

Parents prepare for graduation's all-night parties

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Parents of the Class of '88 throughout the Farmington area are preparing for a spring ritual — graduation season and all-night parties.

Parties are scheduled at all four area high schools, Farmington, Harrison, North Farmington and Mercy, and organizers say fund raising, decorating and other plans are in full swing.

"The goal is that every graduate would have a place to have a good time, a wonderful evening," said Kathy Daniels, publicity chairwoman for Mercy's second annual party.

Although the parties originally started as a safety measure for graduates, they're "now emerging into a kind of traditional send-off," said Sandy Whitener, chairwoman of this year's North Farmington party.

North Farmington was the Farmington-area pioneer in parties. "We're just taking past records and improving on them," she added. "It's been so successful."

Between 85 and 95 percent of area seniors traditionally attend the parties, which are coordinated mainly by parents of seniors. At Mercy, there is a cooperative effort between parents, the school and the student chapter of Students Against Driving Drunk. All parties are being held at individual schools.

Following is information about each party, in date order:

Mercy High School
Friday, May 27
Carnival theme

Sports, dancing and events coordinating with the carnival theme are planned. Daniels said organizers "would accept support of the Mercy High School community from anyone. Donations — cash, gifts or food — can be brought to the school's reception area at 11 Mile and Middlebelt. Chairperson: Kitty Naeger. Call

the school at 476-8020 for further information.

Farmington High School
Wednesday, June 8
Street fair theme

The popular hypnotist who appeared last year will be at the party again. In addition to a recording studio, disc jockey, caricature artist, millionaires party and other traditional activities throughout the school. Organizers are seeking food, money or prize donations. A drawing for a television will be held for all tickets purchased before May 13. Chairpersons: Pat McDougall and Kathy Waker. Call the school at 474-6156 for more information.

Harrison High School
Thursday, June 9
Beach party theme

The beach balls will be bouncing at Harrison during this year's "Beach Bash," according to chairperson Maureen Kay. The traditional games and activities are planned. A millionaires party will again be held this year, followed by a dance contest at the end of the night, allowing organizers to prepare for an end-of-the-night auction. A yellow and green balloon launch is also planned. Organizers are seeking donations of food, prizes or money from the community. Donations chairperson is Sharon Witte, 477-3253.

North Farmington High
Tuesday, June 14
Nautical theme

Food, prizes and other activities will fill the night for North grad, according to chairperson Sandy Whitener. A recording studio, popular during its first run last year, will be back again. Organizers are putting an emphasis on decorations, as well. Merchandise and gift certificates



staff photo

At last year's all-night party at Farmington High, new graduates sign their names and leave messages on a sheet. The sheet was signed by most of the students attending the party and will be taken out at future class reunions.

cates or cash are being sought. Donations chairperson: Charlene Green, 661-1299.

"EVERYONE SEEMS enthusiastic about this kind of event," said Whitener, of North. "It's a community effort."

Farmington High co-chair Pat

McDougall said plans at her school are coming together. "So far, it seems to be going well," she said. "I'm very pleased with the parent response we've gotten. And the kids seem to be behind it."

"We appreciate all the support we get from the community," Harrison chairperson Kay added.

Mercy Health Services names vice president

James Combes was named vice president and chief financial officer of Mercy Health Services, Farmington Hills, effective May 1.

Combes will be responsible for overall financial policy direction, planning and review for MHS and its subsidiaries.

His responsibilities will provide a major focus for strategic financial planning, which will ensure the quality of the financial function throughout the organization, consonant with the mission of Mercy Health Services.

Speaking on behalf of Mercy Health Services, Michael Schwartz, executive vice president and chief operating officer, said, "His multifaceted background, his strong financial skills, and his desire to share in the values and mission of Mercy Health Services will serve us well in this complex and dynamic health care environment."

Combes is former senior vice president and chief financial officer of The Research Health Services System, a diversified health care corporation in Kansas City, including Research Medical Center, a 538-bed acute-care regional medical center.

Before joining the Research Health Services System, Combes spent 20 years in executive finance positions, including NCR Corp., Hertz Corp., AM International, Vin-



James Combes
multifaceted background

nell Corp. and The Abela Group. Combes received his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and his master's degree in business administration from the Harvard Business School.

He is active in the Big Brother Program and chairs the United Appeal. He has served as a member of the boards of directors of the Financial Executives Institute, the Kansas City Museum and the Los Angeles Zoo.

Hills man on grant board

The Metro Health Foundation has awarded its first series of grants to nine metropolitan Detroit organizations.

The grants, totaling \$187,000, will be used to help community agencies provide additional health care. MHF board members include Farmington Hills resident Richard Justice, Electronic Data Systems Corp. account manager.

Founded in 1985, the private foundation is headquartered in Detroit but makes grants to agencies throughout Michigan. "We want to

support a variety of health care providers and help them meet the health needs of people of all ages," said president Glenn Kossick.

MHF's net income annually is \$400,000, derived from assets of \$6 million. The original source of money for the foundation came from Group Health Plan, a non-profit HMO before it merged with United Health Service, headquartered in Oakland County.

MHF is governed by a nine-person board of directors and staffed with part-time help.

'The goal is that every graduate would have a place to have a good time, a wonderful evening.'

— Kathy Daniels
publicity chairwoman
Mercy's graduation party

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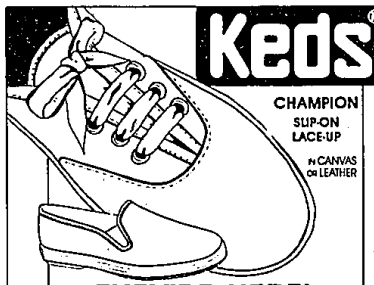
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