



Recovering Duke: Rebecca Falk of radio station WLLZ-FM encourages Duke, who is recovering at the Humane Society in Detroit.

SHARON LE MIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pooch's plight dogs woman into animal activism

By SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Duke the Dog's tale of woe could have a happy ending in Farmington Hills . . . and in show business, no less.

Thrown out on Interstate 94 by cruel owners, the frightened year-old collie was then shot twice with a 9mm handgun in the front and rear legs. The second blast came when he tried unsuccessfully to get back into the

car. Detroiters Brenda Malone, an electrical engineer, observed the car pull to the side of the freeway at 2:30 a.m. Feb. 15.

"It was awfully brave of her to stop at that time of night," said Michele Mitchell, a Michigan Humane Society spokeswoman.

Rebecca Falk, promotions coordinator at WLLZ-FM in Farmington Hills, heard about

the dog's anguish and decided to adopt it.

Falk has yet to take Duke home, though, because he's in isolation with kennel cough, apparently contracted at MHS, Falk said Tuesday. Kennel cough is a type of acute disease contracted where large animals are grouped.

In the meantime, Falk's co-workers at WLLZ are anxiously

waiting to meet Duke and show that the world can still be a kinder, gentler place. Employees chipped in to buy Duke a bed and toys for the office. He's expected to become a mascot and frequent visitor.

Plans are under way to make Duke a "spokesdog" for abused and neglected animals. Once he recovers from his wounds and disease and as long as he finds the job agreeable, Falk and Duke

will make appearances throughout the metro-area on behalf of MHS and WLLZ.

Duke will play his part in fund-raisers and may also help promote gun control.

Violence affects people and pets.

"If a child is being abused in the home, an animal is probably being abused, too," Mitchell said.

MHS received some 5,500 neglect and abuse calls in 1993.

Sometimes it's just a matter of educating the owner, Mitchell said.

Last year, shootings accounted for 58 calls. Some 65 animals were killed by their owners, three were poisoned and 11 were burned. Twenty-eight animals had chains embedded in their necks.

Our Lady of Sorrows parish to host Redemptorist mission

Our Lady of Sorrows parish in Farmington will host a five-day Redemptorist parish mission Sunday-Thursday, Feb. 27 through March 3, at 7:30 p.m. each evening. The Rev. Jack Dowd will be the speaker.

Parish missions, once a staple in Catholic parishes, fell into a decline after the Second Vatican Council, at which time they were updated to address the needs of the contemporary church. Today they are experiencing a resurgence in popularity, church officials say.

Parish missions today focus on the need and opportunity for Christians to carry God's message of love, forgiveness and service

into the world at large, church officials say.

At a mission, parish renewal and spiritual growth are fostered through prayer, song, and reflections examining relationships with God and with each other.

"This parish mission provides our parish community with a unique opportunity to strengthen and build on the already strong faith that is present, said Monsignor Walter Hurley, the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows.

"It is in reality a retreat experience for the community and promises to bring great blessings. We especially welcome those who, perhaps, have been away from the church for awhile and may want

another look," he said.

Dowd, who will conduct the mission, is a Detroit native. He was ordained as a Redemptorist priest in 1961. He has served as a high school teacher in Wisconsin and Michigan, provincial of the Midwest Province of Redemptorists, and most recently as a member of the Mission Team in Chicago, Illinois.

The public is invited to the presentations, which will be followed each evening with refreshments and fellowship.

Our Lady of Sorrows is at 23895 Power Road. For more information, call the Parish Center at 474-5720.

Sparkling seniors sought for Diamond

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging is looking for a few good seniors 75 or older. The commission has come up with an award-winning idea.

The Diamond of the Community Award will be presented to a Farmington area senior adult, who is 75 or older, and still active in the community. The work they do could be paid or volunteer.

"We're very loose in that description," said Dolf Anselmi, who is a member of the commission. "Maybe they are still working on a job, or volunteering in the

community."

The person doesn't necessarily need to have a high profile. "It might be someone we never heard (of) before, who might be running a multi-million dollar company," Anselmi said.

A cash award of \$75 and a plaque will go to the winner. The person will be honored as part of the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Program Volunteer Recognition ceremony Monday, April 25, at the senior adult center, 28600 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt.

To be considered, a person needs to submit a brief, no more than one-page description of why a nominee is deserving of the honor. Self-nominations will be accepted.

"Last year, we only managed to get 12 responses," Anselmi said. "We hope to get more this year."

Responses should also include the telephone number of the nominee and the person making the nomination. From there, they can be sent to: 33735 Cadillac, Farmington Hills 48335.

Highmeadow lottery set for March 14

A lottery to select students in grades one through five for Highmeadow Common Campus will take place Monday, March 14.

To be eligible, parents must register their child at Highmeadow March 7-11. Application hours are 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

On Monday, March 7, hours will be extended until 7 p.m. followed by an overview of the school's program presented by Highmeadow principal Jan Colliton and her staff. Anyone interested in applying for the lottery is encouraged to attend this meeting.

Highmeadow is one of the Farmington Public School District's schools of choice. Enrollment is by lottery only.

The school is at 30175 Highmeadow, north of 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads. For more information, call 489-3699.

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