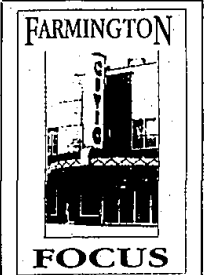


Farmington Observer

Volume 103 Number 1 Thursday, October 3, 1991 Farmington, Michigan 68 Pages Fifty Cents



FOCUS

THERE ARE plenty of anti-drug activities planned for October — substance abuse awareness month in the Farmington area — and students and staff at Thomas Beahan Junior High School in Farmington don't intend to be left out.

They'll be wearing their red ribbons — the "yes to life — no to drugs" symbol — and ribbons will be affixed to windows, posts and trees around the school on Power Road north of Shilwassee.

Student posters to reiterate the anti-drug theme will grace the walls. Videos and drama will be used in the classrooms to convey the message further.

A rap contest is in the works and a red bulb planting day is on the agenda. A "Red Day" is also being planned to confirm their commitment.

NABDIN PARK Methodist Church has found a "brassy" way to open its 1991-92 music series on Sunday, Oct. 6.

The Dallas Brass, a six-member musical group, will perform at 7 p.m. that evening at the church, 29857 W. 11 Mile near Middlebelt. Tickets are \$2 for adults, \$5 for students, senior citizens or groups of 10 or more. A reception will follow the program. Child care will be available. For more information, call 376-8860.

HEVY KIDS... it's carnival time at the Uplown Farmington Center, or it will be on Saturday, Oct. 26, when the second-annual Kids' Carnival goes under way.

Some of activities: face painting, cake walk, art contest, games, Tarot card reading, drawings, live music and pony rides.

As a follow-up to Fire Prevention Week, the Farmington Public Safety Department will have representatives on hand to discuss safety and fire prevention with the children. Public safety officers will be available to fingerprint children as a method of identifying them should the need arise.

The Uplown Farmington Center is on the north side of Grand River just southeast of downtown Farmington.

THERE IS a symphony orchestra based in Farmington Hills, and it's called Group du jour.

Conducted by Karen Nixon, a former freelance horn player, the orchestra is made up of musicians from across the metropolitan area.

Group du jour opens its season at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, at the Mercy Conference Center on 11 Mile Road. On the bill: Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, Mozart's Symphony No. 23 and Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite."

Tickets at \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students may be purchased at the door.

MEMORIAL contributions to honor the late Loraine McClish, longtime Farmington Observer Suburban Life editor, may be mailed to the Pontiac Unity Church, 780 W. Huron, Pontiac 48341. Mrs. McClish died Sept. 22.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21899 Farmington Road, Farmington 48334, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Kenbrook fifth grader Eric Masters dries the outdoor education program. Students spend pH paper as he tests pond water and drinking the day at the Farmington Hills park, learning water at Heritage Park as part of his school's about everything from acid rain to habitat.

Kids, science meet at park

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington schools' outdoor science education program for fifth graders has come home to roost in Heritage Park.

In previous years, students were based to an outdoor center in Walled Lake for their daylong experience with the outdoors and lessons in nature. Both science professionals in the schools and city officials are pleased to see the Farmington Public School District make use of a local resource like Heritage, on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills.

Plus, the change will save the school district money in transportation, give students more on-site time to explore and learn, and offers more flexibility for scheduling, said science coordinator and consultant, Kathy McAdaragh.

"I can see all kinds of possibilities down the road — once the schools get out there and see what they have," McAdaragh said. "We hope it will broaden into a community education as well."

She said science educators will encourage students to bring their parents back for a second visit, enhancing their learning.

KENBROOK - ELEMENTARY

Fire prevention week Oct. 6-12



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Farmington Hills firefighter Don St. Clair, alias Gadget the Clown, and Lt. Mike Garr tell elementary school children how to escape a fire in their homes. Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6-12.

City, center smooth out role conflict

By Joanne Mallazewski staff writer

Farmington-Farmington Hills Community Center and Farmington Hills parks and recreation officials are expected to sort out duplication that has the potential of eroding the center's finances.

"I don't think it is their intent to put us out of business," center president Ben Marks said of the city's parks and recreation division, which offers classes and activities similar to the center's.

Former center executive director Dorothy Pfaff's comments about competition with city programs surprised Marks and Dan Potter, Farmington Hills' special service director, when they read a story about her impending resignation in the Observer-Sept. 17.

Pfaff said the center has struggled to offer innovative ideas only to see them offered elsewhere by the city. "A lot of what we offer is being taken from us. We're continually at odds," Pfaff said.

The center, Pfaff said, has offered innovative music classes, workshops and creative camps. "A lot of what we have done here as new ideas, one after the other, becomes the idea of others," she said. Pfaff said she was upset with the competition.

Marks says he believes any duplication in courses and activities is the result "of a breakdown in communications. They (the city) say they're cooperative and amenable not to have class duplication."

Potter agreed and said he recognizes concern about possible duplication. But the parks and recreation staff sent copies of the city's programs to the center. "We've never received in recent months anything that there was a problem with anything we were doing," he said.

On the other hand, Potter said, some programs offered by both the city and the center have full registration, which means there's enough of a need to have both organizations to offer these particular activities.

The Council of Community Resources, an umbrella group of organizations that offer programming in the Farmington area, meets regularly to maintain communications and monitor duplication of services and

MARKS SAYS he believes any duplication in courses and activities is the result "of a breakdown in communications. They (the city) say they're cooperative and amenable not to have class duplication."

Parents object to program paring

By Casey Hans staff writer

The consolidation of two special education classrooms at William Grace Elementary has a group of parents concerned that their children are not getting proper services.

School officials say they are doing the best they can with budget paring and reduced classroom space, and that the one classroom at Grace still exceeds state special education requirements.

Because of the parent concerns, however, they are taking measures to re-assess some students who could move into another program.

Speaking for "several" William Grace families, parent Eric Rosenberg told the school board recently the classroom situation was "unmanageable" and asked the board to take action. Rosenberg has an 11-year-old daughter attending the program for the emotionally mentally impaired.

"I am begging the school district to take a look at the situation," said Rosenberg, who cited concerns with the age range of students and that there are more students in the room than in previous years. "The best school district, a fine teacher and a fine paraprofessional... isn't going to change the fact that class at Wil-

ham Grace is unmanageable.

"Until funding is straightened out for public schools... let's not lose these kids in the meantime."

SPECIAL EDUCATION director Jan Richards said she understands the parent concerns, but that changes in funding and space in the district had caused the district to tighten up the program over the past few years.

Richards said Tuesday she will recommend that several students in the program be re-evaluated, and possibly placed in a program for trainable mentally impaired students at Kenbrook, where there are fewer students.

"Parents got used to a program that far exceeded state requirements," she said. "I could not, in good conscience, recommend that we keep that (second) classroom open." Richards said her decision was based on the small number of students left in the classes and the budget cuts facing the district.

Several years ago, there were two EMI classrooms at William Grace, one at Wood Creek Elementary and another at Fairview Early Childhood Center. Space restrictions in 1989-90 prompted the district to stop taking

Please turn to Page 2

what's inside

Building scene	1G
Business	12B
Cable connection	4A
Classifieds	D-G
Index	6D
Auto	G
Real estate	D,E,F
Employment	F
Creative living	1D
Crossword puzzle	7D
Entertainment	7-BB
Opinion	16A
Police/city calls	6A
Sports	1B
Suburban life	1C

CLASSIFIEDS... 591-0900
CIRCULATION... 591-0500

Observer & Eccentric Classifieds Work!

"MANY CALLS"

E. Mankeimer placed an AUTOMOTIVE-RECREATIONAL VEHICLES 880 CLASSIFIED AD in our papers and received "many calls." Results from the Observer & Eccentric ad are fantastic! Ad was placed Monday, car sold on Wednesday!

One call does it all!
WAYNE COUNTY
591-0900

Please turn to Page 2