

Lipa from page 1A

his temporary office in the Farmington Training Center. "I never even had thought I'd be doing this."

In February of 1993, Lipa appeared before the Farmington Hills City Council not knowing how he and his local Special Olympics program would be received.

To his surprise, the city council — and especially then-Mayor Nancy Bates — not only put the seal of approval on Team Farmington and its activities, but began to involve Lipa and the athletes he coached in many city projects.

They took part and helped at the Family Day in the Park, Family Night in January and other city events.

"I walked in there (city council chambers) not knowing what to expect," he said, recalling his first nervous moments before the council.

The special Olympians were trying to publicize a bowling fund raiser. That got much more.

And Lipa, who is married to Kathy Lipa, became a resource for the city in organizing events and ways to help the city's youth. In late 1993 Lipa was named to head the city's new Commission of Children, Youth and Families proposed by Bates and approved by the city council.

Lipa will continue his activities with Team Farmington, but will work at the \$35,000 a year position to oversee a program that will include recreation and other activities for the city's teens at three or more centers around the city.

The program was made possible, thanks to a federal grant of \$387,000 administered through the state Department of Social Services, with \$200,000 in match-

'We'd like to get businesses involved and give kids a chance to do something not just recreational that would give them a taste of the real world.'

*Todd Lipa
new director*

ing money from the city's parks and recreation millage budget.

Assistant City Manager Steve Brock said the program will likely include activities at the YMCA on Farmington Road north of 12 Mile, the Farmington Hills Activities Center on 11 Mile east of Middlebelt and another location in the southeast part of the city.

Teens will be transported from the middle schools and the programs will run from about 3-6 p.m. to start.

"We had 10 applicants for the job," Brock said. "Todd stood out as easily the best candidate."

Lipa, who was the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 1994, also helped organize and publicize the first annual Cornucopia Ball in November that raised about \$60,000 for the foundation that will continue to fund the youth program.

"We fully expect, in fact the grant requires, that we continue the program," Brock said.

Lipa had worked for the Detroit News and then the Detroit Free Press for 19 years before taking the position. He attended Oakland Community College and the Wayne State University Labor School.

Thanks to some surveys completed in connection with the grant application, Lipa said the city has a lot of ideas about recreation programs for the teens. And he has some additional ideas for programs.

"We'd like to get businesses involved and give kids a chance to do something not just recreational that would give them a taste of the real world," he said. "We don't want to take anything away from any other program, but we think we can fill a gap."

Besides Lipa, the centers will each have some part-time staff and volunteers to run programs, help with transportation to and from schools, the ice arena, bowling alleys or other activity sites.

"A lot is going to depend on what the kids want to do," he said.

In all of this, the main focus will be giving the city's youth a safe enjoyable environment after school. Encouragement and self-esteem will definitely be part of any program he oversees, Lipa said.

"I remember when I was seventh-grader at Power Middle School," Lipa said. "I was 125 pounds, trying to run around the track when John Urquhart (a teacher and coach) came up to me, put his arm around my shoulder and said that maybe I should play football. It was just one comment, but it was important to me at the time."

And yes, Lipa went on to play football at Farmington High. And yes, he hopes he's offered the same encouragement to young people in Special Olympics and anywhere else.

"Sometimes all it takes is a little encouragement," he said.



FREE T-Shirts spark wild caribou stampede.

Caribou Coffee Open House Saturday, Dec. 9th.
(7:30 a.m. - until closing)

Birmingham, 112 Woodward (Corner of Maple & Woodward)
Rochester Hills, 3224 Walton (Across from Meadowbrook Hall)
Royal Oak, 401 Main Street *B a.m. (Corner of 4th & Main)
West Bloomfield, 6915 Orchard Lake (Boardwalk Shopping Center)

**A neighborhood gathering place
you can call your own.**

Stampeding off to work? Just in the neighborhood? At Caribou, you'll always find a toasty-warm cup of your favorite coffee. Perfectly roasted, freshly brewed. Along with friendly conversation and a spot to kick back and take it all in. That's Caribou Coffee at its best.



FREE Caribou T-Shirt

Fill this out. Tear it out. Bring it in.
Then buy any large drink and you're wearing a FREE T-shirt home!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Free T-shirt offer good December 9 only. Limited to first 1000 customers per store.
One T-shirt per customer please.

Detroit • Atlanta • Charlotte • Minneapolis/St. Paul • Raleigh
And soon, lots of other friendly neighborhoods just like yours



Discover marvelous merchandise, read
Malls & Main Streets
every Monday in your hometown newspaper.



**"You don't have to cut Medicare
to balance your budget."**

-Kenneth Cole

Kenneth Cole's **Semi-Annual Sale** Starts December 7.
30%-50% Off Shoes and Accessories

Bonhomme Collection (610) 816-8200

Four Days Only. Now Through Sunday!

save **20%**
on entire stock
of regular priced
prints and mirrors

sale \$9-\$319
Reg. \$12 - \$399



Prints...botanicals,
still lifes, sketches, maps and more
Mirrors...many beveled, hand finished gold leaf,
wood, combo finishes and more
Styles may vary by store.

Ask for our free catalog. We accept MasterCard, Visa and American Express.

register to
win

42" nutcracker to be given away December 17. And, each Bonhays store will donate another nutcracker to their favorite children's charity. No purchase necessary. Open to U.S. residents 18 years or older. Visit store for entry form and complete rules. Void where prohibited.

Lakeside Mall (610) 257-0020 • Oakland Mall (610) 565-5160
Meadowbrook Village Mall (610) 375-2155 • Fairlane Town Center (610) 270-1421
Twelve Oaks (610) 351-0111 • Birmingham 135 S. Woodward Ave. (610) 645-0020
Laurel Park Place (610) 590-1230 • Visit our other 100+ stores in the Northeast, Lansing, MI
Woodland Mall (Grand Rapids) • Lakewood Square (Livonia, MI)
Also in Toledo, Franklin Park Mall
To enter call toll free 24 hours a day, call 1-800-625-7799 or FAX your entry to 1-617-517-4291.

**The
Bonhays
Company**