

Association to host charity softball game

The Farmington Hills Police Officers Association is organizing a celebrity softball game to benefit the Community Living Centers based in Farmington from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25, at Harrison High School.

Donations can be made at the gate. Officer Craig Dersa is organizing the event that will have members of the Hills Police Officers Association testing their softball skills against personalities from WRIF 101-FM, Drew Lane, Mark Felhauer, Trudie Daniels and Mike Walters as well as alumni from the Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Tigers and current Red Wing Manny Legace. Christine Compton, executive director of the Community Living Centers, said she's happy the officers decided to help out the non-

profit organization that places and assists developmentally disabled adults in area homes and apartments.

"We've been in Farmington for 34 years," she said. "And this fund-raiser will help offset our recent budget cuts from the government."

She said the organization serves 135 people and helps look after 10 homes in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield and Royal Oak as well as several apartments.

Sponsors include Contemporary Awards, the Farmington Optimist Club, WRIF radio, Detroit Red Wings Alumni, Detroit Tigers Alumni, the Southwestern Oakland County Cable Commission, Farmington Public Schools and Harrison Football Boosters.

By Paul R. Pace

Oakland health officials stress vaccination

The Oakland County Health Division, along with other organizations around the country, is marking National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) throughout August.

This year's campaign theme, "Are you up to Date? Vaccinate," reminds persons of all ages living in the U.S. about the importance of immunization. Oakland County Health Division NIAM activities include celebrating a Kids' Day in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club in Oakland County, as well as educating parents of children attending Oakland County YMCA day camps on the importance of immunization. Immunization staff will be available at all OCHD clinics to speak with the public regarding immunization issues.

Experts say vaccines are one of public health's greatest triumphs. With the exception of safe water, no other health strategy has had such a tremen-

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dous effect on reducing disease and improving health. Despite the availability of safe and effective vaccines, vaccine-preventable deaths still occur. For example:

■ Pneumococcal disease causes approximately 60,000 cases of invasive disease among people of all ages in the U.S. resulting in 3,300 cases of meningitis; 14 percent of adults hospitalized with invasive disease die.

■ Vaccine-preventable disease or their complications cause more than 30,000 adult deaths in the U.S. each year. In 2000, influenza and pneumonia were the fifth leading causes of death among those 65 years of age and older.

■ The potential for disease outbreaks is high in areas where substantial numbers of under-immunized children and adults reside.

■ Chickenpox is endemic in the U.S. and virtually all persons who are not vaccinated are at increased risk for contracting chickenpox in adulthood. The risk of complications and death from chickenpox can be as much as 10 to 20 times greater for adults than children.

Dr. Carol Bird, chief of Medical Services at OCHD, says, "Vaccine-preventable diseases such as chickenpox, pneumococcal disease, influenza and hepatitis A and B do not distinguish between young and old, rich or poor, racial or cul-

tural heritage. Unvaccinated people of all ages are susceptible to serious debilitating and potentially deadly disease. Vaccines can save lives and reduce the pain and disability of disease."

Oakland County Health Division encourages everyone to stay up-to-date on the routine immunization schedule throughout their lifetime.

The following Oakland County Health Division clinic locations are open for free immunizations Monday through to 8 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Locations are:

■ Pontiac — 1200 N. Telegraph Road. Located on Telegraph Road between Dixie Highway and Elizabeth Lake Road.

■ Southfield — 27725 Greenfield Road. Located at Catalpa on the S.W. corner.

■ Walled Lake — 1010 E. West Maple Road. Located on Pontiac Trail and West Maple Road.

SUSPECT

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No one was injured in either incident.

In the Hills incident, police said the woman left the bank and was observed by two construction workers in the alley behind the bank, changing her clothes. She then fled on foot west toward Orchard Lake then south behind some businesses. She was carrying a white plastic bag.

At the time of the robbery, she was wearing a black hat, trimmed in leopard fur, sunglasses, a black business-type suit and black shoes. She was observed changing into a light blue short-sleeved shirt with ruffles and light blue jeans over her black slacks.

Dwyer said the FBI is taking over the investigation of the suspect in custody because it involves multiple jurisdictions.

Police are also looking for two other suspects in recent bank robberies in the area.

SERIAL ROBBER

The last suspect who robbed the Standard Federal on Aug. 5, matches the description of a serial bank robber working in the metro area and even out of state.

He is described as black, 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-9 inches tall, with a medium build, 25-35 years old.

He wore blue overalls on the day of the robbery with a white T-shirt, blue baseball cap and Oakley designer black-on-black sunglasses.

In addition, police are looking for a serial bank robber who robbed two Hills banks in less than a month.

On July 29, the man threatened use of a gun on a teller and took cash from the Farmington Hills Comerica Bank inside the Kroger supermarket at 12 Mile and Halsted.

Dwyer said he believes the suspect is the same individual who robbed the Farmington Hills Comerica Bank at Eight Mile and Farmington Road on

July 8 as well as two other area robberies since May.

The suspect is described as being white and clean shaven, around 35-40 years old, 5-foot-7 inches tall with a medium build.

He is believed to have used the same method in robbing a bank at the Livonia Comerica, 36700 Five Mile, on June 12 and the Livonia Standard Federal, 34000 Seven Mile, on May 28.

The man was seen leaving in a new, red Ford Taurus after the Livonia Comerica robbery.

In each robbery case, Farmington Hills Police is offering a \$4,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the responsible person, half of which is being supported by the Detroit Clearing House.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Farmington Hills Police Department's Command Center at (248) 473-9695.

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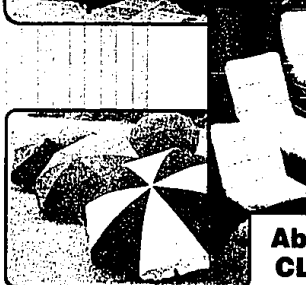


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