

# Exchangites reminisce on their 75-year history



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

Dishing it up: Exchange Club member Beth Hogan serves up the anniversary cake.

BY TIM SMITH  
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Lunch came with a history lesson Wednesday at the Exchange Club of Farmington's 75th anniversary celebration.

During a whirlwind slideshow, several Exchangites stood and recited fact after fact about the decades since the Exchange Club was organized in 1924.

Of course, the look back in time couldn't have been complete without wisecracks coming from the tables at Brass Pointe Restaurant in Farmington Hills.

"Was John in the club then?" quipped Jody Soronen, who in the early 1990s became one of the first women to join the local service club.

On the screen was a group shot from a 1920s bowling outing.

Soronen was ribbing club secretary John Richardson, who joined in 1961, as did Dick Tupper, Richardson and Tupper are the two longest-serving Exchangites in the local chapter and former Farmington mayors.

During the segment on the 1950s, presented by member Mike Harrison, he spoke about how the bylaws were changed to prohibit anybody from resigning if they owed dues.

"We'd rather have deadbeats than no members," Harrison deadpanned.

Later, during a run-through of the 1970s, Exchangite Beth Hogan read that dues were \$40 tri-annually, weekly lunches were \$4.50 and bylaws stated members must be men of good character and community standing.

"We don't know when that was relaxed," said Hogan, prompting some laughter.

Soon came another slide from the '70s, with two club members wearing jackets louder than a boom box in a library. They also wore neckties to match.

"Dick (Tupper) is still wearing one of these ties," chortled Hogan.

As the trip down memory lane



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

Lots to look back on: Two of the more seasoned members of the Exchange Club, John Richardson and Don Wingard, enjoy a moment of levity with former member Conrad Sullivan. Richardson and Wingard have 82 years of combined membership.

moved into the 1990s, member Bob Heinrich commented about the guests who have come in to speak at the Exchange Club luncheons.

"We've welcomed any speakers on any subjects - as long as they were free," Heinrich said.

After the luncheon, Richardson fondly recalled the weekly necktie swaps.

"People wore their ugliest, cruddiest ties on Wednesday," he said with a grin.

Assembling the time capsule for last week's celebration were members Frank Grady and Paula Boegner, who drew applause for their hard work.

According to Grady, working with Boegner to put the show together was "really a treat. ... Paula brought over a huge crate of stuff and she worked countless hours on this stuff."

"It makes me feel old when I see how much history has gone through the tubes," added Grady.

Asked about what has made the Exchange Club so successful for so long, Grady spoke about the high quality of members who

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Frank Grady  
—Exchange Club member

brought a sense of community, as well as a sense of humor.

"It's a great spirit here," Grady said. "I can't compare it to other clubs. But I think ours is rather unique. We have more civic and public members than anyone else. They just seem to gravitate here."

Member John Herzog said the presentation revealed the dedication to service that people in Farmington and Farmington Hills pride themselves on.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

Humble beginnings: Exchange Club historian Paula Boegner regales members with historical tales and photos from the earliest years of the club.

## HILLS AGENDA

City of Farmington Hills  
Regular City Council  
Meeting  
Monday, Dec. 13  
7:30

■ Proclamation recognizing Harrison High School Football Team Division 3 State Championship.

■ Receiving of donation by Artist-in-Residence, Danguole Jurgis.

■ Presentation by RRRASOC General Manager, Michael Caspo, on award and Hazardous Materials Day.

■ Consideration of introduction of Ordinance to amend Section 34.32 of the City Code. Rezoning Request 6-8-99 as follows:

Section - 11#23-11-101-045  
Location - Part of Lot 75 of Oakland Hills Orchards Subdivision, commonly known as 29415 Greening (south of 13 Mile, west of Greening).

Request - Rezone from RA-1, single-family residential district classification to P-1, vehicular parking district classification.

Applicant - Eden Janowitz, P.A.R.C., Incorporated.

■ Consideration of introduction of ordinance to amend the city code, Chapter 34, Zoning Article XXII, adding Section 34-538 (10) General Provision, to permit the use of non-conforming lots as regulated by ordinance

(ZTA 6, 1996).

■ Consideration of enactment of ordinance C-11-99 amending the city code, Chapter 27, subdivision of land, articles V and VI, relating to the subdivision or partitioning of land (city code amendment #5, 1999) and approval of summary for publication.

■ Consideration of enactment of ordinance C-9-99 amending the City Code, Chapter 34, zoning, section 34-57, relating to subdivision open space plans, in order to clarify the standards for approval, to reduce the number of dwelling units permitted per acre, and to delete certain restrictions regarding non-conformities resulting from such amendment (Zoning Text Amendment #4, 1999) and approval of summary for publication.

■ Consideration of enactment of ordinance C-10-99 amending the city code, chapter 34, zoning, sections 34-559 and 34-566 (h) (6), relating to required frontage on a public street and to delete reference to the ZBA to permit construction of a single-family home with frontage on a private easement (Zoning Text Amendment #3, 1999) and approval of summary for publication.

■ Consideration of appointment of Aldo Vagnozzi to Cable TV Administrative Hearing Panel.

from RT Detroit Franchise, LLC to transfer ownership of a 1999 12 months resort class C licensed business located at 31066 Twelve Mile, from Ruby Tuesday, Inc.

■ Consideration of authorization of entering into the design phase, establishing the building authority as the funding agency, authorizing contracts with the architects and construction manager and transferring funds to cover related costs for the 47th District Court Facility building project.

■ Update on City's Y2K preparedness.

■ Consideration of approval of resolution opposing special tax break for utilities.

■ Consideration of approval of final plat for Oak Hills Estates Subdivision, Plat #2, 1997, section 8.

■ Recommended approval of award of bid for ice melting materials (potassium chloride) for Special Services Department to Coleman Wolf Supply for an estimated annual total of \$13,020.

■ Recommended approval of setting Jan. 20, 2000 as public hearing date to construct north sewer in Power Road, north of Eleven Mile, in accordance with Section 26-181 (c) of the City Code.

■ Recommended approval of employment under Section 10.01 A of the City Code.

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