

# Activities for young, old round out programs



Fun for youngsters is a big part of the Farmington Area Recreation program for this summer.

Summer playground programs, swimming lessons and senior adult programs are all part of the fun being presented by the Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC) this summer.

The summer play centers will be open on Monday, June 27-August 4. Hours are 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Participating youngsters, from ages 6-15-years-old, will be able to enjoy such activities as kite flying, playing ball, throwing frisees, building popstick stick palaces.

The school playground locations include Bond, Forest, Kenbrook, Long-acre, Edgewood, Gill, Larkshire, Middlebelt, Shawassee, William Grace, and Wood Creek elementary and Farmington Junior High School.

Supervised activities include creative arts and crafts, movies, sports, a trip to Bob-Lo, carnival day at City Park, special events, recreational swim with transportation to the high

school pools and the annual youth olympics.

Oakland County mobile recreation units will visit the summer playgrounds with the sportsmobile featuring games; roller skating with the skatmobile and art activities with the artmobile.

**SWIMMING LESSONS** for all levels of ability will be offered by the FARC at Farmington and North Farmington high schools. There are three two-week sessions which meet daily, Monday through Friday. Session I begins on Monday, June 27 and runs through July 8. Registration for Session I will be on June 18, from 9 a.m.-noon.

Session II will begin on July 11 and run through July 22, with registration on July 8, from 9 a.m.-noon. Swim lessons in Session III will begin on July 25 and end on August 5, with registration on July 22, from 9 a.m.-noon.

Cost for lessons in session I is \$11.25 with sessions II-III costing \$12.50.

Suits and towels must be furnished by the participant and swimmers with

long hair must wear a bathing cap. Children whose chin height is below 38 inches must be accompanied by a parent in the pool.

Recreation swimming will be from 1 p.m.-2:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, through August 5. On Thursday evenings, bring the family to Farmington High School for open swim from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Admission fee is 50 cents for children and 75 cents for adults 18 years and older.

On Tuesday evenings, North Farmington High School will feature family swimming from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

FARC offers a wide variety of activities at "The Gathering Place," the American Legion Hall, 31755 Grand River, Farmington for senior citizens. Seniors will have the opportunity to socialize, enjoy a companionable lunch, develop new skills or just relax.

The Gathering Place is open Monday through Friday, from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Senior activity highlights include shopping trips and monthly excursions, when once a month special trips are planned for entertainment events, elegant dining festivals, and favorite shopping malls.

Other activities will include learning ethnic dances, sign language, and manual communication as well as exercise classes to stay in shape.

Throughout the summer, health and social services are available including social workers and health nurse for blood pressure readings.

At the Gathering Place, senior citizens will enjoy Sunday banquets, travel films, library exchanges, softball and other activities.

## Mercy marathon

### effort collects cash

Our Lady of Mercy High School radio students may be well on their way to attaining new radio equipment for the school.

That's the word from Sister Michelle, radio broadcasting instructor, who's finally catching her breath after last week's 100-hour radio marathon ended last Friday.

Nearly 200 Mercy students went the distance in realizing their goal and have already raised \$1,500 from a dance, the "Gong Show" and the Mercy "Battle of the Sexes," events coordinated with the marathon.

The work of collecting more than \$1,000 in pledges for the marathon's duration now begins for the students.

"There were no casualties," Sister Michelle quipped, although the students blew out a couple of record players before mastering the correct broadcasting technique.



Senior adults also can get in on the fun offered by the recreation commission.

## Minister recalls spirit of Hills congregation

Echoes of boots scuffing down the empty Orchard United Methodist Church corridor accompanied by a sprightly whistled tune herald the approach of Rev. Eric Hammar.

In his 25 years as a minister, Rev. Hammar recognizes that "things have freed up."

During the 10 years he's spent in Farmington Hills, Hammar had switched from black cassocks to boldly colored robes. Banners and soliloquies added innovative touch to church services. Meetings ended with a handshake and a hug.

That's over for Hammar. After giving his last sermon on June 12, he will take over as district superintendent for the United Methodist churches in the Saginaw Bay area. Giving direction to 65 pastors in 87 churches will entail some adjustment for Hammar, who enjoys personal contact.

"I'll still conduct services but it won't be in the same place each time," he said. "I'll miss the personal contact. I like the ladies' teas. I tried to get people to free up things toward one another."

His freed-up congregation has become accustomed to the sight of Hammar walking around the chancery rail to hug someone during service or after a meeting.

Persons should be able to touch one another without feeling ashamed, according to Hammar.

"I'm serious about this. People should be more free to touch, especially men, without feeling threatened sexually. I close meetings with hand-

holding," he said.

"Our bodies aren't so sacred that they can't be touched. The word became flesh. There's nothing evil about flesh itself," he said.

Behind all the hugging, there's 10 years' worth of knowing his congregation and its problems.

"A longer pastorate is a good idea. It gives a chance to develop rapport," he said. "People should be comfortable with one another and trust one another."

"I enjoyed serving this church. The people are willing to experiment," he said.

**EXPERIMENTATION** has taken the form of adding color soliloquies to services.

"There are a lot of colors, a lot of banners to express the joy of religion. Orchard Church is one of younger congregations. We use children a lot in the services," he said.

Soliloquies made by Hammar in the persona of Simon Peter and the cross maker help to get teachings across.

To emphasize the seriousness of Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, Hammar once walked into services wearing his red cassock and a Santa mask. After exhorting his congregation to remember that Advent was more than a time to buy presents, he started the service again.

Plucking at the cross hanging from his neck, Hammar admitted that he'll miss the children who could be heard

playing in the nursery school outside his study window.

"The thing that has meant the most to me is that the children have come up to me and said, 'I'm going to miss you.' I enjoy children and adults," he said.

His enjoyment of people extends to his elderly parishioners, who are gaining in number.

"They're beautiful, too. We can learn a lot from them."

## Program board taps 2 from area

Renee Zale, of Farmington Hills, and Ron Dusenberry of Farmington will be involved in organizing cultural and entertainment activities for Michigan State University as members of the school's student-run programming board.

The board is responsible for sponsoring a host of activities including concerts, music workshops, films, video displays, arts and crafts shows, and special events, such as homecoming.

Although entertainment events are emphasized, most activities will stress cultural appreciation; some involve lectures by nationally prominent figures.

Ms. Zale is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Zale, of 25087 Skye Drive. She is a 1974 graduate of Harrison High School, and a junior majoring in advertising.

Dusenberry, a 1971 graduate of Farmington High School, will be director of publicity for all of the board's events. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Neville Dusenberry, of 21453 Chestnut Lane, he is a senior majoring in advertising and business.

## Tracey is treasurer

Tracey Epstein, of Farmington Hills, has been installed treasurer of the 1977 Honor Society of Education, Kappa Delta Pi, Pi Chapter, at Eastern Michigan University.

President of the chapter is Sarah Emerick, of Wayne.

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