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Fifteen Cents



Listening can be creative.

Library helps children become better actors

It's a loose and easy session, this creative dramatics for pre-schoolers, offered by the Farmington District Library on Twelve Mile.

Leader Mrs. Susan Morell wouldn't have it otherwise—even if she could. Creative dramatics is the place for kids who like to act out their feelings. The very young are pros in that department.

As demonstrated among the 12 who met with Mrs. Morell recently, acting out is more fun if there's a story line to hang it on. It doesn't need to be a heavy, involved plot, just something light.

She explained before she began to read the picture book story about "wild things", that first time around everyone would listen. Second time, Mrs. Morell suggested that when she came to certain lines in the Maurice Sendak story, "Where the Wild Things Are", everyone would participate.

After a quick sample, the fun began and when "the wild things roared their terrible roars, gnashed their terrible teeth, rolled their terrible eyes and showed their terrible claws", the tots delightedly followed along in thought and action.

A few of the less vociferous roars elected to turn a somersault or two to relieve the terrible tension of the gripping story.

Moments later, having discarded wild things for more familiar, the class was busy putting together their version of an ice cream machine although one bouncy blonde thought she would do better as a popcorn popper.

One little fella given the job of flavoring asked if he could drop cherries into the ice cream rather than vanilla or chocolate. Mrs. Morell said that it was an excellent idea and the machine bumped and thumped into action.

The library is about midway through a summer program of light entertainment for youngsters through teens—all planned to heighten imaginative skills and build appreciation for reading.



Farmington children's librarian is just getting to the good part.

Founders' Festival attendance mark could be broken

By CORINNE ABATT

Farmington Founders Festival visitors and volunteers have a way of looking at the week ahead.

Visitors think in terms of when and where to eat—the ox roast or the ham dinner at the Masonic Temple. They have other big decisions, whether to try the mini breakfast on the Masonic Temple lawn (new this year) and then take the helicopter ride or ride first and lunch later at the Temple. Other decisions will be made on events to attend—the band concert at the downtown mall or the rodeo Friday evening, for instance.

Meanwhile the volunteers in the more than 10 organizations participating have different problems. Between them, the various groups within the Masonic Temple will serve more than 2,000 meals. The inside of the temple has been painted and redecorated for the mass influx.

The opening chicken barbecue traditionally draws from 500 to 600.

MARY LEGG, working with the Temple groups promoting the culinary efforts, says there is always a long line for the pancake breakfast on Sunday, July 27 this year. She also figures crowds will gather for the party supper on Wednesday when they hear they will be eating pasties freshly baked by Actroyd Meats, a local business.

The Elks will be ready with buns and meat to serve the thousands who don't think their festival visit is complete without an ox roast lunch.

Festival Chairman Peter Prokop, who only a few days before the opening sounded unflappable, wonders if anyone noticed a missing event.

"In past years, Pauline the pigeon has been sort of a festival symbol," Prokop says. "This may be the demise of that symbol. We aren't having the pigeon races this year and the simplest explanation is that the expense

was getting to be greater than the benefit."

Prokop moved from second vice chairman last year to chairman this year. He and his 20 committee chairmen have been actively involved in festival planning since last February.

Not so, parade chairman Betti Huff. The parade takes longer. In fact, planning for next year's parade is already underway.

PROKOP CAN'T estimate the numbers of volunteers involved, but he throws out a few numbers. The Elks have 1,400 members, many of whom will be working. There are 400 hockey association families and a lot of that number will be helping to run the games such as ring toss.

The big number to the volunteers and festival committee is still the magic 200,000—that's how many they hope to attract during the festival. Given some good weather, a new attendance record could be in store.

School board debates teacher bargaining bill

By SUSAN AVERILL

After long debate and threatened blockage by one member, the Farmington Board of Education finally agreed to send a telegram to State Sen. Daniel Cooper to urge him to vote in favor of amendments to the recent teacher's strike bill.

The State Senate recently rejected the bill, which is expected to be reintroduced later.

New board member Michael Spiece, who said he hadn't had time to consider the action fully, attempted to block the proposal with parliamentary procedure. This angered some board members.

"If that delaying tactic does occur, it is tantamount to playing politics with the board," said board member Gary Lichtman.

"IT IS CALLED garbage, I think you are playing it pretty fast and loose for a newly elected board member," Lichtman continued. "I suggest you investigate your own personal set of ethics. The purpose of that motion (to block) is to stop a railroad. That situation doesn't apply tonight. We're all here."

William Corliss, new board president, agreed with Lichtman.

"That motion would be a frustration of the will of the majority by a minority and if it is made, I will rule it out of order."

"I respectfully disagree with the interpretation of the chair," Spiece replied. However, he did not make good his threat to block the telegram.

"Any position we take can only hurt. We have the obligation to allow citizen input and to get some information on it and allow members more than five minutes to consider it," he said.

Lichtman later apologized to Spiece, explaining the board did not always have the time to conduct a dialogue with the community before taking action.

"If I spoke in haste relative to your participation, I apologize," Lichtman said. "It's very nice to speak of citizen input. I would like to believe all men are interested in this. But it would be negligent if we didn't communicate the position of this board." Spiece is a member of the Farmington Democratic Club and most recently was on their executive board.

RICHARD RINGSTROM, executive director of the Farmington Education Association (FEA), introduced himself from his seat in the audience.

"I'm coming from a strong and biased point of view (as the FEA representative)." He said school boards throughout the state were reacting emotionally to the bill and its amendments because of the Crestwood and Garden City teachers' strikes.

Spiece maintained he still hadn't enough information upon which to base a judgment of the amendments or the bill.

"I'm amazed the whole group of us doesn't know about the information. It's been in the papers for three, four, five months," said Mrs. Peg Wright from the audience.

Lichtman complied to a request by another woman for an explanation of the bill and its amendments.

The Michigan House of Representatives passed a bill with a five-week teacher's strike provision, he said. The Senate passed a similar bill, but amendments sheared the strike duration from five to three weeks.

Farmington schools aid Boys Republic students

By SUSAN AVERILL

The Farmington School District will channel funds into a private institution this fall without losing a penny of its hard-earned millage money. State aid will cover the cost.

A four-year-old Michigan Mandatory Special Education Act has made it necessary for public school districts to provide money for the education of handicapped youngsters throughout their district. In Farmington, Boys Republic on Nine Mile Road is the only facility which falls into this category.

But Farmington won't just hand them the money and be done with it.

"WE CAN'T just assume we're stuck with something we support just financially," said Graham Lewis, the district's special education director.

"If it's an educational program, it has to tie up to a standard the school system sets for itself."

To carry out this responsibility, the school district will provide staff, supplies and other educational necessities to Boys Republic.

some students that they may attend certain courses in the public schools.

"Some may attend certain classes, depending on their needs. Many are in sort of a semi-incarceration there. It's not a fenced-in place, not a jail, and the school has no authority to keep their students on its property. But it is within the realm of the responsibility they give them to stay on it."

Lewis said the district will maintain as many of the present Boys Republic staff as possible. They must be certified, however, which will eliminate some.

SOME OF THE COST for the new responsibility will be assumed by the state, some by the courts, which placed the youngsters and some by the parents. The school district will pay none of it.

"It's an avenue for us to fund this school. We are eligible for state reimbursement in special education and will be totally reimbursed by the normal state reimbursement-for-special education."

"Any costs above those will come from two channels. Whatever court

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Founders' Festival

Farmington's eleventh annual Founders' Festival moves into full swing this week. A record-breaking array of events is planned. For more on the Festival, turn to Page 1B and The Founders' Festival section.