

Bringing families together is teacher's goal for group

From his 1920s vintage gingerbread bungalow in Farmington Hills, Brian Sprague wants to convince parents and children to do things together.

Family togetherness is the theme of Sprague's organization, Adults for Kids. A teacher in the Farmington School District, he began the group after organizing several trips for area families.

The organization, which began as a loosely-knit group of parents interested in low cost trips for their families, grew to the point where incorporation became inevitable. Early this year, Sprague and attorney William Sheehy filed as a non-profit organization with the federal government.

Sprague says he's aiming at renewing family ties through his group.

"There is a need for activities that families and kids can do together rather than drop off activities for kids. We're trying to get parents involved

with their kids and keep prices reasonable," he said.

Family ties are important to Sprague, the father of two children.

"I see a decline in programs for kids across the board, not just in Farmington," he says of school-sponsored events.

"I believe in child enrichment programs and there's been a decline in these activities."

Sprague blames the "me generation" for the decline in family-oriented activities and the poor image such events carry.

"I'D LIKE to see families interact with their children more than they are now," he said.

"I think we're moving back to it."

One of the problems encountered by families who want to participate as a group is finding activities which won't break their budget.

His group will help fill that need, Sprague says.

Within the past eight months, Sprague's group has sponsored roller skating parties, trips to the Ice Capades, a family-oriented trip to Toronto and the recent Kids Day in Farmington City Park.

The most recent event included helicopter rides, pony rides, a balloon ride and different recreational mobile units from Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department. Many of the events at Kids Day were free.

This September the group plans to open Oakland Community Center's intramural complex every other Sunday for member families. The arrangement, which opens the pool and gymnasium to them, should last until the spring, according to Sprague.

IN THE planning stages for the remainder of the 1980-81 school year are

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obituaries

HELEN M. CROUCHMAN
Helen Crouchman, 64, of Livonia died July 31 in Mount Carmel Hospital, Detroit.
She was born May 10, 1916, in De-

troit. Mrs. Crouchman lived in Farmington before moving to Livonia 10 years ago. She was a hairdresser for the Hair Sanctuary.
Survivors include: husband, Varial J.; sons, Richard H. Maison of Canton

Township; Kenneth V. of Bloomfield; Ronald J. of Farmington Hills; sister, Virginia Hamm of Minnetonka, Minn.; brother, Charles H. Shaw of Detroit; and six grandchildren.
Services were Aug. 2 in Thayer-Rock

Funeral Home, Farmington with the Rev. Lenny Hasbrook of Parkview Baptist Church officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Memorial Park.

North president wins honor

North Farmington senior class president Tom Stueber has won a four year college-sponsored scholarship awarded through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Stueber of Farmington Hills recently came to public attention after making a controversial speech at graduation ceremonies where he criticized the district's educational program.

will be attending Washington University where he will major in either chemistry or physics.

Spring class graduates from Hillsdale College

Although boomed and heckled by many parents and students in attendance, he also was lauded by others who heard his speech.

Farmington area residents were among the students who graduated from Hillsdale College during spring commencement exercises.

included in the graduating class are: John L. Bain, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bain of Farmington Hills and a graduate of North Farmington High School who earned a bachelor's degree in ac-

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