



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLEY

Help yourself: Volunteer Samantha Lehto carries a plate of shish kebab to hungry picnickers. The food was donated by Fresh Approach.

Warner from page A1

ment, shish-ka-bob dinners, buggy rides and mansion tours, Tawyea said.

"This is the first time we invited the community to the property" since the committee was formed, she said. The committee consists of 12 community volunteers.

"The goal is for the committee to be a vehicle by which the Gov. Warner Mansion can be more self-sufficient," Tawyea said. Another goal is "opening it up more to the community and making it a meeting place and gathering place."

More events, including a Fall Harvest Celebration repeat next year are planned at the mansion.

"We'd like to thank all the community for attending," she



On the grill: Cleotis McNair and Omar Baldwin cook up chicken shish kebab and corn.

said.

Fresh Approach, 35243 Grand River donated the meat and vegetables for the shish-ka-bob dinners on Saturday and Sunday.

Murder from page A1

police. An Oakland County Medical Examiner's report stated he had been stabbed 46 times in the back and chest, puncturing his heart and lungs.

Farmington Hills police said the verdict was the culmination of excellent police work — detectives went to Minneapolis to get statements from Summerville when he was arrested.

"Obviously we're pleased with the verdict," said Police Chief Bill Dwyer, adding that this was Farmington Hills' most recent murder. "We felt all along that this was a crime committed by Summerville. I think the investigators in the case did an excellent job."

He cited Sgt. Timothy Swanson and detectives Matt Koehn and Bob Tiderington in particular.

Since the victim and killer know each other, public safety for other residents was never an issue.

"It's not the type of homicide that could have been prevented by us," Dwyer said.

Detective Koehn said the key to Summerville's conviction was the confession he made to police in Minneapolis, where he was initially arrested while driving Ellis' Jeep.

"(Summerville) remembered a lot of details before and after (the stabbing) but he couldn't remember the homicide at all," Koehn said of Summerville's testimony.

That conflicted with earlier statements

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Bill Dwyer

—Farmington Hills police chief

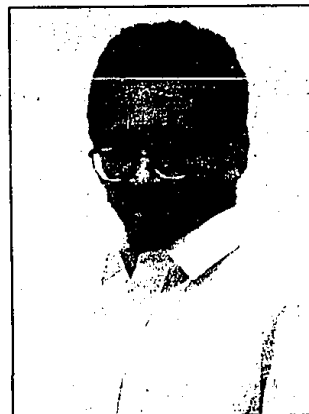
Summerville gave to police when he was apprehended, Koehn said.

"He was pretty specific with detectives about the murder," Koehn said. "We were able to use the statements he made in Minneapolis (in the trial)."

The evidence against Summerville was strong all along, police said. A bloodied shirt with Summerville's name on it was found in Ellis' washer and Ellis' blood was found in Summerville's Warren apartment. Police initially tracked Summerville through Ellis' cell phone and credit card, which he used following the murder.

"The defense in this case never was that he didn't do it," Koehn said, adding that the defense was pushing for a manslaughter, or unpremeditated murder conviction instead of first-degree murder.

Defense Attorney Lawrence G. Kaluzny did not return a telephone call seeking comment by press time Friday.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLEY

Verdict: An Oakland County jury found James F. Summerville guilty of murdering his lover.

Spanish from page A1

would like to hear what the students thought about it.

"We get to learn new things in a language in addition to English," said one student. Another said "We can play games and learn a lot of things at the same time."

Board President Priscilla Brouillette said the program was "mag-nifico."

Kathy Nyberg, English language arts and world languages curriculum coordinator, said the benefits of foreign languages are immeasurable.

"(The children's) brains are better wired for acquisition the younger they are," Nyberg said, citing language research. "It gets them aware of more than just a monocultural point of view."

The effects of the 20- and 30-minute exercises extend beyond the class times.

"It energizes them for the rest of the day," she said.

Some of the regular teachers sit in on the Spanish classes and incorporate Spanish phrases into the curriculum.

Whether the pilot program will expand to other languages remains to be seen.

"We want to give this pilot program a little bit of time," she said.

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