

Getting involved

Hills woman training for Avon Breast Cancer Walk

BY SUE BUCK
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Donna M. Jones says participating in the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk will make an important statement about an issue that's important to her.

"I decided I should get involved," said Jones. "I like to walk."

The three-day walk will raise funds for breast cancer awareness, treatment and research.

"This is the first time the walk has been held in our state," Jones said. "We begin Friday, May 31 leaving Ann Arbor, walking to Detroit at a rate of approximately 20 miles per day. Each night we'll sleep in tents at pre-selected sites. A girlfriend of mine knew about it from Chicago."

Jones' walking regiment involves increasing distance every week. She's up to eight miles a day.

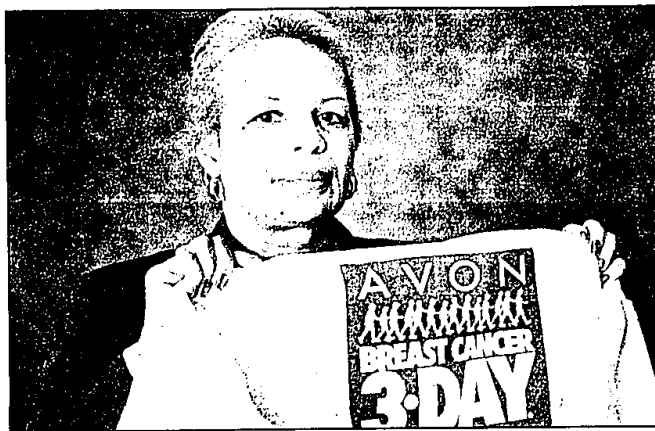
She walks the paths and community areas in and around the River Pines Condominium in Farmington Hills.

"The morning walks have been especially challenging because of the winds," she said.

The Pallotta TeamWorks group is the sponsoring agent contracted to handle the event, which is expected to draw 4,000 walkers, she said.

Jones must raise \$1,000 in donations. "My interest stems from my desire to increase awareness and treatment opportunities for my fellow African-American women," she said.

Though breast cancer hasn't



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH GARDNER

Walking for a cause: Hills resident Donna Jones is training and seeking pledges for her participation in Avon's walk to benefit breast cancer patients, treatment and research in May.

touched Jones personally, she recalls what other survivors experienced, including a young protégé who is now about 20 years old.

"I've seen people die from breast cancer," Jones said. "Lots of people have had mastectomies."

Jones walks with the support of her family. She is married to

Charles L. Jones. They have eight children in a blended family and 10 grandchildren.

Jones works as the coordinator for a national program for teacher certification at Wayne State University, called Alternative Pathways to Teaching.

"There are a number of people with degrees who would like to teach and change careers," said

Jones, a retired high school principal who taught science. "I provide them mentors and talk with their principals. I am a troubleshooter. It helps a critical shortage."

People interested in providing donations or who want more information can call Jones at (248) 436-7606 or contact her by e-mail, donna.jones@wayne.edu

Mercy sophomore to compete in Talented Teen contest

BY SUE BUCK
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Elshunta Peoples, a sophomore at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, is among the contestants in this week-end's Miss Michigan Talented Teens & Pre-Teen 2002 competition.

The winner will be crowned Saturday in Southfield.

Peoples became interested in competing when she received a postcard in the mail. She's been preparing since last November.

"It's a good experience," Peoples said. "They give you etiquette training. It's a wonderful experience and it's friendly."

The training boosts self-esteem, she said.

Peoples' talent is baton twirling, and she practices at the Adams Ballet Center in Detroit, in Brighton and at home. She has the support of her mother, Brenda and a sister, Otisha, 27.

The Michigan preliminary for Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition (HJTITSC) will begin at 4 p.m. at the Millennium Centre in Southfield.

Special guest hosts will be a WDTJ 105.9 FM radio personality, the reigning Miss Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International and Miss Michigan Talented Teen 2001 Della Hamby and Dorothy Tene Redmond, Miss Detroit USA 2002.

Contestants have begun the road to the title by participating in the Annual Talented Teen Etiquette Luncheon, performance workshops, and are learning a production

number all in preparation for Saturday's competition. Prior to the competition, they participated in self-esteem, personal and talent development workshops.

Contestants competing for the state titles must be 10-17 years old, possess a performing talent, have a good speaking voice and a youthful appearance.

Each division queen will receive a \$500 scholarship, sponsored by Peerless Productions, LLC, crown, sash, and trophy. The winner of the teen division (13-17) will receive an all expense paid trip to New York City to represent Michigan at the HJTITSC finals in July 2002. A first-time, renewable \$1,000 academic scholarship, sponsored by Daryl Bingham of the Detroit Optimist Club, will also be awarded that evening.

Sixteen-year-old Hamby, a modern dancer from Romulus, will pass on her crown. She traveled to London, Paris and will tour the Caribbean in June.

Breanna Wallace, Miss Michigan Talented Pre-Teen 2001, a 13-year-old modern dancer enrolled in the Talented and Gifted Program at East Middle School in Canton, will also pass on her crown that evening as well.

To learn more about the competition, call (313) 438-0061 or send an e-mail to mtalentedteen@aol.com.

Tickets are available at Dreams of Cream, a Southfield ice cream shop, located at 25849 Lahser in Southfield for \$15. Tickets can also be ordered by calling (313) 438-0061.

Demonstrators protest Mid-East war

BY PAUL R. PACE
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In an effort to make their voices heard, about 120 Muslim people protested on the corner of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Monday evening against Israel's incursion into the Palestinian West Bank.

The protesters, who Farmington Hills police said were demonstrating peacefully during the afternoon rush-hour, carried signs some comparing the Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to Adolf Hitler and saying the killing must stop.

Near the end of the protest, a small group of Jewish demonstrators appeared to counter protest.

According to Hills Police, the two groups were kept separate and the two-hour demonstration ended at 7 p.m.

Celena Khatib of Livonia is education outreach coordinator for ACCESS, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, based in Dearborn.

She said those protesting were mostly people from the Farmington and West Bloomfield area and that most were made up of students and parents of Huda School, a Muslim school in Franklin.

"We've rallied before but usually in Dearborn," Khatib said. "We picked (the Farmington Hills intersection) because we felt like we were preaching to the choir in

Dearborn. We decided we need to branch out and go to other places."

The area was also chosen because a pro-Israeli demonstration was held nearby a week ago, she said.

"We thought we'd give our viewpoint," she said.

While some motorists showed their support by flashing peace signs others displayed their middle fingers at the protesters, Khatib said.

And while some of the counter-protesters were arguing with the Muslim demonstrators, Khatib said she can understand both sides being frustrated by the recent actions in the Middle East.

"They had every right to counter protest," she said. Hills police told Khatib if the group plans to protest again to let the department know in advance the location and times so proper security can be arranged.

"We're thinking of (protesting) maybe sometime next week and making it a weekly protest," she said.

Khatib said the peaceful demonstrations are just a way to show their side of the issue.

"We want to educate people," she said. "And we hope to have leaflets next time."

Learn CPR at Health Care Center

Farmington Health Care Center is offering Basic CPR Classes to the public on April 27.

The cost is only \$5 per person with proceeds going to the activi-

ty programs for vent-dependent residents.

For registration and more information call Doug Hay, Respiratory Supervisor, at (248) 477-7373.

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