

## Donors

### Farmington area residents among those who give

BY MARIE CHESTNEY  
STAFF WRITER  
mchestney@home.com.net

Ed Hillebrand of Livonia got the phone call from the American Red Cross Monday night, just hours after natural gas ignited a big boiler at the Ford Rouge complex in Dearborn, causing an explosion that killed one worker and critically injured 15 other power plant workers.

Long a regular blood donor, Hillebrand immediately signed up for another trip to the Red Cross center, 28691 Six Mile, Livonia. Pushing him along was the fact that he, too, had friends who worked for Ford Motor Co. Hillebrand's gift of blood has been repeated an untold number of times this past week in southeast Michigan as news spread of both the Ford tragedy and the Red Cross' need for blood.

"There's been a tremendous outpouring of support," said Ricky Haddock, spokesman for the American Red Cross. "There's been union drives in Dearborn which drew twice as much as we anticipated. Our goal there for one day was 110 pints; we treated 215."

The need for blood is now immense because of the massive burns suffered by the injured Ford employees.

"We need an extra 90-100 donors to support all the victims," Haddock said. "A lot of blood is used to remove dead tissue that the victims will have to undergo the next three weeks."

Before Monday's explosion, bus drivers for Livonia Public Schools had set a blood drive in the district's central office building for Friday.

By Thursday noon, all slots had been filled and no more appointments were being made, said Transportation Supervisor Steven Woodworth.

## FORD EXPLOSION

### Family ties

"Three employees in the department have relatives who work at the Rouge Plant," Woodworth said. "We had set a goal of 45; we have 60 right now. It's unfortunate this catastrophe had to happen."

By 3 p.m. Thursday, two hours after the Red Cross' Livonia Center had opened for blood donations, eight of the donors had signed in as Ford workers. One couple from the Ford family, Dick and Kathy Chave of Farmington Hills, gave blood together.

Chave was working one-half mile away from the Ford power plant Monday when he heard the explosion.

"I was sitting in my office when I heard and felt it. Then the lights dimmed and the computers went dead. We knew something serious had happened. A half hour later, they sent us home."

The Chaves came to the Livonia Red Cross Center Wednesday to give blood, but left because the center was crowded. Among the donors Chave spotted a fellow Ford worker, John Grunic.

The couple came back at 1 p.m. Thursday and spotted two more Ford employees waiting to give blood, Ralph Tadinio and Cleo Wilson.

"We want to help our fellow Ford workers through this disaster," Dick Chave said. "I know they need an extreme amount of blood during the healing pro-

### cess."

Helen Riley of Canton was a first-time blood donor Thursday. The Ford explosion brought her to the Livonia center, even though she has no family affiliation with Ford.

Lois Merriman of Plymouth, a four-times-a-year blood donor, came for the same reason: she, too, has no family members at Ford.

"The explosion spurred me on to come here," Merriman said. "It's just a sad situation for these families."

### Giving to others

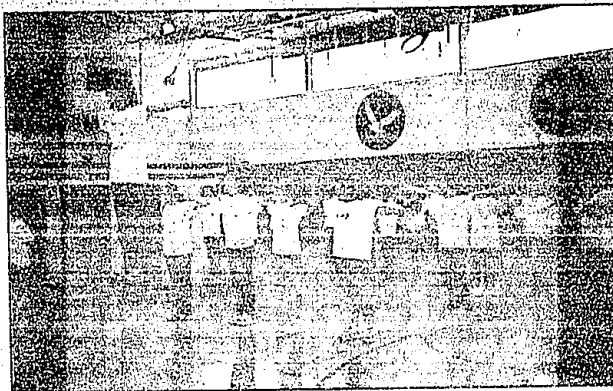
Diane Gaubatz of Canton has donated blood since her college days. She made the trip once again this week, because she knew the Red Cross would be "swamped" with people who need blood.

Regular donor Henry Copeland of Detroit took time out from vacation Thursday to wait his turn to give blood at the center.

Bea Carlson of Farmington Hills came to the Livonia center Thursday with her daughter, Christina. She's a regular blood donor, and had already scheduled an appointment for Thursday.

Then Monday's tragedy at Ford struck. Carlson immediately realized one of the victims could easily have been her own cousin, who works at the Ford plant.

## Joint efforts



Working together: Joint efforts by the Farmington High School Pom-Pom Squad & Cheer Team brought future pomponers and cheerleaders to Farmington High School for a daylong clinic. Fifty girls in grades six through eight took part in the clinic, learning age appropriate cheers and a pompon routine. The participants were then invited to perform at a basketball game the following week.

## Tell the Humane Society why you think your pet is a hero

Through the years, dogs and cats have been more than just our "companions." They've protected our homes and families, alerted us to impending danger and lifted our spirits during the tough times. If your pet fits this heroic image, the Michigan Humane Society would like to hear from you. As part of its Third Annual PETelethon, the MHS is holding a My Pet is a Hero contest.

Entering this fun-filled event won't require any heroic feats on your part. Just write and tell the Michigan Humane Society, in 200 words or less, why your pet (or the pet of someone you know) is a hero. Include a photo of your pet, along with your address and phone number with your entry and drop it off at any metro Detroit Pet Supplies "Plus" store. Or you can mail your entry to the Michigan Humane Society Community Relations Department at 37255 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185.

Your pet doesn't have to be another Rin Tin Tin or Lassie to qualify as a hero. Even if your four-footed friend never pulled you out of an icy river or walked 10 miles to get help when you were stranded in the forest, he or she can still qualify as a hero for being there every time you need a friend.

The top three entrants in the My Pet is a Hero contest will be invited to appear with their human companions on the Michigan Humane Society PETelethon on March 7. Broadcast on WKBD-TV

■ Entries must be received by 5 p.m. Feb. 22. Everyone who drops off an entry at Pet Supplies "Plus" will receive coupons for a variety of pet products. For information, call (734) 721-2109.

UPN 50 noon and 5 p.m., the PETelethon is the largest TV fund-raiser for pets in the country.

In addition to being recognized for their heroics on television, the top three finishers will receive Pet Supplies "Plus" gift certificates valued at \$500, \$200, and \$100. The fourth- through 10th-place finishers in the contest will receive a one-year supply of Nature's Recipe Premium Dog Food or 9 Lives Cat Food, courtesy of Heinz Pet Products.

All entries must be received by 5 p.m. Feb. 22. Everyone who drops off an entry at Pet Supplies "Plus" will receive coupons for a variety of pet products. For information, call (734) 721-2109.

## Recycle from page A1

1997.

That also means that the percentage of solid waste diverted from landfills increased from about 26 percent to 27.2 percent, according to figures presented by Caspo in conjunction with a report on the 1998 RRRASOC Annual Report.

"The city is head and shoulders above many of its peers in the area of recycling and environmental awareness," Caspo said. "It continues to be above the average (of) ... member communities and this year is no exception."

Caspo's report means Farmington residents "are doing the recycling and have concern for the environment," said Frank Lauhoff, Farmington city manager and a member of RRRASOC's board of directors.

"The more we divert from the landfills means the more we're reusing and recycling our products and that's the goal," Lauhoff said.

Caspo, meanwhile, said Farmington Hills' diversion rate is very close to Farmington's, adding that he expected to give his presentation to the Hills council tomorrow night.

According to the report, RRRASOC communities last year recycled 11.2 percent of the waste stream and composted 14.3 percent — compared to Farmington's 11.8 and 15.4 percent, respectively.

Last year was the fourth consecutive year that the amount of waste diverted from landfills increased. Communities in RRRASOC recycled about 900 additional tons of material in 1998, which breaks down to approximately 28 pounds per household, the report stated. The recycling rate itself has jumped from 9.47 percent in 1995 to 11.16 percent last year.

Everything that is picked up at curbside in the RRRASOC communities is processed at the Material Recovery Facility on

## CITY OF FARMINGTON

Eight Mile in Southfield. The MRF opened in 1995.

Besides Farmington and Farmington Hills, RRRASOC members include the cities of Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, Wixom and Lyon Township.

In addition to discussing the annual report, Caspo talked to Farmington City Council members about potential future endeavors. One of those is perhaps finding a way to give residents more than one time a year to drop off household hazardous materials such as paint thinner or used automobile oil.

That could be accomplished if communities opened up their collection days to people of neighboring communities.

## Hills firm receives certification

Farmington Hills-based Tachi-S Engineering U.S.A. Inc., a supplier of automotive seating, announced that it has received QS-9000 and ISO 9001 certification. The certification was issued on Dec. 3, 1998.

"This is a huge accomplishment, one that Tachi-S Engineering employees have worked hard to achieve," said Mike Vokal, vice president and CFO. "QS-9000 and ISO 9001 define a world-class approach to the quality of process and product. The certification is just one more

example of Tachi-S Engineering's commitment to quality and success."

QS-9000 is the set of quality requirements established primarily by the U.S. automakers to reduce the confusion and cost that arose when automotive suppliers had to meet a different set of quality standards for each of their customers. QS-9000 is derived from ISO 9001, the international standards for manufacturing quality, but includes requirements and measurements that are specific to the auto

## BUSINESS NEWS

Tachi-S Engineering U.S.A. Inc. is a 100 percent subsidiary of Tachi-S Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, which is also ISO certified. Tachi-S Co., Ltd. is the largest independent seating supplier in Japan, supplying to nine of 11 Japanese OEM's.

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