

Youth program going great, say Hills officials

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The reception to the Farmington Hills' youth program has been better than even its organizers expected.

The program, which was created to offer middle school students a place to go after school for recreation and learning activities, is ready to expand and is getting a lot of financial support.

Todd Lipa, the programs coordinator, updated the Farmington Hills City Council at Monday's

regular meeting. "All the activities are going," he said of the many sports, games and programs being offered at the William Costick Center on 11 Mile.

Lipa said once the YMCA expansion is completed, the after school program will be offered at that location on Farmington and there are plans for a site in the southeastern part of the city.

"Thanks to the Farmington Public Schools, we have a bus at each school that will stop at the

center," he said, adding that transportation to the new sites and the ice arena when activities are scheduled there, is assured.

He said the program, which started in March and then was suspended during the summer, has 640 students this year.

"We've gotten 182 students within the last 10 days," he said.

Lipa said the program will try to include 16-year olds in high school, who can not yet drive, and is looking at ways to transport Farmington Hills teens who attend Walled Lake and

Clareville schools.

"This is a wonderful program," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi. "What really impressed me was the learning center. There were 20 people studying when I visited."

Lipa said the program is also doing more to involve senior citizens, including those in the Senex program for handicapped seniors, with the youngsters.

"It's good that we can have intergenerational programs with seniors and young people," said Councilwoman Nancy Bates. "I get nothing but happy calls on this."

support from a foundation created to support youth programs.

"No additional tax dollars are being used to fund this program," Bates said.

The Cornucopia Ball, which was inaugurated last year, will again be at the William Costick Center. Proceeds from the Nov. 9 event will go to the foundation.

The council approved an amendment and extension of the grant period for the Decentralized Youth Program that will allow the city to fully use the grant and extend the three-year term until Dec. 31, 1997.

The extension is possible because the program did not start until March of this year although it had been planned for the fall of 1995, to coincide with the start of school.

The goal of the foundation is to build up enough money to take over the program's funding once the grant period ends.

In other action, the council:

■ Agreed with a recommendation from the city's administration and parks and recreation commission to suspend dry floor activities next summer at the ice arena. The city will solicit interest in using the facility for dry floor activities for the summer of 1998 before making a decision on whether or not to keep the ice up.

■ Gave final plat approval for the Arbor Park subdivision on the southeast corner of Inkster and 10 Mile, and the Button Orchard subdivision on the north side of 12 Mile between Drake and Farmington roads.

■ Request a grant for an environmental study for possible reclamation action for the Grand Haggerty Salvage Yard on Haggerty north of Grand River. A Mercedes Benz dealer is interested in locating on that property.

Series starts with retirement talk

Local business will get a wake-up call from the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Business Owner Breakfast Series which debuts with the Small Business Council of America's presentation "Retirement Planning for the Business Owner," at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, at the Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills, 10 Mile and Grand River.

This informational presentation is the first Detroit-area offering from the successful sem-

inars developed jointly by the Small Business Council of America and National Life in Vermont.

This seminar will explore how you can utilize your business to maximize your retirement program through tax advantaged planning. Topics to be discussed include planning issues on common stumbling blocks facing business owners. Speakers will talk on financial strategies including regulated and non-regulated retirement plans, 401(k)

and alternative profit sharing plans, deferred compensation and private pensions.

Featured speakers will be small business market specialists Daniel L. Kanter and Jeffrey Sprague, insurance planners and registered representatives of Equity Services, Inc. Their firm, Kanter Associates/American Benefits Group, has been helping business owners in the Detroit area plan for their futures since 1925.

The Small Business Council of America is the only national organization which exclusively represents the federal income and estate tax, pension and other benefit interests of privately held and family owned businesses.

Cost is \$29 for members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and \$49 for non-members. Continental breakfast is included.

For more information or to make reservations, call the chamber at 474-3440. MasterCard and Visa will be accepted.

The program is open to the public.

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Monday Night Early Bird Special
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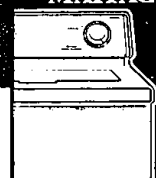
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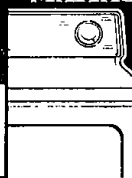
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