

Soccer style:
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Farmington
Soccer Club.



SHARON LA MUEY STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sport park dedication Saturday

The Farmington Hills field of dreams is a reality. Founders Sports Park will be officially dedicated 11 a.m. Saturday, May 14.

A short program and ceremony will take place, followed by refreshments. Baseball and softball games are planned Saturday featuring teams from South Farmington and North Farmington/West Bloomfield Baseball Association teams. Legacy Tour '94 skills competition will also take place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The park on Eight Mile, a half-mile east of Halsted Road, has four baseball/softball fields as well as three soccer fields.

The park's completion came through a joint effort by the city of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services as well as city council, the city administration, the Major Sports Complex (Sod Farm) Committee, the Department of Natural Resources, planning commission, parks and recreation commission and other city departments. Landscape architects also worked on the project.

Pre-World Cup fervor runneth over in Hills

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Everyone knows the World Cup is coming. No one is sure, though, if soccer will finally take off in this country after the foreign visitors take their hexagonal ball and go home.

Farmington resident Tim Zajaros believes the game will go on, and beyond in this area.

"If it's any indication, if I had a dollar for every time someone asked me about World Cup tickets, I'd be rich," said Zajaros, president of the Farmington Soccer Club. "Everybody is kicking themselves for not ordering tickets a year-and-a-half

ago when they were on sale to the soccer community. "We all hope it will bring soccer to a better light in terms of media coverage."

Zajaros is helping whip up some pre-World Cup fervor. He was instrumental in bringing Legacy Tour '94 to Farmington Hills. It will take place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at the new Founders Sports Park, Eight Mile Road, half a mile east of Halsted Road.

The tour coincides with the official dedication of the park. Kids and adults will be able to take part in a skills competition as well as get into the spirit of World Cup.

■ 'We all hope it will bring soccer to a better light in terms of media coverage.'

Tim Zajaros

Zajaros came in contact with sponsors of Legacy Tour through his job as senior manager of integrated marketing at Carlson Marketing Group in Troy. Zajaros' company works with Pontiac and General Motors MasterCard, which is helping promote the Legacy Tour.

The World Cup is a month-long tournament and is considered sport's grandest event. An estimated 26.7 billion people

worldwide watched the 1990 World Cup in Italy on TV.

Soccer's popularity is not just on people in the Farmington area, which is a hotbed for the game.

All four high schools have soccer teams. The Farmington Soccer Club has 650 members of kids 8 to 18 years in age. Several more play on parks and recreation teams.

The area also boasts one of the busiest indoor facilities,

Total Soccer in Farmington Hills, which allows teams to play year-round.

To handle the growing number of players, three new fields have been installed at 12 Mile and Drake. Newly built Founders Sports Park already has three fields with three more on the way.

Saturday's Legacy Tour will be seen as sort of a christening of soccer at the Eight Mile Road facility.

Zajaros gives credit for the new park to the city of Farmington Hills and, specifically, director of Special Services Dan Potter.

"If it wasn't for their efforts,

we wouldn't have those soccer fields the park is being dedicated for," he said.

People can try their skills in shooting, dribbling and passing. Winners advance to the Legacy Tour's soccer marathon Saturday, June 11, at the Southfield Civic Center.

World Cup merchandise will be on sale at the Founders Sports Park event with proceeds going back to local soccer organizations that helped stage the tour. Also the official World Cup mascot Striker will be making an appearance.

"It's a fun event," Zajaros said, "and it's a perfect fit with the opening of the new park."

Councils see agency's need in gang writings on walls

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Making the case for improving the lot of families and youths in Farmington and Farmington Hills was made a little easier this year in very graphic terms.

Betty Arnold, executive director of the Farmington Area Advisory Council, told members of both city councils, at a joint budget session Wednesday evening, that the agency had held the line on its budget.

But a recent rash of gang graffiti, including some on the agency's own trash bin at its Middlefield office between Nine and 10 Mile, may signal more trouble.

"We had hoped it (gang activity) wouldn't become a strong issue here," Arnold told council members. "But when graffiti appears on our door, it's hard to ignore the problem."

The agency, which provides counseling and other services, stayed within its budget, Arnold said. In fiscal year 1993-94, the budget was \$210,000, some \$26,000 less than the south Farmington neighborhood April 30 and May 1. Vehicles, garage doors, sidewalks and stop signs were spray painted and damaged on Lakeside, Kirby and Robinwood streets.

The vandals used model car spray paint and markers to write the graffiti, police said.

straint, but asked that it come back with another assessment on that the cities could increase its budget.

"We need to help our kids right now," Bates said. "They held the line exactly like we told them, but that's penny-wise and pound-foolish."

One project both councils were interested in is a proposed hot line for teens to use when they are in trouble or see problems. The service would allow them to avoid peer pressure.

In other reports:

■ Kathleen Pokutsky, chairwoman of the Farmington Area Commission, said the commission wants to begin meeting at the Mercy Center on a regular basis rather than alternating between Farmington and Farmington Hills. That will make it easier for people to remember where the meetings are, she said.

■ District Court Administrator John Grewell said that the court building on 10 Mile will need a new heating and air conditioning system costing about \$109,000, in addition to the budget already submitted. Grewell said he did not want to submit the additional request until he had a firm figure, within the next 30 days.

"The county health depart-

ment tested us two months ago and found a high level of CO2 (carbon dioxide) - from 50 to 400 percent higher than acceptable levels," he said. "Our heating system is extremely old. We're not getting enough fresh air."

■ Library Board president Bob Plummer said the increasing demand for services is putting the library in a budget "squeeze," but added that the board hopes to initiate programs to meet the demand.

Library director Rev Pappi said the library's budget has seen increases to cover Sunday hours at the Farmington branch (\$14,000) and to absorb a position that was formerly reimbursed by Oakland County for the Library for the Blind and Handicapped, which is being moved to Pontiac. One new program, Metro Net, which will help the library convert print material to on-line and link with a worldwide information network that allows data transmission for the price of a local call. All have been funded by the city. Plummer said the library has received about \$100,000 in the coming year.

The city also approved a space study for the Farmington Hills branch on 12 Mile. The board has no plans in the near future to expand the facility, but will work to use the space more efficiently, Plummer said.

Paint from page 1A

some residents who had property vandalized. He lives in Farmington Meadows.

The other teen is 14 and lives in Chatham Hills Apartments, police said. Both are seventh-grade students at Power Middle School.

There were 22 cases of vandalism reported in the south Farmington neighborhood April 30 and May 1. Vehicles, garage doors, sidewalks and stop signs were spray painted and damaged on Lakeside, Kirby and Robinwood streets.

The vandals used model car spray paint and markers to write the graffiti, police said.

Gang graffiti has been reported in both Farmington and Farmington Hills recently. The type found in Farmington Meadows did not match graffiti reported behind commercial buildings on Grand River in March.

They didn't know what they were doing," Lee said. "They couldn't even paint an eight-pointed star accurately."

Though these incidents might not be gang-related, police are not shrugging off the matter.

Farmington Meadows residents have been asked to attend a Neighborhood Watch meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Flanders

Elementary. The discussion will be on gangs and what signs parents can look for in spotting such activity.

Police questioned the two teens after receiving two tips from residents.

One teen told police the 14-year-old was staying over at his house. At 3 a.m., they left the house while his parents slept and committed the damage, Lee said.

Lee said he's not aware of any previous problem involving the two teens.

"They come from good homes," he said.

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