

Stacy Stojeba and Kendra Hostynski cheer on their 1600 meter relay in the RU-Observer girls track meet Saturday. Plymouth Salem High School teammates as they run



Jennifer Meldrum, of Farmington Harrison High School, plugs into headphones and reads a book as she takes a break from the race action underneath the bleachers.

On the mark Sportsmanship wins at annual RU relays

FOURTEEN HIGH SCHOOL girls' track teams converged on Kraft Field in Redford Township Saturday for the 4th annual running of the Redford Union-Observer Relays.

Emotions ran high the entire day as teams gave it their all. When it was all over, Farmington Mercy emerged victorious.

Mercy's Terri Ford put on the show of the day, taking firsts in every event she entered. At the end of one relay, the sprinter wor-

horse was helped off the field by a member of the Garden City team she had just beaten.

This type of sportsmanship was evident throughout the meet as participants congratulated each other for their efforts.

As the races were being run, non-participating runners took refuge from the hot sun beneath the bleachers, resting until it was their time to run again.

By the last event of the day, most were top-side, cheering on their teammates in their one last chance to move up in the standings.

Photo-essay by DAN DEAN.



Samble Shivers of Bishop Borgoes High School in Redford Township is congratulated by her mom, Minnie Shivers, after she broke a meet record in the high jump.

Scholarship honors work of civic leader Ellis

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Family and friends of Jim Ellis knew people would want to send flowers and contributions when the popular longtime civic activist died in March. But Beverly Ellis knew if her husband could have his say in the matter he would have preferred that something be done for the kids in the community.

"At the time of his death I knew he had a lot of friends. I didn't want all the money (in contributions) to go to flowers. It's such a waste," said Beverly Ellis. "We wanted to do something to keep the money in the community."

At first Beverly and others who were close to Ellis considered asking that the contributions be made to charities. But the idea was put aside by feelings that something else was needed to better represent Ellis' work in the community and his love for children.

That's when the idea of a scholarship in Ellis' honor came about.

"There was talk that people would want to contribute flowers. But he would have wanted something done for the kids in the community," said Lawrence Freedman, a fellow Rotarian and one of Ellis' close friends. Freedman is also an assistant superintendent for Farmington schools.

AFTER LESS than three months of organization and preparation, the Farmington Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Council (with the Farmington Rotary Club's help) presented the first annual Jim Ellis Memorial Scholarship this week to a North Farmington High School senior.

Mark Chekal was presented with the \$1,000 scholarship Monday night at North Farmington High's annual awards night.

"Our first recipient seems to be a very fine young man," Ellis said, adding the graduating student fits the new scholarship's criteria.

The key element of the Ellis scholarship criteria is patterned after the creed of the International Rotary: "Service Above Self" — an attitude in which Ellis strongly believed.

And it seems Chekal fits the bill with "involvement in things other than academic" such as work in political organizations, church groups and activities and involvement with the Farmington YMCA, Ellis said.

"Jim had always been involved with kids," his wife said, adding the scholarship is a fitting tribute to a man who spent much of his time helping children and the community.

Well-known for his work with youth, Ellis served as president of the Boys Republic, as an organizer and president of the Farmington Falcon Boosters Club, assistant athletic director of the Farmington

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— Beverly Ellis

Rockets Little League Football teams and a commissioner of the South Farmington Baseball for Boys Little League.

ELLIS WAS also active for years with the Youth Exchange Program of Rotary International.

In January, Ellis was honored as the 1984 Citizen of the Year, a tribute bestowed by the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. At the time of Ellis' death at the age of 62, he was secretary of the local Rotary Club and served on the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals.

Besides individual contributions that came in from around the community, Ellis' fellow Rotarians also used money in their club fund to get the scholarship off the ground.

"There's still sufficient money, and we hope to carry it on," Ellis said. "They (the Rotary Club) made a commitment to it every year to keep it going."

Freedman acknowledged Rotary Club members' desires to help continue the Ellis scholarship. "It is hoped that the money can be leveraged so each year we can continue to give a scholarship," he said.

Because the PTA Council annually awards scholarships to senior high school students, the Jim Ellis Memorial Scholarship was also put under its care.

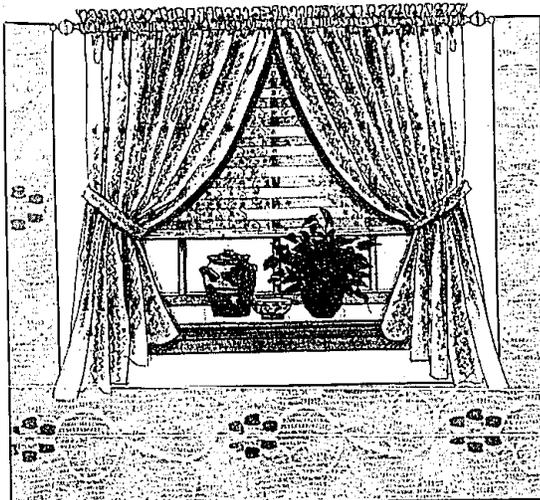
"We were already a working structure of district high school scholarships," said Roxanne Fitzpatrick, head of the PTA Council's scholarship committee.

"It was brought up that the PTA gives away scholarships," Fitzpatrick continued. "It would be hard to do (award the Ellis scholarship) without an organization already in place."

"We met with Mrs. Ellis and Larry Freedman. She (Ellis) wanted to make sure it was a student who was very involved with the community."

While the Rotary Club will continue to work with the scholarship and contribute money, the business of running the scholarship fund and selecting recipients will be in the hands of the PTA Council, Fitzpatrick said.

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