

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClellan editor/477-5450

Monday, June 4, 1984 C&E

(F&B)

New setting,
new ideas
planned for
camp seasonBy Lorraine McClellan
staff writer

Farmington YMCA day camping is back for another summer season with its same uniqueness and prices, but a new setting and some new program ideas for the 6- to 12-year-old set.

The Farmington Y will be the pick-up spot for both the campers and the staff who board buses from June 18 to Aug. 17 headed for West Oakland YMCA Park, the former Dodge Park in Commerce Township.

"We've outgrown another program," said Vic Kruppenbacher, the youth program director who offered the Y's first in-house day camp in the Y building three summers ago.

"We doubled our registration the first summer; then tripled it. Whatever this year's enrollment will bring, we know we're not going to be able to do it in the building."

Enrollment is underway now and filling up as fast as youngsters pick and choose the week that carries a theme that appeals to them, with choices that range from Country Western Week to Pirate Week, from Olympic Week to American Pioneer Week.

Kruppenbacher credits the day-camping lure in part to Y's price and in part to an added-on option called "Working Parents Delight."

"WE'VE GOT THE best prices around because I've checked them all out. There is simply no other camp that offers as much as we do for the money," Kruppenbacher said, rattling off swim lessons, BB shooting, crafts, new games, weekly field trips, cookouts, transportation included in the fee and a one-staffer-to-eight-campers ratio.

Working Parents Delight runs in conjunction with the summer fun program at both the Y building, on Farmington

Road, north of 12 Mile, and at the park.

Working parents can drop their child off at the building any time from 7-9 a.m. and pick the child up between 4:30-6 p.m.

"The child is completely supervised in the building before the bus leaves (at 9 a.m.) and between the time the bus returns (at 4:30 p.m.) and the parents pick him up," Kruppenbacher said.

"He or she may choose to swim, or play in the gym, or join a game and do some crafts in the interim. So it's free time, yes and no, but still supervised and that's a guarantee. They are not at liberty to run around the building with no one knowing where they are or what they are doing and I absolutely guarantee that. The extra fee for these campers adds up to pennies per hour," he said.

Kruppenbacher said the enrollment in resident camping, at Camp Nissakone, located in Oscoda, and Camp

Ohiyesa, located in Holly, has also increased from youngsters in this area, probably because of the day camp.

"Day camp is the child's first taste of camping, so even if he is there simply because his folks work, he gets that first taste and as soon as he's eligible, we find his name on the graduation camping registration," he said.

SOMETHING NEW on the brochure of camp offerings this season is "Junior Jinx Summer Adventure," a two-week series. Kruppenbacher has programmed for what he calls "the lost age group: too old for day camp, too young for a teen program and can't get a job."

Junior Jinx for the middle schoolers only, stems from a couple of fore-runners of its kind offered during school vacations.

"We just kept drawing too many kids for this age group to be overlooked," he said.

A qualified staff, chosen by Kruppenbacher for ability to work with middle-schoolers, heads up the sessions from July 9-20 and from July 23-Aug. 3.

Activities include floor hockey, swimming, softball, cookouts, arcade games, movies and field trips. One session offers field trips to Boblo Island and a Tiger game. The other offers trips to Cedar Point Amusement Park and Waterford Wave Pool.

Something old that is back in the brochure is what Kruppenbacher calls "old and reliable and traditional" Travel Day Camp. This is for the camper who is just not comfortable being away from home overnight. The camper has all of the advantages of resident camp—archery, boating, swim lessons, nature study, crafts, and pony rides—but returns home from Camp Ohiyesa every afternoon.

Resident camp for senior adults is scheduled at Camp Ohiyesa this summer for Aug. 26-31.

And a new program for the mentally impaired with a higher staff-to-camper ratio, and a smaller than usual cabin group size is offered for children June 24-30, and to adults Aug. 26-31.

KRUPPENBACHER boasts that he has "the most talented staff of any I've ever known. I'd stack them up against any I've ever known."

"They are planning sock hops and hula hoop contests and teaching the kids how to make hand-cranked ice cream, a trip to the state capital and roasting a pig."

"These are a few things I can think of right off hand, and of course, new games. If they can't, or won't, try anything new, they don't make it on my staff."

For information on preschool camp or special outdoor adventure trips, call the Y at 553-4020.

Farmington Y outgrows another program

Parents prepare for all-night party

Kay and Merv Falk are going to be hosting the biggest party they've ever planned because their son Gordon is class president of North Farmington High School's Class of '84.

By tradition, the couple inherited the job of chairing an all-night party that parents of the graduates have been working on for a couple of months now, leading up to graduation night, Wednesday, June 13.

Simultaneously, Adele and George Fomlin inherited the job of co-chairmen when their daughter Adele was elected president of the North's student council.

"We only have records that go back about six or seven years, but it looks as though it has continued to attract more of the students every year," Kay Falk said. "Last year the parents initiated the millionaire's room and that upped the percentage considerably so we're doing that again, of course."

The school gym and the entire complex surrounding the gym will be given over to party-goers for Las Vegas type games, video games, moonwalks, food, candy and popcorn machines, entertainment and dancing, and two teachers who will teach break dancing.

Falk said she couldn't guess as to how many parents are working for the event, given to keep the teens off the street and out of trouble, but said parent response with offers to help, as well as offers from the graduates to help, was more than she could have hoped.

"MOST OF THE work is already done. We've contracted for the DJ, got the food lined up. Romano's gave us a good discount on the pizza. We have about 40 parents working in shifts as chairpersons that night, but that number is small compared to the number who are out now soliciting gifts and prizes," she said.

With the number of parents and teens working toward the party, the Falks expect about 700 to show up and they are hoping all of them go home with a gift of some kind as a remembrance.

"The state law forbids that any money exchanges hands during the millionaire party, so all those prizes have to be gifts. We are getting some small trinkets to hand out, and all of the guests will be given a free polaroid picture. But we also will have an every-hour-on-the-hour drawing, so that's a lot of gifts to solicit," she said.

Along with their designation as chairpersons of the all-night party, the Falks inherited about \$700 from the past chairpersons to get the party going, and also inherited a list of rules they will strictly enforce.

Partygoers can enter at 11:30 p.m. The doors close at 1:30 a.m. The guests cannot leave the premises and return. The guests can stay as long as they wish. The pay-one-price for all events and all-the-food-you-can-eat is \$5.

If things go according to tradition, the Falks will have about \$700 to turn over to the parents of next year's senior class president.

GORDON FALK is the third child the couple

have had graduate from senior high school.

"I don't care how much time this is taking me," Kay Falk said of the graduation preparations.

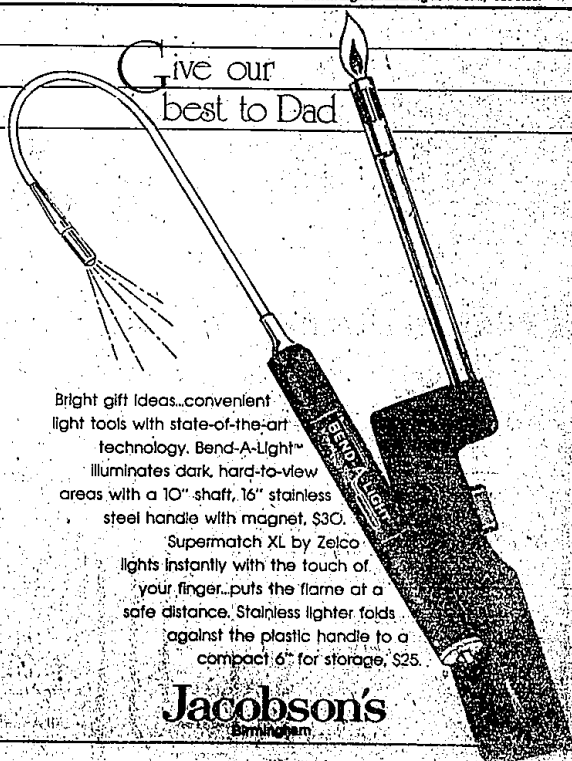
"Graduation night is a scary night for me. I can't

remember one in years that you don't either hear

about or read about that some teen has gotten hurt

or killed in an accident. So we're making this graduation night as alluring as we can," she said.

Give our best to Dad

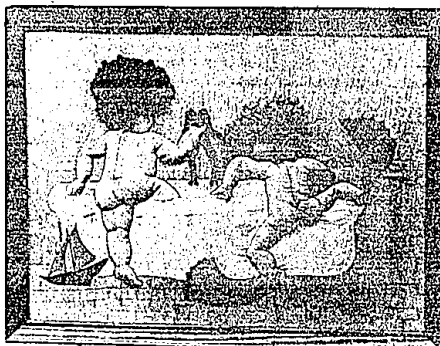


Bright gift ideas...convenient light tools with state-of-the-art technology. Bend-A-Light™ illuminates dark, hard-to-view areas with a 10" shaft, 16" stainless steel handle with magnet, \$30.

Supersmatch XL by Zelco lights instantly with the touch of your finger...puts the flame at a safe distance. Stainless lighter folds against the plastic handle to a compact 6" for storage, \$25.

Jacobson's
Farmington

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express® Card.
Open Thursdays and Fridays until 9:00 p.m.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

On display and up for sale

The soft sculpture by Veronica Tobey (above) and the oil painting by Judy Lutz (below) are samples of the work about 50 artists and craftsmen will put up for sale when Farmington Community Center hosts its annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday. Following tradition, there will be entertainment, food for purchase and demonstrations throughout show hours in the building and on the grounds. Visitors are asked to park in Ten Mile Community School parking lot, on 10 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road, and catch a free shuttle bus to the grounds. Admission to the grounds is free.

