

**Senior center to host 'mature driving' class**

GREECE — The Happy Harvester Senior Center and AARP have scheduled a "55 Alive Mature Driving Course for Seniors" from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., June 8 and June 10, at the Happy Harvester Senior Center, 3000 Dewey Ave.

In addition to refreshing participants' driving skills, the course can be used to help obtain a discount on automobile insurance.

Cost is \$8. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited.

For information, call 716/663-8320.

**Elder Services earns county awards**

ROCHESTER — Catholic Family Center's Elder Services Department can thank the March, 1991 ice storm and people's love of sweets for two recent awards from the Monroe County Department for the Aging.

The CFC department received Awards of Excellence for volunteer expansion and funding expansion from the county during a May 9 luncheon at Logan's Party House, 1420 Scottsville Road.

The award for volunteer expansion went to Project CARE, which was developed after Elder Service's staff discovered how difficult it was to get in contact with elderly residents in the wake of the ice storm. The funding award was presented for raising approximately \$1,600 through the department's sale of candy for Valentine's Day.

According to the Irene Coveny, program director, Project CARE has added nearly 100 new volunteers in the last year alone.

Project CARE organizes networks of volunteers in neighborhoods throughout the county. These volunteers assist elderly residents by helping with household and yard chores, shopping and transportation to appointments, and by

maintaining regular contact with them.

The program developed in Rochester, Coveny explained, "after the ice storm and what we went through trying to contact the seniors."

Coveny said she hopes the program will spur additional neighborhood groups, particularly those reaching out to minority elderly residents.

Money concerns figured into the candy sale.

Funding for the department's programs has been frozen — or in some cases has decreased — in recent years, Coveny explained. After trying various fundraising efforts, staff members came up with the idea of selling chocolates in the food court inside the Sibley's Building, where the Catholic Family Center offices are located.

The "Everything Chocolate Cart" was set up for approximately 10 days, selling out all the candy purchased and netting \$1,600.

Staff members are now looking into the possibility of having the cart set up permanently to provide employment opportunities for seniors and to raise income for department programs, Coveny said.

The recent awards are among the many Coveny's department has received. Still, she observed, "it feels good when we are recognized on the local level."

In addition to the two Elder Services Department awards, the county presented awards to other agencies and individuals at the luncheon.

Awards of Excellence were presented to the Comfort Care Volunteer Program of the Tender Loving Care Agency, Inc.; Charles Siragusa, state director of the American Association for Retired Persons; the staff of GROW Employment Services of the Regional Council on Aging; and the Senior Care Program of the Town of Greece.

New York State Awards for Outstanding Service were presented to Jill Grant, Barbara Eckert and Margaret Nordbye, all of Visiting Nurse Service; Betty Reisinger, of Montgomery Adult Day Service; and Demetrious Castro of HSSI Home Care, Inc.


In addition, a special merit award was given to Albert Hooke in recognition of his work as an advisory committee member and for chairing the Senior Action Planning Committee for three years.

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