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YES bows out as source of youth jobs

By CARL STODDARD

FARMINGTON HILLS -- They'll be closing the doors soon, for the last time, at the small office of the Farmington Youth Employment Services (YES).

YES was denied a requested \$9,829 in funding by the Farmington Hills City Council. Without that funding, YES Director Claire Orians said, the other funding agencies will also withdraw their support.

When the current funds run out this July, YES will come to an end. Mrs. Orians said the service has already begun to curtail its services.

Young people coming to the office seeking help to find employment are now being turned away. Only those who have their names already on file may be placed in jobs, she said.

"It just hurts to have the kids' come in and have to tell them 'no,'" Mrs. Orians said. "It's hard."

"I know I can find another job, I just hope the kids can."

SINCE THE service began in July, 1972, more than 1,602 young people from Farmington have been placed in jobs. Based on the amount spent for placement, it figured out to cost \$19 for each placement, she said, and added:

"I feel each young person that we placed is certainly worth a lot more than \$19."

She noted that according to a study published in Psychology Today, the average cost for the same type of placement was \$10 a person.

She also took exception to criticism

that the service neglected "the good kids."

"There has been so much said about doing things for the good kids as opposed to the bad kids. In my estimation, all kids are good kids -- given the right opportunities."

Monday, the steering committee for YES will decide whether to continue operating until July. The committee is composed of Farmington Hills Mayor Robert McConnell, Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman, Farmington Schools business manager William Frisk and Chamber of Commerce President William Flattery.

Since word of the funding cut, Mrs. Orians said she has run the gamut from being bitter to philosophical.

But the most important thing for her now, she said, is that "the young

people of Farmington realize that there are many people in this community who are really interested in helping young people."

"I really love those kids."

YES WAS receiving funds from the City of Farmington, Farmington Hills (and formerly Farmington Township), the Farmington School District, the Chamber of Commerce and, until this year, public employment funds.

The total operating budget was about \$20,000 last year.

Mrs. Orians said she knew of no agency that planned to take over and continue the operation of the youth employment service. The schools offer co-op programs, but the majority of students are not enrolled in the program, she said.



"I know I can find another job, I just hope the kids can."

--YES Director Claire Orians



GETTING READY John Sprys (left) and Jack Davis get ready for the walk. (Evert photo)

2,000 expected to join 'walk' for Farmington

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON--The Farmington Jaycees expect to convert 20 miles of blisters into money for the community via the 'Walk for Farmington' next week.

They expect to have 2,000 people lined up at the start in front of the school administration offices at 9 a.m. May 4, ready to accept the challenge.

Each entrant will have solicited a sponsor, either an individual or a business, which will contribute some agreed-upon amount for each mile walked.

A similar program in the past netted approximately \$10,000, most of which went to a national fund-raising agency.

This is the first year the Jaycees have attempted to sponsor the program on their own.

THE PROCEEDS will go to various groups in the Farmington area, including the Farmington Area Advisory Committee, Farmington Youth Assistance, the YMCA, the community center, senior citizens and others. The Jaycees are asking any group

which wants to be considered for funding to petition the "walk" steering committee for consideration.

Area high schools have been contacted, and several officials have already volunteered.

Registration forms, permission slips and sponsor forms are available at the YMCA, the Chamber of Commerce and the "Raphine" trailer behind the Farmington School administration building.

The walk covers a 20-mile scenic route through the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

REGISTRATION begins at 9 a.m. There will be checkpoints along the route with rest areas and snacks for the walkers.

The walk ends back at the board of education parking lot with food being served and awards and entertainment for the walk participants.

The Michigan Emergency Patrol is assisting with traffic communications.

Walk director is Jack Davis; Walt Koning is handling refreshments; Doug Hatten is schools chairman and Ray Grehawick is special donor chairman.

Threats force car dealer to close shop Saturdays

By CARL STODDARD

FARMINGTON HILLS -- Under a hail of bomb threats and obscene phone calls, Bob Saks grudgingly kept his car dealership closed Saturday.

Saks said his Oldsmobile dealership, 3300 Grand River, Farmington Hills, has been open every Saturday since December. But after the protests at Glassman Olds in Southfield, trouble began.

When Glassman opened his dealership Saturday, April 20, more than 40 salesmen from the area gathered to protest. While gathered there, Saks said, word of his Saturday openings apparently spread among the salesmen.

SAKS WAS one of the few dealers who had been opened for sales on Saturday. By agreement with other Oldsmobile dealers, Saks said, he had not advertised the fact. Despite that, he was selling 8-20 cars every Saturday.

But last week he closed.

"We had so many threats, it just absolutely amazes me," Saks said.

He received bomb threats, the police were sent to his dealership on a false report of a fight and his receptionist quit because of repeated obscene phone calls.

"I was thinking of fighting it," Saks said, but because of the threat to persons and property at the dealership he decided not to stay open.

"I'm just going to close, there's no sense asking for it," Saks said. "But I close under protest."

SAKS POINTED out that his sales-

men had a meeting and decided to work on Saturday. Also, he said, he did not ask any other car dealer in the area to remain open.

Old-fashioned spelling bee makes kids nervous

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON--Nail-biting is all part of the game.

When the guy next to you stumbles on K-N-O-W, and it's your turn, the tension gets high.

An old-fashioned spelling bee held the final "spell-off" in the Farmington High auditorium last week, and the best spellers won.

The idea for the "bee" originated with the Farmington Sesquicentennial committee, and the schools adopted it with enthusiasm.

The spell-off pitted the best from each elementary school in the district,

as well as junior high and senior high winners.

At least one mother spelled each word quietly to herself, but it didn't help, as her child left the stage.

Trophies were donated by the Farmington Observer & Eccentric.

WHEN THE last person was left on the stage, the age group winners were:

First grade: first place, Mark Hein, Shiawassee; second Chuck Wynn, Bond. Second grade: Tim Carruthers, Longacre; Margo Freedman, Fairview. Third grade: Cheryl Sabbe, Middlebelt; Dionne Bargabus, Gill. Fourth grade: Jennifer Thomas, Gill; Jennifer Buss, Larkshire.

Fifth grade: Scott Lutz, Flanders; Mike Grant, Eagle; Sixth grade: Patrick Lewis, Kenbrook; Mike Roche, Wood Creek. Seventh grade: Ellen Weiner, Warner Jr. High; Gail Yuill, Farmington Jr. High.

Eighth grade: Linda Winans, Farmington Jr. High; Leigh Radatz, Farmington Junior High.

Ninth grade: Kathy Miller, Farmington Junior High; Leigh Radatz, Farmington Junior High. Tenth grade: Greg Sundt, Farmington High; Mike Styles, Harrison High.

Eleventh grade: Amy Berger, Harrison High; Jane Semich, Farmington High. Twelfth grade: Paul Gurel, Sue Leszczynski, Farmington High.



More winners on 2A, 3A