

A search for answers to teen frays begins

For a related story about the Parents Against Violence-sponsored community meeting, see Page 1A.

By Joanne Mielczewski
staff writer

It's a start.
That was the response many parents, police and merchants had following an anger-packed meeting sponsored by Parents Against Violence Jan. 14 in the North Farmington High School cafeteria.

Despite occasional outbursts by parents and teens, methods of working to solve reported teenage rowdiness, vandalism and assaults along Orchard Lake Road were detailed.

Though no one seems to agree on just who is causing the problem, two leaders of the Detroit-area Chaldean community offered their help.

Sami Jihad, a member of the Arab-Jewish Friendship Club, and Ralph Ayar, president of the Southfield-based Chaldean Club, asked police and parents for the names of Chaldean youths involved in reported incidents along the city's major retail strip.

Both assured the more than 400 parents, teens, merchants and police officers that any Chaldean youth involved in the frays will be dealt with.

"As of this moment, the word has gone out in the Chaldean community like a bullet. I don't think you will be seeing these kids out here again," Jihad said.

THE CHALDEAN leader stressed the need "for a meaningful, systematic solution to this problem." Because family ties are strong within the Chaldean community, Jihad said, the parents — once they are informed about their teens' reported activities — will act swiftly.

"All I am begging of you, the authorities . . . to give us the names of those giving the problem. I can assure you that if you guarantee you will be more than happy to put pressure on those families to talk to the kids," he said.

Leaders from the Chaldean community will be among those asked to serve on a committee to work with police in taking steps to supervise and control teen-agers.

The formation of a committee was announced by Barry Fogel, one of the leaders of newly formed Parents Against Violence — formed as a result of growing concern over teenage activities along Orchard Lake Road.

Members, who will meet Monday, Jan. 19, will probably also include two representatives of the business community, parents, school officials and police officers from the Farmington Hills Police Department's juvenile section and Police Chief William Dwyer.

"We still must draw up goals and objectives for the subcommittee," Dwyer said. "The purpose (of the subcommittee) will be to, as parents, work together and take the proper steps to supervise kids. We'll feed information through the subcommittee

13-point plan unveiled

Parents Against Violence unveiled a 13-point plan to curb teenage rowdiness and assaults along Orchard Lake Road. The plan, which was presented at a community meeting on Jan. 14, includes the following points:

1. Continue to work with the city attorney to develop an ordinance to enforce the city's curfew ordinance for youths 10 and younger (after midnight).
2. Continue the police department's liaison with various school administrators and principals.
3. Continue to enforce the city's curfew ordinance for youths 10 and younger (after midnight).
4. Continue to work with the city attorney to develop an ordinance to enforce the city's curfew ordinance for youths 10 and younger (after midnight).
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and pursue areas regarding better ways to curtail altercations (by and between teens)."

AT LAST week's community meeting, Dwyer unveiled a 13-point

action plan to control youth problems. Highlights of the plan include the drafting of an anti-littering ordinance and continued use of the city's curfew ordinance.

Under the city's curfew, youths 12

and younger are prohibited from being out without adult supervision or legitimate reason from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Teens 16 years of age and younger are prohibited from doing the same from midnight to 6 a.m.

Curfew violators will be taken to the police department and prosecuted. Parents will be called and asked to accompany the youth to juvenile court, Dwyer said.

"We will not release the juvenile to anyone other than the parent," he added. Though fines are rarely assessed, that's a decision made by the juvenile court judge.

Parents' action or inaction that would cause the neglect or delinquency of children also can be found in violation of city ordinance — a misdemeanor, Dwyer said.

THE ACTION plan calls for establishment of a hotline by Jan. 29 for parents and teens to call in information about incidents that have occurred or are rumored.

Also highlighted in the plan is continued use of patrols with marked and unmarked cars on a regular basis. Police also plan to "continue to vigorously prosecute offenders" and work closely with the court system in obtaining maximum penalties, Dwyer said.

Because many parents criticized the state's court system, particularly juvenile court, they were asked to write letters to the appropriate authorities in the county's juvenile system.

Despite efforts from Parents Against Violence and the police department, parents were also urged to cooperate by controlling their teens: knowing where they are and what they are doing.

Some residents urged teens to find jobs and to participate in school activities to keep themselves out of trouble.

And still others suggested the creation of a community center where teens could congregate and participate in trouble-free activities.

Police and members of Parents Against Violence urged both parents and teens to report incidents and to prosecute. "Part of the disappointing thing . . . is the lack of involvement that we have seen from the victims," said Sgt. Charles Nebus of the police department's juvenile section.

Other suggestions from parents included the establishment of a neighborhood or business watch along and near Orchard Lake Road.

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State treasurer will address chamber

State Treasurer Robert Bowman will be guest speaker at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce general membership luncheon Thursday, Jan. 22.

The luncheon will begin at noon at the Roman Terrace Restaurant, 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, Farmington Hills.

Bowman became the state's financial chief at 27. He was the youngest state treasurer in the country.

He came to the Treasury Department in January 1983 with an undergraduate degree from Harvard College, where he concentrated in economics, and a masters in business

administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



Robert Bowman

HE ALSO had held jobs with Goldman Sachs' on Wall Street and the U.S. Treasury Department.

In Washington, D.C., as special assistant for domestic finance in the U.S. Treasury Department, Bowman was instrumental in

Chrysler Corp.'s economic bailout. That's where he met then-U.S. Rep. James Blanchard.

Here in Michigan, Bowman is credited as the chief architect of the state's fiscal recovery program.

The state had a budget deficit of \$1.7 billion when Blanchard took office in 1983. Within 18 months, Michigan's image on Wall Street improved.

BOWMAN IS most proud of the upgrading of Michigan's credit rating from the lowest in the nation to the highest. In November 1985, the state became solvent for the first

time in a decade.

Bowman is Blanchard's principal adviser on tax and fiscal policy issues. He has structured such innovative financing programs as the Michigan Baccalaureate Education System Trust (BEST) Program — the only guaranteed tuition plan of its kind in the country.

He also structured the financing plans that assisted in reopening White Pine Mine in the Upper Peninsula, locating the new Mazda car plant in Flat Rock and developing the state's farm loan program, adopted in 1985.

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