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Sober from page A1

during SoberOctober, an effort by Farmington Families in Action in cooperation with the Farmington School District, has caught on. SoberOctober has two components — community outreach and schools.

This year, Marie Stahl and Estralee Michaelson, the director of Safe and Drug Free Schools, serve as co-presidents. Stahl calls herself the "interface" to school representatives. Michaelson is a longtime employee with the Farmington Public School District.

"We use a healthy living theme at the schools," Stahl said. "The high schools may get more specific."

Parent representatives at the schools work to provide a SoberOctober program of their choice, like the Frisbee demonstration.

The Flying Aces perform about 200-250 shows each year, with about 15 shows a week in the spring, Hayes said. "It was a little slow this fall because of the disaster in New York."

Hayes knows his trade. "This has been my full-time job since 1977," Hayes said. "The Flying Aces performed

their first shows in the 1970s during half-time at Detroit Pistons, Michigan State University Spartans and University of Michigan Wolverine games.

Since the beginning, they have performed more than 6,800 shows. "We've been to all 50 states at one time or another, including Puerto Rico and Saudi Arabia," Hayes said. "In recent years, we've stayed pretty much in the Midwest."

Hayes, who grew up in the Detroit and Redford Township area, performs with Greg Nelson, a Flint native.

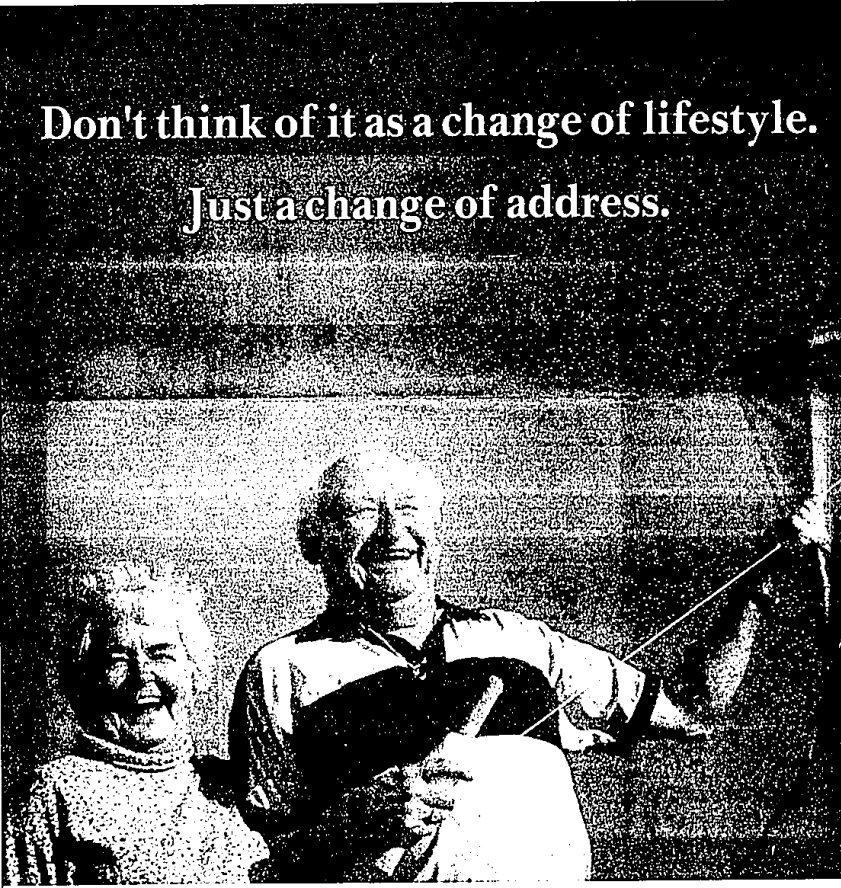
"Greg's a five-time world hackysack winner," Hayes said.

Hayes learned his Frisbee talents in the Eastern Michigan University gym. He never used the teaching certificate he earned.

He was attracted to this job because it gave him the opportunity to "meet nice people and exercise more."

Hayes and Nelson provided both instruction and a freestyle show at Warner Middle School.

"This is a great way to stay out of trouble in the summer," Hayes told the students. "You will also



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Schools spread drug-free message during 'Sober October'

Bronzing the message of saying "no" to drugs and alcohol was the goal of SoberOctober activities in the Farmington School District this year.

"We want to offer children alternative activities," said Marie Stahl of Farmington Families in Action. She shares her duties with co-president Estralee Michaelson who works for the school district.

Myriad activities have already taken place in the schools, Stahl said.

They included:
 ■ Kenbrook Elementary students joined together to make healthy pledges. They were given a brick on which to write a drug-free pledge. All the pledges were put together to make a brick wall. Classes put on a healthy living skit during a sharing

assembly. Police and firefighters handed out red ribbons.

■ Longacre Elementary students held a flag-raising ceremony. "Say no to drugs" signs were posted, with students picking any language in which to say "no."

■ High Meadow Common Campus students and staff hosted the West Bloomfield Police K-9 Unit at an assembly. Licorice and pencils were handed out which read, "Cool to be drug-free in the 21st Century." Red tulips donated by Steinkopf Nursery were planted.

■ Steinkopf Nursery also donated tulips to Forest Elementary. Children wrote or drew a "Say no to drugs" theme on postcards they exchange with other districts. They expect other schools to respond in the same manner.

Shah from page A1

Neighbor David McKercher asked council Oct. 15, "Are you aware there are electrical wires hanging outside of their home?" He asked if council could do anything about weeds, hay bales and trash on the property.

"We are somewhat limited; we can't walk out on somebody's property and clean it up," Donahue said.

"It isn't that we haven't made the efforts," said Mayor Nancy Bates. "It's controlled by the courts. There's only so far we can go."

McKercher complained that neighbors have been after the city administration to resolve the problem for three years, yet the situation lingers. He told

council that neighbors were afraid the Shahs would win another six-month extension, and the situation would continue.

Councilman Jon Grant said officials were sympathetic to neighbors, adding that to get the homeowner to act, "Your association is going to have to sue."

Donahue said Oakland Circuit Judge Steven N. Andrews could evict the family from the home, if the city files a motion Nov. 30 to compel compliance with the judge's earlier court order.

"That's what I would instruct be done," said Grant, to applause from the Oxford Estates neighbors.

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