

YMCA seeks former board members

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Family YMCA is looking for all former local board members for a special celebration on April 3 during the group's annual Community Breakfast.

The organization will be honoring Kevin Bush, who served as a long-time executive director, said Rick DuRei, current executive director.

Also at the breakfast, plans for a past chairman's plaque will be announced; there are plans to honor Gary Unruh, who also served as executive director, at a later date.

DuRei said the board members are elected to three-year terms. Some serve long terms, some short. And over the past 20 years, there are likely around 300 people who have served on the board, he said.

He said invitations are going out to past members, but not all of them have updated addresses.

"Plus, we want to be able to communicate to them what the Y is still doing and update them on things," said DuRei.

Former board members may contact Jenny Ward at (248) 553-1908 where they can leave their current address information so a formal invitation may be mailed.

pace2@homecomm.net | (248) 417-5450

Brunch returns to Longacre

Sunday brunch returns to the historic Longacre House in Farmington Hills Sunday, March 3, with a menu that combines typical breakfast fare with Sunday dinner entrees like ham and turkey.

An egg station, breakfast meats and potatoes, fresh fruit, french toast casserole and baked goods are included on the buffet, as well as baked fresh fish, chicken moutarde, Longacre potatoes and Longacre salad. A dessert station will also be offered.

Advance reservations are recommended, but walk-ins will be welcome.

The event also promotes an on-going drive for memberships, which are being reinstated as a source of financial support for ongoing operations and maintenance of the house.

Members receive benefits that include discounts on some events and catering orders booked during the year.

Additional Sunday brunches are planned April 13 and May 4.

The next Longacre House Chef's Cookout, with a tropical-themed dinner, is planned Friday, March 14.

All proceeds from the Sunday brunch benefit the 1869 Georgian manor, which is needed for use as a community center. The House relies on community support and donations; it receives no funding from local governments.

The Longacre House is located on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile Roads.

For more information, or to make a reservation by phone, call (248) 477-8404.

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Plymouth to pay Hills firm \$14K in settlement

BY TORY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

A settlement which calls for the City of Plymouth to pay \$14,000 to Broe Rehabilitation Services of Farmington Hills is expected to be filed in federal court within the next week or so, ending a battle between the city and the private company which operates three supported-living homes on Farmer Street.

As part of the consent agreement reached in the chambers of U.S. District Court Judge Robert Cleland in Detroit on Dec. 18, the city agreed to rescind tickets issued against the properties, in which the city claimed Broe was operating a business in a residential neighborhood, as well as pay legal fees.

The case has been dismissed with prejudice, meaning all the claims can't be litigated again, said Paul O'Neill, of the Bloomfield Hills firm of O'Connor, DeGrazia and Tamm, which represented the city. "Terms of the agreement are confidential."

However, a memo sent from the law firm to city commissioners said the two sides agreed to the \$14,000 figure on Feb. 6. The memo also denotes Broe's attorney, Gregory Bator of Bator & Berlin in Birmingham, initially sought \$50,000 in legal fees.

"We're pleased the matter has been brought to resolution, and we can go about with our vision (on Farmer Street) in a neighborly like way," said Bator.

Jim DeGrazia, the lead city attorney in the case, said the consent agreement does not include an admission of liability on behalf of the city.

"This represented a reasonable resolution of the litigation. It's in the best interest of the city, and the best for all concerned," said DeGrazia. "It was a case that would have been difficult to win."

The city ticketed the Broe supported-living homes at 338, 347 and 378 Farmer in October, claiming they are businesses being run in a residential neighborhood.

Neighbors have complained about the Broe residents, claiming they were accosted by residents who regularly use vulgar, fight and cause other public nuisance issues at the homes.

Nearly a month later, attorneys for Broe Rehabilitation filed a federal lawsuit, alleging discrimination against the closed-head-injury patients who live at the three addresses. Bator said the issue became a Fair Housing Act question when residents in Old Village suggested Broe reduce the number of homes in their neighborhood.

Mayor Bill Graham said he's satisfied the matter is over, but displeased with the amount of the settlement.

"I still think \$14,000 is an outrageous number," he said. "Their goal was to penalize us for challenging them."

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Nominations sought for Mother of the Year

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit is seeking nominations for the "Mother of the Year 2003."

The Mother of the Year will be honored at Lifespan's Mother's Day Dinner on Tuesday, May 6, at the San Marino Club in Troy, where she will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a gift certificate to Marshall Field's.

The public is invited to the dinner. Reservations are \$50 per person and \$475 per table of 10. Reservations are required by May 1.

Nominations must be submitted in writing, a minimum of 1000 words, explaining why the nominated person

qualifies for "Mother of the Year." Nominations must be received no later than Wednesday, March 12.

The "Mother of the Year" must be a resident of Wayne, Oakland or Macomb counties and be able to attend the awards dinner.

If your nominee is chosen, you will also receive a free ticket to the dinner.

If the "Mother of the Year" is nominated by two or more individuals, the first one received will be eligible for the free ticket.

Please include your name, address and phone number and also the address and phone number of your nominee.

Mail or deliver your nomination for "Mother of the Year" (must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, March 12) to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile No. 127, Livonia 48152. For more information, call (248) 777-9090.

Right to Life - Lifespan is a non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of vulnerable human life from conception to natural death.

Established in 1970, it is the largest and oldest pro-life organization in southeastern Michigan. Lifespan serves Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

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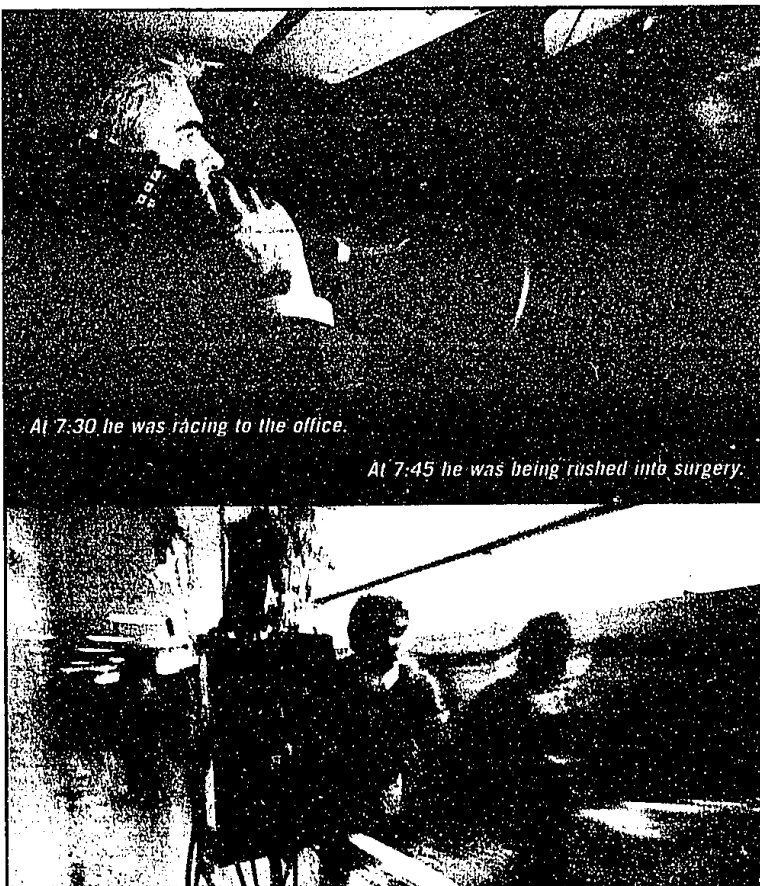
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