



Mike Sobocki tunes the guitar of one of the youngsters. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



After her first lesson Jami McGee was able to pick out notes and a simple cord or two. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

After school delight Youthful tune heard

The youngsters are taking to the after school recreation classes sponsored by the recreation commission like bees to honey. They buzz around the halls of Gill, Fairview and Shawassee elementary schools with their guitars, art equipment or in leotards all ready to learn something new and exciting.

Program coordinator Barbara Adler said, "Guitar is relatively new and the kids love it. And the karate for elementary is really popular."

The one complaint, if it can be called that, from the recreation department is that there are a lot of programs for them in this new fall schedule. They aren't turning out in the same numbers as the younger ones.

There's teen volleyball at Fairview at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, at 6:30 p.m. Mon-

days at Gill and at 6:30 Mondays at Fairview.

There is volleyball and belly dancing for adults at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Shawassee, adult volleyball at Gill at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and several other teen and adult classes at both schools.

These include tap dancing, wood carving, stitchery and macrame, and wood-carving.

Guitar teacher Richard Lytwiniuk of Farmington Hills and his assistant Mike Sobocki teach the youngsters from Lytwiniuk's book for beginners with emphasis on folk and rock.

Sobocki said a lot of parents would be surprised at how fast the little kids pick it up. He added that they sometimes go faster than adult beginners.

Two gymnastics teachers had almost 20 boys and girls, kindergarten through third

grade on the mats at Shawassee this week learning forward and backward somersaults to start things rolling.

The second meeting for most of the classes was held this week. In some cases participants are still welcome to join.

The choice for youngsters is wide. It runs from gymnastics at all three elementary schools through creative projects including drama, Karate for 8 and 9 year olds and those 10 and 11 is given on Mondays at both Fairview and Shawassee. Modern jazz dance for grades three through six is given at Shawassee along with an interesting sounding "A Time for Me" for ages 3 to 5 on Mondays at 4 p.m. at Shawassee.

So far it's the youngsters who are leading the way in after school recreation, but soon parents and older teens may follow the pattern the little ones are setting.



Instructor Richard Lytwiniuk helps Kevin Fredricksen with a basic guitar cord. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Plan for the inevitable; fires can happen anywhere

Care and planning can stop the increase of house fires in Farmington. But don't count on window stickers to save children's lives.

That's the belief of Farmington Hills fire chief John Van De Voort who tucked off fire figures, seventy-seven Hills homes burned last year, in the first nine months of 1976. 63 Hills homes were burned.

No fatalities have occurred in the last two years, he said.

From Oct. 3 to Oct. 8 the National Fire Protection Association is sponsoring Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is, "Learn not to Burn."

One step toward learning is for families to formulate and practice fire escape routes.

"Terminal stupidity causes fires," the fire chief said.

"The worst time for a fire is sleeping time. A panic situation, with no plans, can compound the difficulty of escaping a fire. Doors shouldn't be locked with a key. It can be removed from the lock.

"Families with a fire in the lower story of the home should get onto the roof. Windows shouldn't be panned over. The youngest walking child should be able to open all windows easily," he said.

Most fires occur in the kitchen and family area.

"That's where the fireplaces usually are," the fire chief said. "People smoke carelessly in these rooms. There is panicking in the rooms and polyurethane furniture. Synthetic cause smoke."

"Safety has nothing to do with intelligence. It's a state of mind," he said.

Good housekeeping prevents fires. Gasoline should never be stored inside a home.

In the fall it's bad," he said. "People have outdoor motors or lawn mower motors that they bring into the basement. They usually have a small amount of gasoline in them. And they're usually placed near a hot water heater or a furnace."

Homes without garages should have sheds which are used to store combustible items. Gasoline should be stored in a safety can.

FAMILIES IN HOMES with attached garages should have fire walls between the garage and the home, he said.

Furniture should be positioned to allow easy exit from rooms.

"Smoke detectors should be placed at least in the hallway leading to the bedrooms," he said.

Ideally, three Underwriter Laboratories approved smoke detectors should be in the house, Van De Voort said.

They should be installed in the kitchen and family room area and the other should be placed near the basement area.

Fires at minimum in city domain

"We're lucky."

That's Farmington Public Safety Director Daniel Byrnes's assessment of the fire statistics for the last two years in the city.

"We've never had a fire fatality," he said. "I can't remember one, and I've been here for 12, almost 13 years."

During 1975, there were 58 fires in the city. Of these, 10 were in single-family residences, two were in multiple dwellings.

"The rest of the fires were made up of 28 miscellaneous fires—trash fires and grass fires. Thirteen were vehicle fires, and seven were fires in commercial buildings.

There were only four fires that required the extra help of off-duty personnel in 1975," Byrnes said.

"As of August there were nine fires in single family homes and no fires in multiple residences.

Three fires were in commercial buildings, 12 were vehicle fires and 16 were miscellaneous outdoor fires," he said.

Byrnes doesn't believe the number of housefires in the city has increased.

"If we have 12 fires, it's no big deal. There mostly minor fires.

"OF THE 160 BURNS we made last year, 45 were false alarms and smoke investigations. Of the 78 runs we went on this year, 40 were actual fires and 38 were smoke investigations and false alarms," he said.

Last year, two fires were out when the fire department arrived. Nine were put out by patrolmen, according to Byrnes.

During the 17 fires which required the use of pumps, only a couple of gallons of water were used, he said.

This year, 17 fires were out on the arrival of the fire fighters. Nine fires were put out by patrolmen, and 17 necessitated the use of a pumper, he said.

"Carelessness is the main cause of fire," he said.

"That and poor housekeeping. If someone keeps their house in complete disarray, their liable to unconsciously put things against hot water tanks and furnaces.

"People are careless smoking and in checking the wiring in their homes," he said.

Byrnes's firefighters haven't had to

(Continued on page 6A)

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