

WINGS selected to run Reader's Digest event

Women In Need of Guidance and Skills, which was featured recently in the Farmington Observer, has been selected to run the state level competition for the Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge.

"In addition to making a financial donation to WINGS in exchange for our participation, Reader's Digest will promote the literacy cause of WINGS at the state level contests, in Reader's Digest Magazine, at conventions across the country, and at many other highly visible venues," said Sheryl Simmons, WINGS executive director.

Joyce Snodgrass, a Farmington Hills resident and director of budget and finance for WINGS, is helping to organize the event, which begins at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2003 at Lawrence Technological University, on 10 Mile in Southfield.

"Vocabulary is a key component of literacy, and while this contest is designed to encourage vocabulary growth among school children, Reader's Digest and WINGS is dedicated to improving language skills across all ages."

Sheryl Simmons
WINGS executive director

The vocabulary contest is open to children in grades 4-8 in public and private schools nationwide including Department of Defense Schools and home-schooled students.

"Vocabulary is a key component of literacy, and while this contest is designed to encourage vocabulary growth among school children, Reader's Digest and WINGS is dedicated to improving language skills across all ages," Simmons said.

According to researchers, vocabulary is a key to reading comprehension. By sharpening vocabulary skills, students gain control over school subjects, workplace issues, and the world of ideas in general, she said.

The winner of the state level competition will go on to compete in the national competition in Williamsburg, VA.

Students will receive gifts and scholarships for their participation in the contest.

About 700 youth and adults are expected.

WINGS recruited local judges and celebrity moderators.

For more information about the Word Power Challenge, log on to www.nwpcrd.com or call toll free 1-866-523-6388.

WINGS is still planning the opening ceremony of the competition which will begin at 11 a.m. If you would like for your youth group (choir, oratorical, dancers, etc.) to participate, please call 313-635-3046.

"WINGS will also ensure the integrity of the competition materials and handle the formal notification process for the state winners," Simmons said.

Question Masters are Sue Buck, staff writer, Farmington Observer; Amyre Makupson, news anchor, UPN Channel 50; Donald Walker, Jr., program manager 90.9 WDRB-FM; Denise Crittendon, editor African American Family Magazine and LeVona Whitaker, executive director Michigan Literacy, Inc.

Judges are: Julie Taylor, assistant professor of the University of Michigan; Pamela Perry, writer Michigan Chronicle; Tom McGuire, teacher, St. Benedict School; Lawrence Watson, supervisor of the Growth and Afrocentric Programs; Saginaw School District, and Warren Harris, attorney.



Chorus line

The Great Lakes Chorus of Sweet Adelines represented Michigan and southwest Ontario in the 56th annual Sweet Adelines International 2002 chorus competition Nov. 4-9 in Nashville. Guest and prospective members are invited to the 7 p.m. Nov. 19 rehearsal at Henry Ford II High School, 11911 Clinton River Road between 19 Mile and Schoenherr. Tapes of the competition will be viewed. For more information call Edie Kowalski at (586) 731-2834 or JoAnne Bultweg at (248) 652-3851. Pictured (left to right) JoAnne Bultweg of Rochester Hills, Diane Paul of Center Line, Marly Saper of Farmington Hills and Arlene Walsh of Brighton.

Fourth-generation Scout earns his wings

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Matthew Inch, a freshman at Blue Valley Northwest High in Overland Park, Kansas, was recently awarded his Eagle Scout rank — scouting's highest honor — at an Eagle Court of Honor.

Matthew's family will soon re-locate to the metro-Detroit area. His parents, Terry and Tami (Richardson) Inch grew up in Farmington and graduated from Farmington High School. His grandparents are Sandy and Jack Inch, of Farmington.

Jack has served on the Farmington School Board continuously since 1978.

Dr. John and Shirley Richardson are Matthew's maternal grandparents.

Both served as Mayors in the City of Farmington. John is a local veterinarian.

"Matthew is the fourth generation in the Richardson

Family to earn his Eagle — Earl Richardson, his great grandpa, John Richardson, his grandpa, Mark Richardson, his uncle and now Matthew," said Shirley Richardson.

There's similar honors in the Inch family. "His uncle Chris Inch is an Eagle Scout and was in John Richardson's troop," said Jack Inch. "John was a scoutmaster here."

Jack praised the organization and support Matt's parents gave in helping their son to achieve his goal. "He's the first one in his troop," Jack said.

The entire family traveled to

witness the event. "It gave us a

lot of pleasure to see him get

that," Jack said.

Matthew achieved the Eagle honor

after eight years of scouting which culminated in a

community

service project with Troop 425.

For his Eagle project, he

organized and recruited

scout and parent volunteers to

collect old, unwanted eyeglasses

for redistribution to the

Lions Club which distributes

eyeglasses to the poor in develop-

ing nations.

About 320 pairs of eyeglasses

were collected. I

n addition to distributing fly-

ers and collecting eyeglasses in

subdivisions, Lions Club boxes

for donations were placed at

local grocery stores and

optometrist offices.

Matthew earned 32 merit

badges and held several scout-

ing leadership positions. He is

also an Ordeal Member in

Timegait Lodge of the Order

of the Arrow, a Warrior in the

Tribe Mic-O-Say and has gone

on high adventure trips to

Colorado with scouts.

Matthew is an Honor Roll

student and participates on

cross-country and track teams

and is a member of the

Heritage United Methodist

Church.

He has two brothers, Michael

and Kyle.

sbuck@oehome.com.net (248) 477-5450

SINGLES CALENDAR

METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONALS

Single Mingle Dances

MSPs hold Single Mingle dances on Friday nights throughout the month. Call (248) 851-9909 for times and locations.

Book Discussion Group

MSP's book discussion group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders Books in Farmington Hills. Borders will offer a 20 percent discount on all titles chosen for discussion.

Volleyball

Drop in and play volleyball 6:45-9:45 p.m. every Tuesday at the gym and fieldhouse at Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4200 Quanton Road.

Euchre

MSPs play euchre 6:30-9:30 p.m. every Monday at the Brass Point Inn in Farmington Hills.

Social and Travel Club

For people 35 years old and up. Activities include dinners, dances, cards, camping, theater, sports, travel. To learn more about the club call (248) 435-5320 or go to www.sstc.org.

Fun & Fine Dining Parties

Join MSPs every Thursday between 6-

7:30 p.m. for socializing with dinner afterwards. Enjoy sampling some of the best and most interesting dining places in the metro-Detroit area.

West Side Singles

Friday dances to be held every Friday night at Burton Manor, located on Schoolcraft Service Drive, just west of Inkster in Livonia. The dances are open to the public. Doors open from 8 p.m.-1 a.m., 25 years of age and older. Dressy attire required, held in non-smoking ballrooms with a D.J. and budget bar.

Admission price is \$4 before 8:30 p.m. and \$6 after 8:30 p.m. For information, call Anita at (734) 581-0909.

DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM

Tree Lighting!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27
6:00 p.m. Shain Park

Santa Arrives in Downtown Birmingham to Help Light the Tree
Holiday Songs by a Birmingham School Choir

HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN WITH SANTA 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

As Always, 2 Hours FREE PARKING in All Birmingham Decks!