

Help shared — help sought

Plans shaping up for seniors' all-night graduation parties

By Loraine McIlhain
staff writer

COMMITTEES FROM ALL three high schools are counting down toward their mid-June graduation day that will culminate with an all-night party for the seniors.

Parents are hosting the parties and are committed to making it a night to remember.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime party," said Pat Murley, who is heading up the 11:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. event for North Farmington High graduates. "This is the last time there will ever be that many of them all together again so we're dedicated to make it something special."

DJs are being contracted, moonwalks and casino equipment are being ordered, films and palm readers and cartoonists are being sought, food is being catered, and gift items are being solicited.

"We're looking for merchandise, food, gift certificates, cash, anything that will make up a party, down to the last paper plate," said Robert Hackman, who is party chairman for the Farmington High graduates.

North Farmington has a long-standing tradition of all-night gradu-

ation parties. Hackman and Pat Bacon, who is chairing the party at Harrison High, are in the position of establishing that tradition for their schools where parents are hosting their seniors for only the second time around.

"We're carrying the torch," Hackman said. "We have enthusiasm running high now and we want to keep it that way."

ENTHUSIASM among the seniors is evidenced with a steady 80-90 percent turn-out at North Farmington's parties. Bacon's report showed that 86 percent of the graduates choose to spend their graduation night at the school party. And at Farmington High Hackman said 90-95 percent of the graduating class returned that night for the first-of-its-kind party at that school.

Enthusiasm among the parents is evidenced with the numbers of parents who've called and asked what can be done, or what do they need, or how can I help, months before the event.

Hackman believes some sort of record was broken when the first meeting of senior parents was called early in the spring to tell of the party plans at Farmington High. "Eighty people showed up and 80

people signed up for one committee or the other," Hackman said.

Farmington High got another boost of enthusiasm, Hackman said, by using about a dozen juniors as "runners" for the senior party.

"They went back and told their class what that party was all about, and the word spread," he said.

With the tradition established at North Farmington, the graduates are the guests. The parents are the hosts, and help is never asked from the seniors.

Murley emphasized that neither the Farmington Board of Education, the school administration nor any of the school staff was involved in any facet of the parties.

"But we do have the cooperation of the schools, both police departments and the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce," she said.

THE PARTY chairs also are cooperating with one another and meet periodically.

In Hackman's words, "We look for ideas on how to improve the parties, what pitfalls to avoid and are glad for the advice."

They are also in agreement on soliciting for gifts from area mer-

chants. Each stays within their own school boundaries.

Because the casinos and the auctions are known to be the most popular activities at graduating parties and many of the graduates are not yet 18, all prizes must be in merchandise rather than cash. In addition, party chairman might plan door prizes, or "goodie bags" filled with coupons or samples, a keepsake Polaroid picture, drawings, or any ruse to make sure no guest leaves without some memento from the party.

"If it weren't for the merchants' support we could never have the parties, and we certainly could never price our tickets so low. With all the expense of graduation and the promise certainly can't put a high price on a ticket for a party that will never happen again in their lifetime," Murley said.

People who are on soliciting committees from each school will be given copies of a letter, signed by Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, which gives endorsement for the parties.

Charlene Green, who can be reached at 661-1239, is gifts and

donations chairwoman for North Farmington High. Dan Brown, 474-4274, will take calls regarding gifts and donations for Farmington High's party. Bacon, 478-4494, will take

calls regarding gifts and donations for Harrison's party.



Pat Murley, at left, and Rob Hackman talk about the all-night graduation parties parents committees are planning for the Class of '88 in all three public high schools.

Writer keeps traditional values

Dear Lorene:

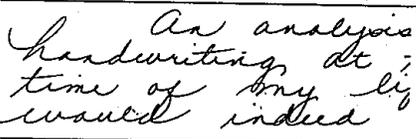
Analysis of handwriting at this time of my life would indeed be interesting.

I'm 36 and a leftie.
Thank you.

C.W.,
Plymouth



graphology
Lorene Green



whose life touches yours.

With others you respond quickly by way of empathy and caring. And you are ever ready to lend a helping hand. Possibly some of this generosity may be motivated by what returns to you.

more important aspects. You usually rely on logic and good old common sense as you seek answers and arrive at conclusions. But are you aware that you can also be a tad opinionated in certain areas.

In the selection of clothing and/or home furnishings eye appeal has a higher priority than the functional aspects. You seemingly have an innate appreciation for color which provides beauty and enjoyment.

Some concern for the future is present in this handwriting. An awareness of budgets and/or money is also here. A desire for refinement and a feeling for what is tasteful is further evident.

As a public service, readers are invited to have their handwriting analyzed. Write to Lorene C. Green, a certified graphologist, in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Use a full sheet of white, unlined paper, writing in the first person singular, age, handedness and signature are all helpful. Feedback is always welcome.

Dear C.W.:

The overall picture of your handwriting suggests a traditional person who is comfortable within the framework of conventionality. For the most part you are obedient to values and teachings of your early life. A strong need for security may cause you to feel threatened by changes in home, family or lifestyle. An overdesire to shine is a spur which causes you to work for recognition and attention. Feelings of insecurity cause you to overcompensate at times as you vie for center stage.

In interpersonal relationships you are quite adaptable and flexible. Most of the time you are pleased with a strong need to relate harmoniously and to be accepted by those

Foundation lists advancement made in arthritis treatment

May is National Arthritis Month. During the month Arthritis Foundation is focusing attention on the rapid progress made in the fight against rheumatic diseases during the past 50 years.

"Although arthritis and rheumatic diseases have been around for centuries, the majority of the progress in

the treatment of these diseases has taken place since the 1930s," said Dr. Indenbaum, chairman of the medical and scientific committee for the foundation's Michigan Chapter. "These advances have dramatically improved the quality of life for people with arthritis."

There have been many significant developments in arthritis research which could be viewed as landmark advances. The single most dramatic breakthrough occurred in 1948 with the discovery of the anti-inflammatory properties of cortisone, a natural hormone produced by the body. The scientists who made the discovery were awarded the Nobel prize in physiology and medicine, the first Nobel Prize given for rheumatology research. Cortisone-like drugs are still used to relieve the symptoms of joint inflammation in people with severe arthritis.

THE CONQUEST of gout to another success story in arthritis research. This arthritis-related disease is a painful, inflammatory condition which most often affects the joints in the big toe. In the early 1960s, it was found that the inflammation of gout

was caused by tiny crystals deposited in joints and tissues. The crystals are the result of excess uric acid in the blood. When scientists discovered that an inability to metabolize or to excrete uric acid caused the crystals, they were able to identify medication which effectively controlled the problem.

Another exciting improvement in arthritis treatment in the past 30 years was the development of total joint replacement surgeries," said Indenbaum. "These procedures can relieve pain, help restore mobility and function, and improve the appearance of joints destroyed by arthritis." In the late 1950s, an English surgeon discovered a cement which securely holds an artificial joint component onto a human bone.

Since then, researchers have studied joint structures and movement in an effort to improve replacement procedures. New materials have been developed which are better tolerated by the body, are longer wearing, and which allow nearly normal joint function.

Arthritis refers to more than 100 different diseases which together affect 35 million Americans, or one in seven people. The Arthritis Foundation is the only national volunteer health agency devoted to finding causes, cures and better treatments for all forms of arthritis. For information about arthritis, contact Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter, 23400 Michigan Ave., Suite 605, Dearborn 48124 or call 561-9096.

Synthesizer instructions are offered

Group and private lessons are offered through Mercy High School Music Department in synthesizer fundamentals. Courses will be conducted in six-week blocks, with each block focusing on a specific instrument or aspect of the electronic recording process.

For information, call the school's music department, 474-4440, or Randall Herkness, 427-6408.

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MR. AND MRS. KEVIN C. STAHL of Farmington Hills announce the birth of their daughter, Nicole Christine, March 18 in Providence Hospital.

The infant's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Gazecki of Grand Rapids and Mr. and Mrs. Craig Stahl of Waterville, Ohio, all former residents of Farmington.