leisure and remained great,'" Romney said. "We could be the first country to do that."

Family Night success spurs plans for more

The success of the city's first annual Family Night at the Mercy Center Nov. 12 has prompted the city's Committee on Children and Families to consider more than one such event each year.

The event, which provided entertainment, swimming, hayrides and food for more than 1,000,

proved so successful on the first try that the city may try to sponsor three to four a year, said assistant city manager Steve Brock.

"We would like to have one geared more for teens," he said.

"This was an event more for younger kids."

The committee, which had orig-

inally planned to have the family night once a year, also took a look at the new library software that lists the area's volunteer agencies at its meeting Nov. 18 at the main library on 12 Mile.

The committee also discussed finding other activities for teens in the community.

PENDLETON
LADIES
SPORTSWEAR

Sale

Pendleton sportswear in sizes for misses and petites is now at sale prices. It's a great opportunity to add to your fall wardrobe. While quantities last.

Jacobson's

CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY
ANN ARBOR • BIRMINGHAM • DEARBORN • GROSSE POINTE • LIVONIA • ROCHESTER
Convenient Holiday Hours beginning November 26: Shop Monday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Ann Arbor: Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard®, VISA® and American Express®.