



Helping hand

Student Painters Jason Kavanaugh (left) of West Bloomfield and Ron Waters of Rochester scrape paint from playground equipment at the Sarah Fisher Home for Children in Farmington Hills Saturday. Western Michigan University juniors and West Bloomfield residents Chris Abbott and Chris Dishon, who hold Student Painters franchises in Birmingham and West Bloomfield, respectively, oversaw five fellow Student Painters who also donated their services to the Sarah Fisher Home. The Student Painters, working to raise money for college, will return to the Sarah Fisher Home this weekend to paint the playground equipment.

BRIAN TAAVOLIAN

Helping kids THINK about drugs

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Larkshire Elementary fifth-graders will learn in May why they should say no to drugs and alcohol.

"We've gone into the schools before and done drug programs. But it was always a dog and pony show. This program will get a lot more in-depth," said Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

The new THINK — Teaching, Helping, Involving, Noticing, Kids — is a pilot program designed to help

make it easier and more comfortable for youngsters to say no to friends, acquaintances and siblings.

THINK will be conducted by police officers — in conjunction with the Farmington Hills Police Department. The program is based in the school district's health education plan for elementary school students.

"They (police) came up with the program and we helped mesh it in our programs," said Kathy McElroy, one of two district health coordinators. "We hope the program is ac-

cepted as a supplement."

Scheduled for May 10, 12, 17, 19 and 24, the five sessions will take the approach that drug and alcohol abuse is a disease. Four basic lessons make up the program. Larkshire teachers asked for a fifth session to answer students' questions and review the material.

"THE WHOLE purpose of the program is to give the kids some information and let them look at drugs and in particular, alcohol, as a disease," Murphy said. "We're going to give them some information so they can make a choice."

The fifth grade was chosen for the pilot program because they are about to enter middle school. "If everything works out through this program, we are going to implement it in all elementary schools in the district in the fifth grade," Murphy said.

The next targeted grades most likely would be third-graders and also eighth-graders, who are preparing for high school. Farmington Families in Action presents a substance abuse program for fourth-graders, Murphy added.

The THINK program will begin with explanations about the physical effects of alcohol, marijuana and cocaine on the body. Police officers will then explain what it's like to live in a chemically dependent family.

"This will involve understanding

peer pressure and that they (students) can't control their parents' use but they can learn to cope," Maple Grove Training Institute coordinator Sherry Murphy said in December.

The program also will focus on self-esteem and the goal of saying no to drugs and alcohol comfortably and without fear of ridicule from peers. Officers will do some role playing on decision making to illustrate how students can say no. Students also will be asked to record the decisions they've made within the week.

THE FINAL lesson will cover the legal and safety aspects of chemical use and how to get help.

Farmington Hills officers learned how to help youngsters through the THINK program last December with the help of the Maple Grove Training Institute. The training program and the Larkshire pilot program are part of the Farmington Hills Police Department Citizens Crime Advisory Committee's 19-point plan to fight chemical abuse in the community.

"Anytime you're dealing with a touchy subject, we anticipate there'll be a student who comes forward and says, 'Hey, I've got a problem at home,'" McElroy said.

The health coordinator said it's hoped the THINK program will be accepted as a supplement to the district's health program.

Hills hotel gets liquor license

Assured by the police department that none of Marriott Corp.'s eight corporate-owned hotels in Michigan has violated state liquor laws, the city council has approved a liquor license for the city's new \$10 million hotel in Farmington Hills.

Unanimous approval of the full-year Class B hotel license, with Sunday sales, is contingent on a complete inspection once the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel opens by mid-1990.

"The council is more and more concerned about the types of applications (for liquor licenses) and about those (licensees) who are violating the law," Mayor Terry Sever said Monday.

"Results here show Marriott has been a good citizen," Marriott attorney Mary Burstein of Southfield, told the city council. "They will continue to be a good citizen."

The 152-room, four-story hotel is going up on 4 1/2 acres in the Orchard Corporate Center, an office park under development by Birmingham-based Anthony S. Brown Development Co., on Orchard Drive, southeast of 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

THE HOTEL will include a full-service restaurant, a lounge open to 11 p.m., an exercise room, an indoor swimming pool and whirlpool, and

two meeting rooms with 25-person capacities.

It will be residential in orientation and atmosphere, Burstein said.

There will be no entertainment. Marriott Corp.'s Courtyard Division is based in Washington, D.C.

A class B liquor license is a full liquor license and will be taken from the city's Class C (liquor by the glass) quota bank.

The new hotel will be the third lodging establishment at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. The 136-room Dillon Inn, to the east of the planned Courtyard, is a limited service, economical hotel. The 204-room Clarion, a full-service hotel, is across Orchard Lake Road.

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Centennial picnic set

Farmington High's centennial celebration continues May 21 with a picnic on the school grounds.

Field events, music and lunch are in the plans, according to teacher Peter Schaldenbrand.

The school is also offering a centennial certificate for all former students, teachers, administrators, cus-

tomers and anyone associated with the school on a first-come, first-served basis.

As part of the birthday celebration, Thayer-Rock funeral director in Farmington have donated a time capsule that will be buried on the school grounds.

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