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Marillac Hall hopes for some district aid

If prayers and about $14,000 will be all Sister Mary Patrical needs to save Marillac Hall, if the Michigan Department of Education comes through with an equal amount, she may be able to keep the facility's education program.

Farmington administrators and officials are willing to help the Farmington Hills residents for whom Board members saw the need at an early program that was jeopardized when the Detroit Board of Education pulled out the teachers it had provided there in an austerity move.

The financially strapped Farmington district is looking for ways to add to the Hills' work that will add to the district's expenditures.

"We've been in contact with the State Department of Education," said Farmington Schools Superintendent Lewis Schaefer.

"They could fund the program under special education, but then, maybe we'd have to find part of the Hills program within our allotment of special education funds. But it's too early to say. We don't know if the program has been approved."

If the grant can be dug up, he said, the Hall and the State Department will be able to juggle the two funds and the school district.

"IF WE ACHIEVE SOME success we will have from the future of teachers who have been a part of expulsion," he said.

But we have to be bringing in boys that are now outside of the Hills," he said.

Although Schaefer is optimistic and the Sister Mary Patrical, the facility's administrator, is hopeful she will be able to raise enough money to continue to operate.

Some members of the Hills residents are upset that even if the state requires the district to provide the educational program, it would mean fewer teachers and children are in the classroom.

The presence of the teachers and the school program at Marillac Hall are crucial to its continued existence, according to Hall personnel.

"Somehow or other, the money will come to us," said Sister Patrical. "I have no idea where we'll get the money. We'll need in the neighborhood of $12,000-$14,000.

"Maybe we'd need more than twice as much. We have to be ready in case of the unexpected," she said.

Although she has received some promises of money, she has yet to actually have any funds handed to her.

COMPLICATING HER PROBLEM is her admitted lack of knowledge about the funding which could be available to her.

"I'm told that usually the state pays half and the federal government picks up matching funds, if the program starts at a certain time of the year. This one has been interrupted in mid-semester.

"I could be misinformed. I don't know about these things. I'm just going by what other people tell me," she said.

"If things work out, we'll start our new semester Jan. 3 with Farmington teachers," she said.

Several Board members are sympathetic to the Hills' plight, but are concerned about the district's budget.

"I'm very hopeful that some arrangements can be made," said Board President Anne Struble. "But funding is important. We have to keep financing in mind."

The district's budget has been approved and can't be altered, according to Mrs. Struble.

"I'd hate to see the Hall closed," she said. "There are a variety of solutions. We want to cooperate fully to keep the facility. The solution to the problem is in the works."

HER CONCERNS WERE ECHOED BY Board Trustee Helen Peters.

"I have no objections to helping the Hall. I'm willing to accept any recommendation, as long as it doesn't cost the district any money," she said.

Trustee Michael Shreve said that he would be willing to take a look at a plan which might cost the district money.

"But the board would have to take a good look at it, as we do with every plan to spend money," he cautioned.

"I'm in favor of anything that we can do to help," he said.

Marillac Hall is a non-denominational facility operated by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul, a Catholic order.

The facility provides nursing care, counseling and living quarters, in addition to the school program.

Standing tall

These are just a few of the old newsboys who will be hitting the streets tommorrow to sell Goodfellows newspapers. They are (from left) Lt. John Santomauro, Lt. Arlo Newell, Capt. Thomas Schriber, Fire Marshall William Gerhart and Fire Chief John Van De Voort. (Evert photo)

And the Hills parties, too

City workers give toys for tots

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills are volunteering to the holiday spirit and giving their employees a chance to enjoy some holiday cheer.

In Farmington's case, the city is asking their employees to play the role of Santa Claus before trying out this year's helping of roast beef.

The employee has to donate a toy for the Goodfellow's Toys for Tots program to be allotted through the door, explained City Mgr. Robert Deadman.

The toys are given to Farmington children. The Goodfellows come in during the parts to pick up the toys. I've seen them take out truckloads of toys.

Bikes, games, dolls, you name, and they've donated it," Deadman said. "I've seen them take some very, very expensive toys out of there. Really quality stuff.

"We've been doing it for years. For more than 20 years that I know of," he added.

Farmington throws a buffet dinner with drinks for its 50 employees and their spouses.

POLICE AND DEPARTMENT of Public Works employees are included in the festivities which cost the city $3.50 per person. The money is taken from the city's general fund.

The party will be Dec. 11 at the American Legion Hall, Grand River. The Legion allows the city to use the hall free of charge.

For the price of a toy, Farmington employees and spouses enjoy a buffet dinner consisting of salad, chicken and a beef entree. Beer, wine and cocktails are included.

The Farmington City Council hosts the party. Members of commissions and boards within the city are excluded from the festivities, according to Deadman.

Meanwhile, on the side of the twin cities area, Farmington Hills employees are gearing up for their third holiday dinner at Vladmir's Restaurant Dec. 9.

"This is the third one we've had. We had a dinner one year after we became a city and when we were a township," recalled Farmington Hills City Manager George Majoros.

Christmas office parties with people bringing in food and drinks "just aren't done in a city hall," he explained.

Although the entire city hall force of 275 employees, which includes volunteer firemen and auxiliary police, are invited, about 130 are expected to attend the festivities.

THE CITY pays for the dinner of the employee, but not of the person who accompanies a city hall worker, according to Majoros.

If 130 persons attend the dinner, the city will spend $910 from the city council's public relations account.

If the entire work force showed up, the city would pay a $1,915 bill.

There is a cash bar at the Hills dinner.

Members of the city council, planning commission and other boards and commissions who want to join in on the festivities will have to pay for their own way, according to Majoros.

This gives the city council an opportunity to meet the city employees. There is a picnic during the summer, but everyone is expected from that there really isn't much of an opportunity then," Majoros said.

Vladmir's is just the place for a city dinner, said Majoros. "I would not call this posh. It's just a hall, a buffet where you stand in line and spoon your salad over for them."

Skills are holiday gifts via FARC's instruction

It's a very, very, hard-to-realize who would rather be a participant than a spectator, the Farmington Area Recreation Commission's Ken Ozanne is quite sure of it.

Lessons in racquetball, ice skating and downhill skiing and ice skating are available through the commission. All that is necessary is to fill out the coupon, purchase a gift card with a check or money order.

Racquetball lessons will be held every weekday at Racquetball Courts of Farmington, 28201 Nine Mile, beginning Jan. 10-12 and 17 and $21. Lessons begin at 5 p.m. Jan. 10 and 11, $27. Monday's lessons will be from 11 a.m.-noon. Wednesday's lessons are from 1-2 p.m., and Thursday's lessons are from 11-11 a.m. Saturday's lessons are from 4-5 p.m., while Sunday's lessons are from 5-6 p.m.

Racquets and balls are furnished for those who need them. Child care is available upon advance request.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING lessons are offered for families and individuals who want to learn or improve their cross-country techniques. The program is open to all participants 10 years and older. Included is an orientation and a six-week class session at Kensington Metropark and Maybury State Park.

Ski lessons are $7.5 for each session with ski rental available.

Session one is on Jan. 12-13, session two Jan. 15-16, session three Jan. 22-23, session four Feb. 23, session five Feb. 5-6, session six Feb. 12-13.

Downhill skiing is especially designed for teenagers. Tuesday is teen ski night at Mount Bright-on for the Farmington Area Recreation Commission Ski Club. Two three-week sessions of downhill skiing trips and lessons are offered, including ski rental, lift tickets and instruction.

The fee for each session is $21 which includes three ski trips, transportation to Mount Bright-on and lessons.

Session one is on Jan. 4, 11, 18. Session two is Feb. 1, 8 and 15. Jan. 25 and Feb. 22 will be used for make-up trips if needed. Interested persons may register for either one or both sessions.

Ice skating classes are held at ice skating arena on Beech Road, south of Nine Mile. The class will meet for 45 minutes each week for six weeks.

There are classes for beginners and various persons of all ages, sizes and abilities. Sessions begin on Jan. 3 and Feb. 14. Lessons are $17. A full schedule of ice skating lessons may be obtained by contacting the recreation offices.

Districts cooperate; present adult language, travel classes

The Farmington school board has voted to continue adult education programs for senior citizens with the Livonia school district and the foreign born in cooperation with Walled Lake.

Although the classes are in Farmington's Bond School, Walled Lake is providing the teachers and picking up the operating cost, according to Don Howell, director of community services and federal projects for the Farmington district.

"We can offer such programs as English instruction for the Yugoslavs on Saturdays," he said.

If a person can't attend an afternoon class, "we send him over to Clifford Smart Junior High in Walled Lake for an evening English class," he said.

The cooperative effort on the part of the three districts allows them to offer a wider range of classes.

"In this district, about 4,000 persons need high school instruction in adult basic education classes. Not so many of them need reading and writing, the more basic education. In order to offer a wide range of programs, the districts go together. The state reimburses one of the three districts for the expense.

"That way, instead of paying monies to three districts, the state Department of Education reimburses only one and saves some money," Howell explained.

Walled Lake receives the funding from the state because it has four English classes in its home district and only one in Farmington, according to Howell.

FARMINGTON will assume the responsibility of conducting classes at Oak Hill Nursing Home, Farmington, during the 1977-78 school year.

Presently, Livonia school district is conducting classes in gerontology and a travel series at the nursing home, with the formal approval of the Farmington district.

Farmington will operate the program during the next school year because it is too late for the district to include the program this year and receive state reimbursement.

"We will continue to have classes in the nursing home. But they may not be the same classes," Howell said.

HOLIDAY GIFT MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM
Farmington Area Recreation Commission
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Mi. 48018

NAME_____ Phone_____

ADDRESS_____
CITY_____

____ Racquetball ____ Downhill Skiing
____ Ice Skating ____ Cross-Country Skiing

SESSION____ DAY____ TIME____
Date Class Begins_____ Age (if under 18)____

Parent's Signature (if under 18) _____ Fee: $____

Your facsimile of this form is acceptable.

Goodfellows search for food donations

Would you like to help the Goodfellows help hungry Farmington children?

The Goodfellows are asking for donations of canned goods. First to sixth graders students should take them to school or adults can take their donations to an elementary school.

The Goodfellow paper sale is Dec. 10.

Proceeds are used to brighten Christmas for needy children.

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MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Calls must have come pouring in to Frank Martin when he advertised his grand piano in our classified section. "You'd think we were giving away free beer," he told us, "instead of selling a grand piano!"

GRAND PIANO: Steinway & Hamlin, original, beautiful mahogany, excellent condition. $2,500 firm.

If you have something to tell everyone in town, call the Observer & Eccentric classified department.

DIAL DIRECT 644-1070

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