

Paws from page A1

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rehabilitation recreational therapist who coordinates the program.

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The pets - which include show dogs - visit every other week plus one Saturday per month, said Bartz. And they really do assist in the healing process of the patients, who may be recuperating from joint-replacement surgery, are accident victims or have suffered a stroke.

The animals have had their shots, are meticulously groomed and have received special training. They help patients because they "do not see paralysis, injury or disease," Bartz said. "They are not concerned" if they're not called by name, the Dearborn resident said, and they give non-judgmental attention and affection for 45 solid minutes.

"It's amazing" that such short visits "provide such healing powers," Bartz said.

Hip-replacement patient James Friel of Northville, father of six, including Farmington resident Rita Adams, was especially cheered by Misty, a collie belonging to Bill and Jean Worthington of Redford Township that reminded him of one he had in his youth.

"The dogs get along better than people," he said of Tuesday's pooches.



Watching: Tippy keeps a close watch on Jessica Bullion, 3 1/2 and Garrett Fleck, 3. Both kids are in child care at Botsford.



Therapy: Charlotte Hans of Redford gives Tippy a pat on the back as part of her stroke recovery therapy.

Bye from page A1

Other positions opened in city hall, but Savage never bothered to apply.

"For some reason I stayed there," Savage said. "I liked people and I thought I could do more for the city by working there."

Her value was immeasurable in terms of customer service and maintaining good relations with residents, who sometimes phone in, upset over flooding or tax assessments.

Central Services Director Michael Lasley noted he's never heard one complaint about Savage's impeccable phone manner.

If a caller had the wrong number, she didn't just shuffle them off, another city official noted.

"She'd say, 'You should call the county but, wait a minute, here is the number,'" Assistant City Manager Dana Whinnery said. "She always goes that extra step."

Savage said the secret is simple.

"I've always treated people like I'd like to be treated," she said. "I'm not saying I don't slip once in a while ..."

While not doing out Mary Popin's sugary cheerfulness, Savage did have her own vocal style.

"I always wanted to sound business-like, but also be courteous," she said.

Sometimes slightly confused elderly people would call her to find out the day. And, of course, she patiently dealt with a number of inquiries meant for the city of Farmington.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said he could always count on a friendly conversation with the city employee, who started after Christmas in 1978.

Vagnozzi admired how Savage could juggle a number of calls and immediately connect them to the right department.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARROZZE

Remember: Dorothy Savage gets a hug from Tom Shurtleff of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

"Dorothy would handle it without a fuss," said Vagnozzi, who also stressed the importance of having a human voice answer phones, instead of the 1990s trend of automated systems.

Though someone will replace Savage in the box, city officials plan to reassign some duties where more employees will be in front to greet people.

Her phone savvy started at the source: Savage worked as a Michigan Bell retail operator. Her family has lived in the Bellaire subdivision since 1954. She and her late husband, Robert, raised five children.

Her children are: Sandy, Terry, Steven, Kevin and Tom. She has nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Many family members watched and snapped pictures at the city hall reception as she opened gifts, including a set of luggage. Another employee gave her a small crystal phone.

Savage hopes to travel more in her free time. Retirement is bittersweet nonetheless, she said.

"When you work with people this long, it's almost like a family," she said.

Concern from page A1

Investigation, Dwyer said. Business has taken a hit at the billiards hall and restaurant, one owner said.

"Unfortunately, too many people hear snippets. They hear Roosevelt's and hepatitis A and they say, 'Uh-uh, I ain't going there,'" said Duane Gmerek, who is one of the owners.

Roosevelt's regulars have

responded positively, though.

Gmerek has fielded 12-16 calls. Roosevelt's owners are personally answering all inquiries.

"They have concerns," he said. "Once you explain to them how hepatitis works and how it gets into an establishment, they understand. 'Hey, it can happen and they'll be back.'"

Mercy's squad comes home with awards

Mercy High School Varsity Pom pon squad returned home from Mid American's Pom Camp with many awards.

A first-place in both speed learning and kick line. A second-place in their original home routine. They were also chosen as the team with the most unity and the team with the best speed learning.

Mercy squad is coached by Melissa Frye of Livonia. The squad includes seniors Emily

Butler, Angela Corsi, Christa Davis, Kelli Fortuno, Tanya Giroux, Beth LeCroix, Antoinette Mazzoni, Maribeth Phillips, Jessica Stoller, Juniors Lauren Burnias, Amy Fitch, Linda Karbo, Katie Landsberg, Alexia Thobolt, Katie Valonti; sophomores: Ashley Armbruster, Elean Brunotto, Shauna Barcovicz. Freshman Christina Corsi were all able to attend camp this summer.

OBITUARIES

LEO A. DETTORE

Services for Leo A. Dettole, 84, were held July 28 at Hancoy-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Jim Wright officiating.

Mr. Dettole was born May 3, 1915 and died July 24 at St. Mary Hospital in Saginaw.

He is survived by son, Leo "Butch" (LuAnn); brother, Dominic; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

LOUISE L. KONKEL

Services for Louise Lillian Konkell, 83, formerly of Farmington, were held July 29 at Theyer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Leonard Partensky officiating. Burial took place at Oakland Hills Cemetery in Novi.

Mrs. Konkell was born Jan. 27, 1911 in Louisville, Ky. and died July 27 at LeVieux Lutheran Manor Nursing Home in Cadillac. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by daughters, Betty (John) Burke, Carolino (Arthur) Fleming and Regina (Paul) Barrott; sister, Florence

Hoffman; 16 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter. She is preceded in death by husband, Andrew; and sons, Bub and George.

Memorial contributions can be made to Lukaview Lutheran Manor, 460 Pearl Street, Cadillac 49601.

LILLIAN L. COLLINS

Services for Lillian L. Collins, 88, formerly of Farmington, were held July 30 at Theyer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Robert Schultz officiating. Burial took place at Oakwood Cemetery in Farmington.

Mrs. Collins was born Feb. 21, 1911 in Hancock, Mich. and died July 28 in Westland. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by husband, Benjamin; sons, Charles (Karen) and James (Peggy); three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



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