

Kids to get safety tips with candy

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Throw some stickers, coloring books and glow sticks into a bag and what do you have? A bag of stuff.

But put it all together and hand it out to children on Halloween evening and you might have something to keep the kids happy and safe.

Once again, the Farmington Public Safety Department and the "Big K" Kmart at Grand River-Halsted are teaming up to promote trick-or-treat safety. The program is in its eighth year.

Between 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Halloween, which is Friday, Oct. 31, Cmdr. Maria Putt and Carole LeBlanc, secretary for Public Safety Director Gary Goss, will patrol neighborhoods for costumed kids age 7 and under. The first 150 kids they see will receive eye-catching foil bags adorned with Halloween decorations and safety tips from McCruff the Crime Dog.

"We just hand it out to whoever we see through the various sub," Putt said. "And when they're gone, they're gone."

Inside those shiny bags will be the feature attraction — one of



STAFF PHOTO BY BETAN MITCHELL

Safe and sweet: Kmart's Ken Woods (from left), Zachary Wiggins, 5, Cmdr. Maria Putt and Carolyn LeBlanc, both of public safety, and Stephanie Comini, 4 1/2, unveil this year's safety theme trick or treat bags.

150 ghoulishly green glow sticks being donated by the Grand River-Halsted Kmart, which can be carried or attached to costumes. Other goodies will include a brochure about babysitting safety, "Say No To Drugs" stickers and a "Being Safe is Smart" coloring book.

"The best thing is the glow stick," Putt said. "No matter how many kids are out there, or no matter how many parents are out there, it's still hard to see" both for motorists and the trick-

or-treaters themselves, often with masks hanging down over their eyes.

The safety bags were unveiled Monday at Kmart and given to 4 1/2-year-old Stephanie Comini and 5-year-old Zachary Wiggins, both children of public safety employees. Stephanie and Zachary were dressed up as a lady bug and "Ninja," respectively.

"I love it," said Debbie Comini. "I just think it's great for the kids." She noted that she'll feel more comfortable knowing her daughter will be carrying the glow stick while going from house to house.

Kmart store manager Ken Woods program one he feels strongly about.

"I have children and I have the same concerns that other parents have, and that's the safety of trick or treaters and making sure candy is not tampered with," he said.

Lions Club, Borders team up for the blind



The Farmington Area Lions Club is proud to be a sponsor of "Border's Books for Penrickton Center for Blind Children" weekend.

Border's Books in Farmington Hills and Novi will donate 15 percent of all purchases made starting Friday, continuing through Sunday.

Participants are invited to present a coupon for the cause or tell the cashier that their purchase is for the Penrickton Center.

Penrickton Center is a private non-profit residential and day

care agency serving blind, multi-disabled children ages 1-12.

Membership drive on

Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is currently holding a membership drive, aiming to increase its membership base from 600 to 700.

For a \$160 yearly fee, members will be entitled to health insurance plans at group rates, long distance and cellular phone discounts, business referrals, networking opportunities, one full day of software training at New Horizons and much more.

For more information on how to become a member, call Eddie Delbridge at 474-3440 ext. 25.

Power Road from page A1

beyond for the homeowners group. Chief among these actions was getting the developer to drop a lawsuit against the homeowners group and pay for the residents' attorney fees.

Victi Barnett said she's encouraged the rezoning of the property from RA-1 to the less dense RA-1A and stood by residents in an ensuing court battle.

At one point, Barnett said she remained firm when asked her if she would give in to more lots "if he were to hang me outside of the window by my ankles."

"I feel hurt you would treat me in the same way," Barnett said.

Council members said they hadn't seen a copy of the agreement yet. Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi suggested city attorney John Donohue meet with the residents to answer their lingering concerns.

"We have met with residents over and over and over again,"

said Donohue, exasperatedly. Donohue appeared annoyed when another Power Road resident accused the attorney of not answering concerns in a letter she'd sent him.

Donohue said he talked to her attorney who supposedly sent those concerns to the resident's surveyor. Donohue told council members he'd even show the time records to them.

"I don't know what more I can do," Donohue said.

Irene Kernicky said she appreciated the council and city administration's patience. The residents have been patient, too.

"We have many fears we feel are well-justified," Kernicky said.

Thiering said she didn't want to appear ungrateful, but didn't like the characterization that compromises by the developer were the sole work of the council. Power Road residents had a role, she said.

Vagnozzi reminded them the council table is not where the problem started.

"It was some of your former neighbors who sold the land to the developers," Vagnozzi said.

Pizzeria hit during cash and grab

Instead of a pizza to go, a robber thought a cash register would be a quicker takeout. He didn't get very far.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Redford man, 40, after his van stalled on Middlebelt, not far from where a strong-armed robbery took place at Hungry Howie's Pizza Sunday night.

At 9:35 p.m., witnesses said a man entered the pizza place and asked for an order under the name of "Smith." An employee replied no order was placed under that name, but offered to make a pizza if the man was willing to wait. The man said yes and the employee left the counter to go back into the kitchen area.

When an off-the-clock employee approached the pizza place, he saw a man walking out with the cash register. The employee and the worker inside tried to stop the robber. But the pair backed off when the bandit reached inside his coat pocket and said he had a knife, and threatened to stab them.

The man tried to leave in a van, which was backed up to the store with the engine running. One of the employees reached inside and grabbed the gear shift, which caused the van to stall.

The van went onto Middlebelt but stalled again. Police arrived and found the two employees outside the van. The 1990 Dodge Caravan shouting, "He's the one, he's the one that stole the cash register," according to police reports.

Police found the cash register, containing \$568 cash and a personal check. They also found assorted credit cards stolen from a Livonia woman Oct. 18.

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