

Pageantry: Miss Farmington Annette Hohl adjusts her tiara as she greets people at the Youth Center.



Teen scene

Fest offers solid footing for program's kick-off

BY WILLIAM COVATTA
STAFF WRITER

By all accounts, Sunday's Family Fest at the William Costick Center provided a successful start for the Farmington Hills Youth Program.

The four-hour event included presentations about the after-school program for middle schoolers while giving families the chance to sign up students.

"We were expecting a good turnout," said Youth Program Director Todd Lipsa. "But we were amazed at how many people came."

The program offers after-school recreation, music, crafts and other activities. And there will be more focus this year on tutoring and study aids. The program began in March at the Costick Center and will be in its first full school year this year.

"We had new sixth graders along with students who came last year," Lipsa said.

There were activities as well, including the very popular fire truck ride, Lipsa said.

Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Robert Maxfield

spoke to the students about the "Zero Tolerance Program" aimed at curbing drug and alcohol use among teens.

"The message was that 'we love you too much to let this kind of problem to hurt you,'" he said.

Maxfield said with 2,600-2,800 middle school students in the district, as many as 1,000 could take part in the program this year.

In its brief start this spring, 400 students signed up and, on average, 100 went to the Costick Center every day.

Lipsa said that about 450 people showed up for Sunday's event, which included registration. More than 100 students signed up with more expected at this week's school start.

Lipsa said the YMCA will be used in the program once its expansion is complete in October.

Maxfield said the youth program has attracted high achieving students along with those having difficulty.

"What it probably reflects is what this community wants," he said. "There is a commitment to youth."



Writes and rids: Above, Robin Atkins and her daughter Jaria fill out forms to register Jaria for the youth camp while, at left, Hollie Stone and her father Allen Stone get a ride in a fire truck.



INKWELL

Inkwell provides information about educational issues and on people in the Farmington area. Mail information to: Inkwell, Farmington Observer, 3341 Grand River, Farmington 48335, or fax information to 477-9722. Items can be sent by Email to: packy@mail.oeonline.com. Please include a daytime phone number on your news release. Items will not be taken over the phone.

ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

Farmington High freshman Garlin Gilchrist attended the University of Michigan's College of Engineering Summer Engineering Academy. Garlin, who is the son of Garlin and Yvonne Gilchrist of Farmington, received a scholarship to attend the academy from the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program.

Gilchrist, who attended Power Middle School, was one of 82 students selected from a pool of 2,500 applicants to attend the four-week residential program. He was recognized for best overall academic achievement in mathematics. Students are selected on outstanding academic achievement, math and science teacher recommendations, and on the basis of a written sci-



Garlin Gilchrist

ence and engineering essay.

FRENCH ENCORE

After a successful first year, O.E. Dunckel Middle School's French Back-to-Back program will be expanded to include Power, East and possibly Warner schools, according to the Dunckel News.

The Back-to-Back program organizers are looking for community partners to help middle schools host French students. Donations are needed to cover

expenses while the French students visit. Those donating \$1,500 or more will receive a plaque while those offering \$50 will get a certificate. Money raised will be divided equally among the participating schools. For information, call Ellen Jud at 489-7158 or Pam O'Malley at 489-3577.

In April, Dunckel school hosted students from Cergy, France. Dunckel students visited Cergy in May.

RUSSIAN STUDY

Farmington High senior Nicole Griatzky took part in an intensive Russian language study program at Norwich University in Northfield, Vt. June 17-Aug. 2. Nicole is the daughter of Mary and Bill Krasensky.

At the Russian school, students make a pledge not to speak English during their stay. More than 100 students were selected to participate in the study, which included cultural immersion in folk dancing, chorus, and theater.

Griatzky studied Russian through a satellite program for two years at Farmington High. She wants to pursue a career in International and Russian studies after she graduates.

North Farmington grads get jazzy at annual Detroit-Montreux fest

Two North Farmington High School grads will again be playing in the Detroit-Montreux Jazz Festival over Labor Day weekend.

They are John Gage and Michael Hovnanian, who graduated in 1993 and 1992, respectively, who are part of the Central Michigan University Jazz

Percussion Ensemble. Gage and Hovnanian are music majors in their senior year at CMU.

The CMU ensemble will perform in the main Amphitheater at noon Monday.

They were scheduled for a 90-minute performance that will include selections from the

group's latest compact disk as well as the works of jazz greats like Dizzie Gillespie, Dave Brubeck and Charlie Parker.

Gage and Hovnanian, who have been touring with the jazz ensemble, also perform with classical and jazz groups in mid-Michigan.

Compost matter is free for the taking

Compost material made from the yard waste put at the curb is available free of charge at the soccer fields on the southwest corner of 12 Mile Road and Drake.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills residents can pick up compost between 8 a.m. and dusk. Residents should bring

their own container and are asked to limit themselves to one pickup truck load.

Compost is made from leaves and grass clippings collected at the curb each week.

Once collected it is taken to the Waste Management compost facility. After about a year, Waste Management delivers the

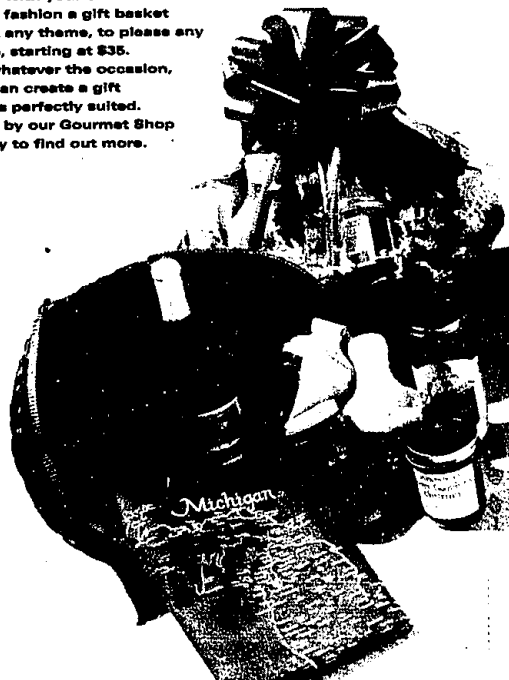
finished compost back to the city.

For general use, mix compost into native soil. The Michigan State University soil testing laboratory has identified this compost, when mixed with native soil, as suitable for use in growing plants.

For further information, call 478-9518.

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