Area businesswoman was known for the sweet and cozy

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Doris Kay Lovill, who owned Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy on Grand River in downtown Farmington, died Dec. 5 of cancer in her Southfield home.

She was 66 years old.

Opened in the spring of 1994, the popular tea cozy became well known in Farmington and beyond.

The house in downtown Farmington, built in 1850, was restored by businessman Walter Sundquist.

"New guests and old friends traveled from as far as Grosse Ile and Grand Rapids on a regular basis to enjoy a pot of Mrs. Lovill's Friendship Tea," said son Steven Lovill. "It was more formal than a previous location, but it retained the cozy atmosphere that made guests feel they were visiting a favorite aunt's home."

Her favorite rewards were the kind words her guests would share about the special place they loved to visit.

Her determination and passion were evident through her struggle with breast cancer as she kept the tearoom open and as lovely as ever. The second remission, however, was too short, and the emergence of breast cancer for the third time proved too debilitating to carry on the business. It was sold in July 2002.

Her love of this structure was as strong as her love of their Southfield home.

Mrs. Lovill

Lovill was a member of Farmington Chamber of Commerce and won the Farmington Community Beautification Mayor's Award several times for her gardens and landscaping.

She was a sponsor of Farmington Music at the Gazebo and served as a hostess for Farmington's meeting of community mayors. She participated in "A Taste of Farmington" at the Longacre House.

Lovill was a benefactor of several education and community service programs including Detroit News Goodfellows, Farmington Adult Education and the Sarah Fisher Home for Children.

When she was 14, she worked as a carhop at various drive-ins in Detroit. A few years later, at Pace's Drive-In, she met her husband, Carl. At various intervals she found work as a printing press operator, mail truck loader and power sewing machine operator at Chrysler's Detroit trim plant. However, she always returned to the restaurant business.

Lovill worked at Stouffer's Top of the Flame restaurant on the 26th floor of the Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. Building on Jefferson near Woodward in Detroit. The Georgian Inn in Roseville hired her as banquet manager in 1972.

Her entrepreneurial spirit was awakened during the hard economic times of the 1970s recession, Steven said. Lovill, along with brother and sister-in-law Daniel and Michelle Lovill, began 'Mrs. Lovill's Cheesecakes' in 1977. The company made high quality New York-style cheesecakes for the Hotel Ponchartrain in Detroit, the Michigan Inn in Southfield and other fine restaurants in metro Detroit.

She later offered confections in a small, Georgian architecture home in Franklin Village and opened Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy, a small, country Victorian tearoom in 1980.

She is survived by (Arthur) Carl Lovill, her husband of 43 years; sons, Carl Lovill of Brighton and Steven Lovill (Kristin) and granddaughters Kaitlin Elizabeth and Aleita Kay of Brighton; mother, Aleita Kathleen Hillier of Memphis. Mich., who is 100 years young; sisters, Eleanor, Jean, Evelyn and Shirley; a great number of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Drug testing kits now offered to Hills parents

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Testing for alcohol, marijuana, cocaine and ecstasy isn't just for the professionals anymore.

The Farmington Hills Police Department is now participating in the L.E.A.D. program, Law Enforcement Against Drugs, designed to empower parents to address alcohol and drug use.

Parents can now pick up a free testing kit from the police department and actually test their kids for the four substances. Each kit contains testing and results instructions and additional resources to seek help.

Hills police Chief William Dwyer said the program is critical in combating the continuing problem of substance abuse among young people.

"Drug use by our youth is a problem that we, as a community, must constantly strive to address," stated Dwyer in a press release.

The tests are reliable, simple to use and results are available within minutes, he noted.

"I think it's a good tool to have available for parents," he said on Tuesday, when the program was officially launched.

Too often, parents are hesitant to address the issue of drug use with their children, said Estralee Michaelson, executive director for the Farmington/Farmington Hills Call to Action Coalition.

"It's very hard, but we've seen, too often, tragedy in this community and we need to work together on early intervention before it's too late," Michaelson said. "This provides a resource where parents can take control. This might help them to seek early intervention."

From left, Lt. Patrick Comini, David C. Prichard, president of Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Farmington Hills Chief William Dwyer inspect the drug testing kits now available to Hills parents.

The Call to Action Coalition is aimed at community involvement at all levels in combating violence and drug and alcohol abuse. A community forum on drug abuse will be held Tuesday, Dec. 14, see related story.

Michaelson said parents may be hesitant to use the drug tests on their children, fearing trust will be broken. But, she said parents should make it clear that they love their kids and that's the reason they are taking such measures.

"We need to reverse that thinking that it will break that trust," she said.

The kits are available for the first month at no charge to Farmington Hills residents. Parents can simply stop by the department, located at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, during daytime hours. There is no record being kept that identifies who picks up the kits, Dwyer noted.

If the demand is high, the department may continue offering the kits free of charge by using narcotic forfeiture money. For more information, call the Farmington Hills Police Crime Prevention Section at (248) 871-2750.

MEETING

FROM PAGE A1

Mayor Arnold Campbell.

Campbell asked if the DDA board was getting enough help and input from Main Street Oakland County.

"We have a lot of materials," Beamer said.

DDA Board Member Greg Cowley, who chairs the economic restructuring committee, believes the promotions committee is unfairly taking the brunt of criticism.

Cowley wants to focus on strengthening existing businesses and recruiting new businesses. His committee has visited downtowns in Plymouth, Royal Oak and elsewhere. The organization as a whole needs to determine how they want to "sell" the city, Cowley said.

The $50,000 spent on promotions this year is significant, Cowley said.

"From a business owner's perspective, I did not feel a lot of lift," Cowley said. "My question is could we have spent that money more wisely?"

McShane asked if the board has approached local banks to determine if there is any community development money. The potential availability of that money was mentioned during Main Street training she attended.

McShane didn't feel the first time Funny Film Festival organized by a non-DDA committee was coordinated well with the DDA for maximum impact for downtown businesses.

DEFINING ROLE

Councilwoman Val Knol wanted a clear expectation of Morgan's role in promotions and time spent with Main Street committees. She asked if Morgan is the leader or are the committee chairs the leaders.

"Working with volunteers, is he the stable thread that runs through them and binds them together?" Knol asked. "I will be honest. We're having volunteer problems."

She also asked about Morgan's job description.

"When one comes to work every day, they really need to be clear on how much they should be working on different activities," Knol said.

Beamer was unsure if the DDA has spelled out their reasonable level of expectations of Morgan.

"We as a board need to be more specific about revisiting the executive director's position," Beamer said. "I don't have the historical perspective that most of you do. My understanding is that the DDA backed into the Main Street process."

McShane complimented Saturday's holiday event and the publicity generated to promote it. Beamer attributed that to Morgan.

She advocated partnerships with businesses and commissions.

Judy Marlette, a Farmington resident, said she took the three-day training for Main Street volunteers in Pontiac and though she has attended every design committee meeting, she has yet been asked to do anything more than hand out Halloween candy. She learned about the joint meeting by reading the *Farmington Observer*.

Laura Osborne, a downtown Farmington businesswoman, said she was "unceremoniously" dropped from the Main Street e-mail list. She's frustrated with the level of progress in the Main Street program and also with disparaging remarks she's heard about the Village Mall tenants at Farmington Road and Grand River where her business was formerly located.

Some have referred to them as "those bitches in the Village Mall" and the "Village idiots," she said.

The DDA plans to hold a January retreat, off site, to further discuss the issues.

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Drugs, violence topics of upcoming Call to Action Coalition workshops

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Call to Action Coalition, in cosponsorship with Farmington Public Schools, presents two comprehensive workshops to "break the silence" on issues that continue to threaten the health and safety of communities nationwide.

Each workshop will feature the choice of attending a day-long session or a shorter forum to be held that same evening.

Both days of workshops will take place at the Farmington Training Center. The day-long workshops will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the evening forums will be held from 7-9 p.m. The evening forums will present snippets of information presented during the day.

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, the day and night sessions will present all aspects of drug use, abuse, addiction and treatment.

The keynote speaker will be Special Agent Rich Isaacson, from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. He will update attendees on local trends and concerns as seen by the DEA. Additionally, attendees will hear stories from the heart, local perspectives from law enforcement and fire fighter/paramedics and intervention and treatment strategies and referral sources.

On Thursday, Jan. 27, a comprehensive view of relationship violence will be presented.

The keynote speaker will be Carol Hackett-Garragiola, Legal and Policy Director of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Center.

She will update attendees on all aspects of relationship violence.

Additionally, attendees will hear stories from the heart, local perspectives presented by Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer/Farmington Hills Police Department and Farmington's Public Safety Director Charles Nebus, judicial consequences presented by District Court Judge Marla Parker as well as intervention, treatment and referral sources.

A RSVP is necessary for day-long workshops because a continental breakfast, afternoon snack and material packet will be provided and no fee will be charged for either session.

"We must continue to break the cycles of denial, shame and silence to support one another and to address the pain caused from the impact of suffering drug and violence issues," said Estralee Michaelson, executive director of the Call to Action Coalition.

For further information, contact Michaelson, at (248) 489-3408. Please contact Kay Clark at (248) 489-3329 for reservations.

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