

Good season for teen center

By SANDI HORNE
The Farmington Teen Center closed out a very successful second summer Aug. 16. The center, located in the William Grace Elementary School, provided many recreation activities for area teenagers.

The center, which opened June 27, is operated by Farmington Youth Assistance, and funded by United Community Services and by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Despite budget problems the center operated for eight weeks, providing daily summer activities for more than 80 young people.

Jerry Young, a Farmington resident and a teacher at Farmington High School, completed his second year as the center's director. His assistants were Barb Lister and Joe Salura, both 21-year-old seniors at the University of Michigan.

Two teenagers, Dan Zatsick and Robin McAskill, helped run the center and sold candy and soft drinks. Most of the teens who took advantage of the summer program were enthusiastic. "I think when you have a program like this it helps keep the kids occupied and doing something useful," said Renee Duplessie, a 14-year-old center visitor. Chris Sweet, 14, added,

"I think it's something better to do than just bum around." Lisa Camaj, 15, a two-year veteran of the center, was enthusiastic about this year's good turnout. "This year's program was decent," she said. "It's better this year because there are more people and you get to know more people."

SOME CENTER activities included pinball, air hockey, pool and ping-pong and a free paper-book program. Visitors also could play basketball or softball. Also part of the activities: pizza parties, record giveaways, movies and crafts. This year's field trips were very popular and included a canoe trip on the Huron River, a parent-teen excursion to a Tiger baseball game and a roller skating trip to Bonaventure.

Janet Zatsick, 15, said she really enjoyed the canoe trip. "I think it's great that they got 30 canoes just for us kids to go out," she said. Other field trips included a horseback riding journey, a day in Detroit during which teens visited the Eastern Market, Greek Town and the Renaissance Center, a picnic at Kensington Park and a day at the zoo.

Many teens enjoyed having the center open as a place to meet their friends. "I liked the teen center," said Ron Bradbury, 13. "It gives you a chance to get away from home." Added Julius

Camaj, "It's someplace to have fun and it doesn't cost a fortune." Joe Galura, one of the associate directors of the center, was enthusiastic. "A center like this is a good place because it helps kids when they're going through a difficult transitional time," he said. Galura called his job at the center "a valuable supplement to my educational experience."

JIM SUTHERLAND, the chairman of the activities center, was pleased with this summer's program. He said the center received support from the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department and by the city councils of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills resident

Army chaplain honored

The Rev. Jay H. Ellens, pastor of University Hills Church, Christian Reformed, Farmington Hills, has been awarded the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal in ceremonies held recently at the Headquarters of the 123rd U.S. Army Reserve Command in Indianapolis.

Maj. Gen. Lester N. Carmichael, commander of the two-state Reserve command, pinned the medal on Chaplain Ellens. Chaplain Ellens, a native of McLean, Mich., was cited for "outstanding performance of his duties as command chaplain, in that he has provided

motivation, guidance and administrative command leadership to the command's 82 units and some 8,000 units in Indiana and Michigan."

A veteran of active Army and Army Reserve assignments, Ellens served in Landsstuhl, Germany, and in Vietnam

and in several Reserve units. In addition to his pastoral work, he has authored several books on communication psychology as well as dozens of magazine articles. He is a graduate of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., Princeton University and holds a Ph.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Hills resident is honored by company

Brian Connolly, 29, of Farmington Hills, has been appointed associate administrator at Oakwood Hospital. It was announced recently by Gerald D. Fitzgerald, executive vice president of the 595-bed Dearborn health facility.

Connolly had been an assistant administrator since joining the Oakwood staff two years ago. He had been involved in the hospital's long-range plans for construction and expansion.

In his new responsibilities, Connolly will continue his involvement in future planning as well as oversee the operations of the pharmacy, materials

management, radiology, admissions, surgery center, respiratory therapy, laundry and anesthesia departments. Connolly has a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and a master's in hospital administration from the University of Michigan.

Oakwood, he worked for two years for the Hospital Systems Improvement Program at the University of Michigan and for two years for Health Management Advisors, Inc., of Ann Arbor. He and his wife, Darcy, are the parents of three children.

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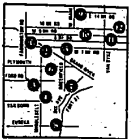
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