

Community center eyes business support

By Joanne Mallazowski
staff writer

At the request of area business leaders, Farmington Community Center officials are kicking off the sixth-annual business and corporate fund drive — with a \$25,000 goal — this week rather than in the fall.

"We moved it because it was requested by many corporations because it fits better with their giving plans," said Betty Paine, center executive director.

With the change, both the business and corporate drive and the individual and family campaign will be running simultaneously.

"I really want to make the business community as much aware of the fund drive as possible," said Jonathan Grant, chairman of the business and corporate fund drive.

Because patrons of area businesses use the center, Grant said, "I think it's a nice idea for the business community to get together and give something back to the residents. We're pushing that philosophy strongly in this campaign."

ALTHOUGH LAST year's business and corporate goal was also \$25,000, total donations fell short of the goal by \$5,000, Paine said. Despite the shortfall, however, the number of contributors increased from 157 in 1984 to 204 in 1985.

The majority of the expected \$25,000 in donations from the business community will be used for operations. This year's big plans include renovation of the center's kitchen and completing some needed rewiring in the building, Paine said. Both the corporate and family and

individual fund drives will help finance the current year's \$175,000 budget. The family and individual fund-drive goal is \$50,000.

The center does not receive any

federal, state or local funding, or any from the United Foundation. "All revenue is raised from rental, classes and these fund drives," Grant said.

In an attempt to better determine the types of classes and other activities wanted by area residents, center officials are working on a marketing study that will be sent to a randomly

selected group of residents. The survey will also be sent to friends of the center, volunteers and any others directly involved with the center, Paine said.

Court action upholds barring of athlete

The Michigan Court of Appeals rejected a former Farmington High School basketball player's bid to challenge the Michigan High School Athletic Association's age rules for varsity play.

The appellate court's April 10 decision upheld an Oakland County Circuit Court ruling in support of the Farmington Public Schools and the athletic association.

Association rules ban students from varsity play in a given school year if they turn 19 before Sept. 1. Tim Nichols turned 19 on Aug. 16, 1984. The school district thus determined he was ineligible for its basketball team for the 1984-85 school year — Nichols' senior year.

The suit, filed by Nichols and his father, Donald, contended that the age rule violated Nichols' constitu-

tional rights as a handicapped person. A severe hearing problem had put him one grade level below what was typical for a student his age.

In a unanimous decision rejecting the discrimination contention, the three-judge appellate panel held that

there was a rational basis for the age rule.

It also found that the family failed to ask the school district for a hearing about Nichols' grade placement and failed to ask the athletic association for an exception to the eligibility rules.

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