

Suburban Life

Loraine McClish editor/477-5450

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(F50)

Wanted: Custom-built playground to accommodate multiple needs



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Carrie and Kellie are taken for an outing by Anne Hill (at left) and Kathy Dudas along the one level area of black top on the grounds at Cloverdale Training Center. The playground equipment behind

them is so ill-suited for the students' use, less than one-tenth of the student body can use it.

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

When Cloverdale Elementary School was transformed into Cloverdale Training Center more than 12 years ago, it inherited the playground equipment that was on the grounds at the time, constructed for the everyday use of healthy children who attend public school.

"This equipment is still there, used by 'maybe a half-dozen kids,' said Tom Call, a speech therapist at the school and a member of Cloverdale's Playground Development Committee formed to revamp a 90-foot-square lot that will give pleasure as well as be used for outdoor therapy for the school's 81 students.

"We use the grounds. The students

get out here. They come out for games, picnics, carnivals on the lawn but not much else. For all practical purposes what (equipment) we have here now is useless."

"And when they do get out it is awkward, time-consuming, difficult and a bumpy ride for those in a wheelchair," said Anne Hill, an occupational therapist and a member of the committee, who has worked with architect Robert Ellis of Ellis-Childs Associates to make plans for the hoped-for renovated play area.

"I have ever pushed a wheelchair through the grass," Hill asks. "If you can imagine that you can imagine the difficulty for the teachers and the rough ride for the students," she said.

Even so, aside from the concern about rides over an uncommonly uneven

terrain, Hill's first concern is the benefit each student can derive from the use of custom-made playground slides and climbers and swings.

COST TO BRING the proposed playground area off the drawing boards and into reality will be anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The school's Playground Development Committee, made up of members of Cloverdale Parent Group and the staff, have two fund-raisers behind them, about \$8,000 in the coffers, "and a long way to go," said Cloverdale principal Doug Smith.

The long way to go money-wise is also a long way to go in the complicated process of picking, choosing, designing all of the equipment and grounds plan, which would benefit all of the students.

All of the equipment needed would either be specially adapted for those with special needs or custom-made.

"Our goal here is to bring each student from where they are to their highest potential, and our goal for the playground is the same. Each bar, rope, roller, swing will have a specific purpose for sensory input, for better walking, climbing, for trunk control, weight-bearing skills," Hill said. "Even our grounds are designed for students to learn how to better manipulate their own wheel chairs, with wheelchair gliders, wheelchair parking spaces, wheelchair swings.

"We're planning another area for our blind students with sounds, bells, chimes," she said.

The planning involves the needs of students 3-12 years old with functional

levels that run from infancy to 5 years of age, and weights and sizes that run from 15 pounds to those of a normal adult.

THE PLAYGROUND Development Committee will keep on planning fund-raisers until it reaches its money goal.

Members have sent out a call for help to some of the service clubs in town and most recently got a check from Farmington Vivians, the Farmington Area Elks auxiliary, Farmington VFW Auxiliary has pledged to sponsor a dinner later in the year for the playground fund. Farmington Kiwanis, Farmington High School's Student Council and Honor Society, North Farmington High School's Student Council and Harrison High's Girl's Swim Team have all pledged fund-raisers of one kind or another to beef up

the fund.

"We have a whole committee of manpower to back any kind of fund-raiser anyone wants to attempt," Smith said.

To those who are planning a fund-raiser and to those who participate in any of the fund-raisers, Smith said, "For all the talk we've heard recently about barrier-free laws and accessibility for the handicapped, we still have a long way to go. The best beaches in Michigan, the most highly approved, have no access for the handicapped unless you want to try pushing a wheelchair through the sand."

"What we want is one 60-foot-square lot to give these students something they can't get anywhere else."

For information, call Smith or Call at the school, 478-7980.

Follow the signs for a walk through the haunted store

Farmington Area Jaycees have designed haunted houses, haunted barns, and one year a haunted orchard for the Halloween season. This year it's a haunted store open 7:30-10:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 4-10:30 p.m. Saturday and Sundays until Oct. 31.

"Just follow the signs from all entrances into Mulrwood Square Shopping Center," said Dave Heinrich for the Jaycees and the haunted store within the mall at Grand River and Drake Roads.

All materials, costumes and props for the maze youngsters will walk through were at the ready to be pulled out of storage for another season's duty. But turning a relatively new store into a scene of scariness was a lot harder for the Jaycees this year than work with the ready-made old home or barn they had to work with in the past.

"We just ran out of old houses to borrow," Heinrich said. "It will be different, but still fun. The management here (at Mulrwood) gave us the store to use without cost and the art students at Farmington High did a good job painting our windows to make it as identifiable as it could be."

THE DIFFERENCE Heinrich mentioned will be noted in several facets

other than walking through a haunted store instead of a haunted house.

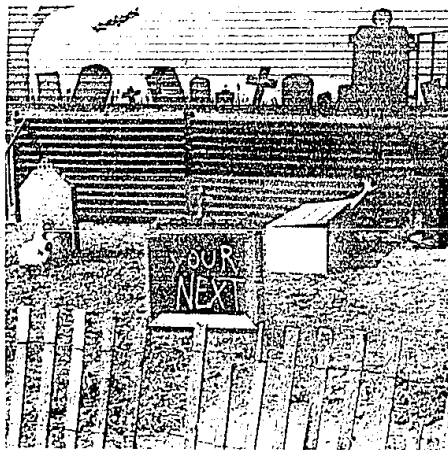
The now defunct Farmington Area Jaycees, the group's former women's auxiliary, won't be outside selling taffy apples or hot chocolate or coffee to the lines of people waiting to go through the mazes of ghosts and goblins. And they weren't working hand-in-hand with the members "to put those finishing touches on as they always did in the past," Heinrich said.

"Consequently we've had to work a little harder to make it a little better this year. The goal is to pay off a large amount of the pledge we made to Farmington YMCA's (building) fund a few years ago."

The Halloween money-maker, the Jaycees' major fund-raiser of the year, generates anywhere between \$15,000 to \$20,000 during its two weeks of operation.

Admission price is \$2.50 with the exception of the hours 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, when admission is \$1.25 for anyone under 10 years of age.

"We'll have a few more lights on during those hours — otherwise it's pitch dark going through the mazes and some of our special effects will be tooed down for the younger children or some of the timid," he said.



You won't know what lies in store for you at the Farmington Area Jaycees haunted store, unless go there yourself. Don't wait. Once Halloween is gone, so is the haunting.

Space to rent for crafters

Wixom Elementary School PTA is renting space to crafters for its Holiday Craft Show that will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, in the

school. Table space is \$10 for the day. Information is given by Judy Aspinall, 669-2575 or Carla Ledermann, 669-1781.

Cable TV show hosts Halloween special

Ghosts and ghoules and things that go bump in the night will abound from Metrovision Studios on Channel 12 at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24. A live Halloween special of "The Shores of Your Mind" promises to conjure up the spirit of all hallow's eve.

The one-hour live presentation will focus on spirits, witches, house hauntings and psychic impressions. A live studio audience combined with a

phone-in segment will allow questions for the hostess and her guests. Special guests are a ghostbuster and two psychics.

Anyone wishing to be a guest in the studio audience should arrive at Metrovision studio on Haled Road, south of 12 Mile, no later than 8:45 p.m. The phone-in number will appear on the screen during the program.

Don't Just Worry About It... Find Out What You Can Do About It!

When you or someone you love has a special health problem or health risk, you are better able to help if you are well-armed with good information. This series of health seminars and workshops, sponsored by Harper and Grace Hospitals, is designed to give you the information you need and want on a variety of health subjects.

Communicating. Informing. Teaching. It's part of the health care job at Harper and Grace Hospitals. Because your knowledge can make a difference.

• Stress and Your Heart

Tuesday, October 29, 1985 • 7-9 p.m.
Southfield Civic Center, City Council Chambers
26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan

Attend this FREE two-hour seminar, and find out how both positive and negative stress affects your heart and what preventive measures you can take to keep your heart healthy, in order to better manage stress in everyday living.

Presented by:
Joshua Wynne, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Cardiology, Harper-Grace Hospitals and Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Kenneth M. Axelson, Ph.D., Chief Psychologist, Department of Psychiatry, Harper-Grace Hospitals, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry/Psychology, School of Medicine, Wayne State University.

Co-sponsored by the American Heart Association, Oakland Division. Both seminars are co-sponsored by Harper & Grace Hospitals, Department of Community Health Programming, and the City of Southfield, Department of Human Resources.

• For Reservations or More Information (313) 494-5943.
Reservations required.

Harper Hospital Grace Hospital

Community band ready for Orchestra Hall

World-renowned saxophonist Donald Slints will be the guest artist for "Celebration," the concert that marks the opening of Farmington Community Band's 10th season at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, in Orchestra Hall.

"Slints is to the saxophone what Isaac Stern is to the violin," said Paul Barber, founder and conductor of the community band. "We're lucky to have him in our own back yard and lucky to have him join us for our celebration."

Slints is a graduate of University of Michigan and now professor of saxophone in his alma mater's school of music.

His performance in Orchestra Hall will include "Air Nocturne" by Ted Kerpens and "Dance Hongsue" by Ring-Hager.

The Farmington Musicale, also celebrating a 10th anniversary this year,

along with Farmington Community Chorus, will each be featured on the program, and then join together with the community band for a special arrangement of "America the Beautiful" for the concert finale.

The community band has a host of classics lined up for the celebration, including Elgar's "Enigma Variations," Rocky Point Holiday by Ron Nelson, Bach's "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor" and Sousa's "Pride of the Wolverines."

Concert tickets are \$7.50 and \$8.50, available by calling Mary Orwig, 477-3598. Concert-goers are invited to meet Slints, members of the band, chorus and musicale at an afterglow party which begins at 6 p.m. in Roman Terrace.

BARBER FORMED the Farmington Community Band in 1966 with six musicians.

"We began with rehearsals in Farmington High School's band room," Barber said. "Our first performance was later that same year in North Farmington's gymnasium which was part of a North Farmington Kiwanis program. The band had grown to 11 members by that time and surprise the appreciative audience with the sound we had achieved. We've come a long way since then."

The band now numbers 75 musicians, has a jazz-dance band, chamber winds, a clarinet choir and a number of many small ensembles. Musicians now meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday nights in Harrison High School's music room.

The anniversary season includes eight performances running from "Celebration" through a production of Rogers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific," scheduled for four days next June.



Donald Slints