

Municipal drug testing is common

recreation news

Each week, the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Recreation Division presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For more information about programs, please contact the recreation office at 474-6115.

WALK MICHIGAN

The kick-off walk for the walking program is scheduled for May 21 at 9 a.m. in Heritage Park. This offers you a chance to meet new friends and develop a continuous walking program for fitness. A drawing from the registration forms will be held after the final walk for a special prize. The program is free.

GOLF LESSONS

Beginners and intermediates can learn and develop the mechanics of a proper stance, grip and swing. Lessons begin the week of May 23 for children, teens, adults and senior adults. Six lessons are scheduled at the Novi Oaks Sport Center. Participants are required to purchase a bucket of balls. Classes are scheduled on a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday basis. Fee is \$20, \$10 for senior adults for specified classes.

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Teams interested in playing in an outdoor volleyball league with sand courts are invited to an informational meeting May 25 at 8 p.m. at the Spicer House in Heritage Park. Park entrance is on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile Roads. Three-man and co-ed leagues will be offered.

CONCERT SERIES

"Stars in the Park" begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 2, at Heritage

Park. The Oakland Community College—Orchard Ridge Campus Jazz Band will open the summer series as they fill the air with sounds of jazz. There is no fee for the program. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and get ready for an exciting summer of music from Farmington area groups.

WAY DAY CAMP

Children ages 7-9 and 10-12 can explore, study and learn from the abundance of plants, animals and insects that call Heritage Park their home as they develop an appreciation for nature. The camp is Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The first session begins the week of June 2.

TENNIS LESSONS

Beginners and intermediates can learn or improve the skills of tennis with the eight lesson program at Farmington or North Farmington High School. Classes are on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning June 6. Participants should wear appropriate clothing and bring a new can of tennis balls.

SAFETY TOWN REGISTRATION

Registration for residents of the Farmington area or Farmington Public School District will be held at the Recreation office, Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 4. Enter City Hall at the east entrance. Mail-in registration will be accepted after June 4. All mail received prior to this date will be returned. Non-residents can register beginning June 13.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

There's nothing random or secretive about drug testing of all public employees in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Recent police officer suspensions in the Detroit Police Department have turned the spotlight on public employees and drug abuse. In Farmington and Farmington Hills, employee drug testing is nothing new. It's a part of each employee's required pre-employment physical.

"It's the right of employers to do a pre-employment physical to determine the ability of a potential employee to meet the job obligations. There is no law prohibiting it," Farmington Hills personnel director Dana Whinnery said. "We tell them up front they are going to be tested."

The same holds true in Farmington, where potential employees have been screened for drug use for more than 15 years. "It's part of any good physical exam," city manager Robert Deadman said. "We want people who can have good job performance."

Police officials in Farmington and Farmington Hills believe there are no problems with drug or alcohol abuse in their departments. But if an officer or employee is suspected having an abuse problem, they will be asked to submit to a drug test.

"WE DON'T do it on a random basis," Farmington Department of Public Safety director Frank Lauffoff said. "Right now, the courts have said you have to have reasonable suspicion (to randomly test an employee). We would only do a drug

test (after the pre-employment screening) if we reasonably suspect drugs or alcohol (abuse)."

If a police officer or police employee fails a drug exam in the course of employment, both departments offer help in rehabilitation. Employee insurance in both cities covers substance abuse.

"We would seek to assist that employee with a narcotics problem. But we would not retain that person with the department," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

In the Farmington Department of Public Safety, the employee's seniority, past problems and past work performance would be taken into consideration before a decision on whether to fire the employee would be made, Lauffoff said.

"It's hard to say for sure. Each situation is different," Lauffoff said.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department, which also tests its full-time and paid part-timers for drug use at the time of hire, recently began a program requiring a physical, including a drug test, every three years.

"They drive very expensive apparatus," fire Chief Richard Marinucci said. "And they're generally going pretty fast. They have to have good senses. You don't want them to endanger the public by someone who can't make good sound judgment."

CITY OFFICIALS in both cities believe in the necessity of drug testing at the time of hire because of the types of work performed by municipal employees. In the police and fire departments, drug abuse is contrary to law enforcement and the public's safety, off

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6 Farmington students selected for institutes

Six Farmington Public Schools students are among 500 selected statewide to participate in the seventh annual Michigan State Board of Education Summer Institutes for the Arts and Sciences.

All attend Farmington's three public high schools.

The institutes will be held at five college campuses statewide.

Julie Qing of North Farmington will attend a two-week session at Olivet College. Her area of interest is performing arts, and she will develop expertise in this field.

James Sung, Oren Traub and Yolanda Wu of North and Todd Rope of Harrison will be part of a math/science symposium at Western Michigan University, where they will explore advanced math and science concepts.

Todd Boger of Harrison will attend a two-session at the University of Detroit, where he will study the social structure of cities as part of a social science program.

Fifty three students have represented Farmington schools during the past six summer sessions.

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Parents-to-be are more assertive today about their hospital choices. They want to be certain about the quality of the hospital experience for both mother and child. The medical aspects are most critical, but comfort, friendliness, family involvement, and privacy are also important. So families check things out for themselves. It's not just the doctor's choice anymore. That's why hospitals are talking about their differences. And the differences at Grace are significant. Grace is a teaching hospital. And that means patients receive more attention from more professionals. It also means that patients see improved procedures introduced sooner.

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