



They care: North Farmington volunteers Sarah Karl, left, Vivian Cheng, Mirium Jaffa, Tricia Traczyk, and Caroline Gregory sign on to a belief of helping others.

## Youth assistance lauds teens' volunteer spirit

Farmington Youth Assistance honored its outstanding youth for 1997 Tuesday during its annual awards breakfast at the William Costick Activities Center.

Some 27 teens were recognized for a wealth of service to the community. They volunteered in their schools, churches, YMCAs and teen centers. Those honored:

■ **Todd Afflerbaugh**, Farmington High senior: He started volunteering in 1993 and has donated his time through Boys Scouts, Volunteering, St. Gerold Church, Grand Court Retirement Village, Farmington Area Goodfellow, Neighborhood House, Special Olympics and Farmington High Student Council.

■ **Erie Allen**, Harrison High junior: He's assisted in Sunday Mass and special liturgies as an altar boy at Church of St. Columban. He also helps teach younger children duties associated with being an altar boy. He has registered more than 600 hours of volunteer service.

■ **Shelley Berkeesch**, O.E. Dunckel eighth grader: She has volunteered in a diversity of roles service to the church, helping the elderly, homeless and sick — working at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Focus Hope, Cass Soup Kitchen and Gift of Life Agency.

■ **Alberta Biddle**, East eighth grader: She helps the homeless and elderly, and pitches in whenever else she is needed at Nardin Park United Methodist Church. She also takes part in Farmington Special Olympics and represents the team in floor hockey, basketball and skiing.

■ **Daniel Canvasser**, O.E. Dunckel eighth grader: "Have pet will travel" is Canvasser's motto. He and his dog, "Chubby," visit children at the Farmington Public Library, Meals on Wheels, Neighborhood House and Purple Heart.

■ **Megan Early**, Power Middle School eighth grader: For the past seven years, she has volunteered at a nursing home, bringing comfort to residents through a friendly chat or a heart-felt, joint prayer. The member of St. Gerold Church is busy raising other youth to help work with seniors.

■ **Chad Fernandez**, Farmington High senior: He is described as an excellent role model, who is a great representative, not only for the school, but the community. He has volunteered several years for the Farmington Rotary Foundation, Farmington Founders Festival, Link program and has been a fund raiser for the Farmington High football team.

■ **Caroline Gregory**, North Farmington senior: She spent a week during her summer vacation doing volunteer work through St. Fabian youth group. She not only repaired houses for the less fortunate, but also enriched lives of seniors whose homes were in need of repair. She also volunteers during church functions and at soup kitchens.

■ **Hilary Harris**, Mercy High junior: She has donated more than 350 hours to help people who



Lined up: The 27 Farmington area teens honored Tuesday pose for a shot for parents.

are less fortunate. She not only volunteers at soup kitchens, rummage sales and St. Fabian Church, she worked in the Appalachian Mountains during summer break. She started the first women's group dedicated to ushering and altar serving at St. Fabian.

■ **Miriam Jaffa**, North Farmington junior: She is a team player who helps her peers at North Farmington High where she's organized a blood drive and career day. She volunteers at Camp Ramoth and with the Michigan Jewish AIDS Coalition. She's also volunteered as a one-on-one mentor to younger kids.

■ **Sarah Karl**, North Farmington senior: She has earned the reputation of an outstanding volunteer. She is committed to St. Fabian youth group, summer service week, helping at soup kitchens, assisting the Goodfellow, securing books for Road Start children and clothing drives for the Light House of Oakland County.

■ **David Kichen**, East eighth grader: He is known for his "pitch-in" attitude, receiving a nomination from Sharon McConchie, East Middle School counselor and Todd Lipa, Farmington Hills Area Youth and Family Services director. He's been a volunteer for the Teen Center since its opening. He sets up special projects, serves as a concession stand worker and newsletter reporter.

■ **Bradley Thomas Klotzky**, Warner seventh grader: He has volunteered at Orchard United Methodist Church during past year, babysitting, helping seniors at a local home, soliciting donations for food and clothes and building homes for people who are needy.

■ **Bushma Lohitan**, O.E. Dunckel eighth grader: She has spent many volunteer hours during the past two years at the YMCA's swimming pool. She's provided swim lessons, helped special needs children in the pool and served as a lifeguard.

■ **Scott Harold May**, Farmington High senior: This 12th grade honor student has dedicated more than four years of volunteer service to his community. Through Nardin Park United Methodist Church, he served as leader in Youth Fellowship worked on meal delivery and preparation for Focus Hope and South Oakland Shaler. He raised money and worked in Appalachia for four years. He also volunteered at Channel 58 during pledge drives.

■ **Lorin McNeill**, East seventh grader: She has been a consistent volunteer at St. Alexander Church. Her favorite activity comes during the church's annual vacation Bible school. She helps in planning, supervising children and providing ideas for activities. The honor student also volunteers as a tutor to a boy who is mentally challenged.

■ **Sarah Miller**, Farmington High freshman: She believes in diversity as demonstrated by the agencies she has volunteered for during the past few years. Her volunteer duties include: Farmington

High, Farmington Hills Department of Special Services and Neighborhood House. She has touched lives of children, seniors and people who are handicapped and homeless.

■ **Matthew Nickels**, O.E. Dunckel sixth grader: His parents encouraged him to participate in community service and he has played in holding up his banner, fund raiser for walk-a-thons, worked on bake sales, done bell ringing and helped build homes. He is also involved in safety patrol and as an Indian guide for the Livonia Y.

■ **Molly Notarianni**, North Farmington sophomore: She's completed more than 70 hours of community service, working at a children's camp and on community fix-up projects.

■ **Emily Sikora**, Farmington High freshman: She sends out a personal letter soliciting Christmas funds for her favorite charity, the Salvation Army. She also solicits donations of toys, clothes and food as the less fortunate can have a happy holiday. Last year alone, she raised more than \$1,000. She also makes sure every contributor receives a letter of appreciation.

■ **Kristina Timpano**, North Farmington High senior: During the past four years, she has logged more than 500 hours of volunteer service. She helped repair homes in Appalachia, delivered toys, books and clothing for the Goodfellow and took part in a marathon for Easter Seals. As a National Honor Society member, she spent time as a math, chemistry and biology tutor.

■ **Patricia Ann Traczyk**, North Farmington High senior: She has repaired homes in Appalachia through her participation in the St. Fabian youth group. She has also helped in soup kitchens, blanket and car drives, bake sales and putting together Thanksgiving baskets. She collected \$300 in contributions for an Easter Seals Market.

■ **James Webb**, Farmington High junior: He volunteers his time at the Grand River Retirement Community, talking to residents and assisting with activities throughout the year. Other endeavors include: Farmington High Student Council, SADD, Interact Board of Directors, and Oakland County School to Work.

■ **Jennifer Yen**, North Farmington senior: She is described as a Florence Nightingale to patients at Botsford Hospital where she volunteers in the Dietary Department. She helps patients with menus, loading delivering trays and special requests. She's described by one nominator as "an exemplary volunteer."

■ **Benjamin York**, Farmington High freshman: He is co-organizer of a student volunteer group that plans charitable activities. He participated in Quest Day, prepared Meals on Wheels, donated clothes to the Purple Heart and books to veterans. He was also involved in the Special Olympics Bowl-Thru, painted at Botsford Commons, served as camp counselor at Heritage Park and took part in the Student Round Table.

## Grant sets sights on 3rd term on Farmington Hills council

BY WILLIAM COURTNEY  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Councilman Jon Grant says running for a third term was an easy decision.

Grant and his family had considered moving out of the city in order to live near a lake, but found that leaving was more difficult than they had planned on.

"One of the primary reasons why we stayed was that as we started to distance ourselves, our ties were much stronger than we thought," said Grant, 44. "We were not prepared for that."

Grant, who served as mayor in 1992, is seeking his second four-year term and says that since he is staying in Farmington Hills and there are some key issues that he has had a large part in, he wants to serve a third term.

"My only reluctance is that I've served two terms and I believe it is healthy to have new people," he said. "But I am real commit-

ted to the technology project and we're right in the middle of it." Grant has been the city council's liaison to the process of buying, installing and training on a new citywide computer system. That system bid award is awaiting council approval which could come later this month.

The city council's commitment to the Children, Youth and Families programs is another factor in his decision to run again, he said.

Grant, who has been an advocate for redevelopment for years, over before joining the council, is president of The Reliance Group, a provider of imprinted promotional items, business forms and commercial printing in Farmington Hills.

He serves on the board of directors of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, the Farmington Family YMCA and is chairman of the Eight Mile Boulevard Association, which is working to redevelop that road.

"From a development standpoint, we are in the middle of a crucial stage," he said. "The current council offers a pretty strong balance in that area and a lot of experience."

Grant and his wife, Deborah, both grew up in the Farmington area. Once they decided to remain in the city, running for office was an easy decision.

"After serving eight years on the council and being involved in so many community organizations, my experience and commitment to serving this city are stronger than ever," he said. "In particular, there are initiatives, such as our technology and youth programs, that I want to see realized."

The announcement came because many of his friends and supporters had not known if he was running.

"I had decided to run already," he said. "But a lot of people were asking me if I was planning to run."

The Grants have three children: Delores, 23, Jessica, 18, and Schyler, 14.

"Our roots are in this community," he said. "There's a great sense of reward from giving back to a community that has been so good to us."

Grant, Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio and Councilman Jerry Ellis will end their current terms this November.

## Complaints continue to pile up over closing of antique store

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County prosecutors are considering criminal charges against a Farmington antique store that closed in April.

Meanwhile, Farmington police continue to receive complaints from people who say they brought in holsters to be sold on consignment at Hickory Hill Antiques on Grand River Avenue but have not received money or their items back.

Police have not been able to contact either the business owner or a woman who was acting as a manager in his absence.

As of Monday, the complaint tally reached 31.

"I know there's more," said Michael Wiggins, Farmington

Public Safety deputy director. "Soon, we'll either have a thumbs up or a thumbs down on the warrants."

A Farmington woman told police she called the store to sell some antiques on consignment.

A woman, who identified herself as an acting manager for Hickory Hill, came to her home on Lansbury Street "two or three times" in August to pick up antique items totaling nearly \$3,000.

The buyer told the woman she would sell the antiques herself — not for Hickory Hill — in return for 35 percent of the sale price. The woman told police she has not received any money, police reports said.

That woman, Linda Forshee, said she had no problems deal-

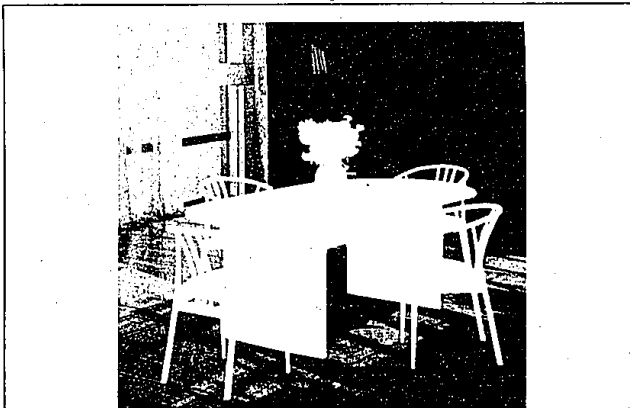
ing with Hickory Hill in the past.

"My husband went by (the store) and he said it looked a little weird... something was not right," said Forshee, whose antiques were items from her grandmother's collection stored in her basement. "Then my daughter's teacher said she saw a mess of U-Haul trucks there and then, when my husband went back, the store was closed."

"They were sentimental but not too much. The sentimental stuff we kept."

Of 29 complaints taken to the prosecutor's office May 1, Wiggins said four are being investigated further for possible criminal charges.

"We have to do some more leg-work," Wiggins said.



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