

This active volunteer doesn't stay home much

Posted on August 21, 2012 by blueadmin

Marlene Barr



g, Marlene Barr and her husband walk a neighbor's dogs 2 ½
your own. You don't have to clean up after them and you don't
d. Barr, 77, doesn't stay home much. She bikes and skis and
ber of numerous organizations including the Ypsilanti Community
psilanti. Despite being very busy, Barr is also an RSVP volunteer
tes so much to the needy," is the reason she has volunteered
Shop's profits go directly to human service organizations in
n Deed, Meals on Wheels and S.O.S. Because the Shop is
nt of profits go directly to social services, said Marcia Sylvester,
as president of the Shop three times and is now in charge of
ts paid and the building is all paid for." The Shop has been in
operation for 70 years, running solely on volunteer efforts. "We always need more volunteers," Barr
said. One attractive thing about volunteering is that the Shop only asks for a volunteer to commit to one
shift at the Shop every four weeks. The shifts are about three hours long. The Thrift Shop is at 14 S.
Washington St. in downtown Ypsilanti. In addition to her work at the Shop, Barr and her husband John
are active in Boy Scout Troop 290, which is based at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti. She and
her husband have taken Boy Scouts to Colorado for an Easter ski vacation numerous times. Marlene
Barr has won gold medals in her age category through NASTAR, a ski racing organization. "My
husband says I'm a fast woman," Marlene said. John and Marlene also like to bike on Saturday
mornings with the Ann Arbor Bike Touring Society. They ride along Huron River Drive from Ann Arbor to
Dexter and have breakfast in Dexter. Another activity that Marlene Barr enjoys is genealogy. She's a
member of five genealogy organizations and has written several booklets about her family history. She
distributes the booklets to family members and to various libraries. Her heritage is Swedish, Norwegian
and German and her maiden name is Bielenberg. "After doing some research in Norway at the archives,
I connected with a cousin in Oslo. He's the same age as I am," Barr said. On one visit to Oslo, the
cousin and Marlene Barr visited "a huge brick church that our great-grandfather built," she said. The
sanctuary is known as Trefoldighet and was built in 1853.

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