

**Shooting for fitness: Kerry Greaves, 7, of Farmington shoots free throws at Longacre Elementary as part of an afterschool fitness program offered by the Farmington Area YMCA. The Y is sponsoring Healthy Kids Day April 12 at Twelve Oaks in Novi. Botsford Hospital and Farmington Hills Fire Department will take part in the program.**



STAFF PHOTO BY LAWRENCE H. MCCREY

**Push-up power: Kids get pumped up doing exercises at Longacre Elementary. Programs like these offered by the Farmington Area YMCA to encourage fitness for kids who may not regularly participate in organized sports.**

## YMCA, Botsford pointing kids toward fitness, health

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

In a time when kids are more likely to experience the thrill of reading third base by simply turning the knob on a video game, Farmington Area YMCA and Botsford Hospital are driving home a message about children's fitness.

Farmington YMCA is sponsoring Healthy Kids Day 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. The fifth annual event culminates a several months of wellness and health programs offered to children in Farmington, Novi, West Bloomfield and Walled Lake school districts.

The national program indoctrinates kids into the five elements of a healthy lifestyle: nutrition, fitness, substance abuse prevention, environment and safety. Participants receive certificates and prizes at the April 12 program.

"They celebrate their new-found knowledge," said Mandi Skeegan, YMCA spokeswoman.

Farmington Hills firefighters join Novi and West Bloomfield departments to provide information on safety to children. American Heart Association and the Wellness Plan will have displays. Twelve

Oaks Mall, which is hosting the event for the third year, will have a booth on bike safety.

Botsford Hospital is one of five health care providers who take part in the annual event. Others involved include: Providence, Henry Ford Maple Grove, Huron Valley and Sinai.

Botsford staff will offer weight and body fat analysis as part of its "Fitness Zone."

Children's fitness — or lack of it in the video age — has spurred health care organizations like Botsford to get involved.

"We want to discourage them from being a couch potato," said Susan Perry-Nolte, Botsford marketing manager.

For instance, Botsford's nationally-recognized "Let Them Play" program encourages kids who don't take part in organized sports to get active physically. The program is offered in Walled Lake schools through Botsford's Total Rehabilitation and Conditioning Center.

The hospital also has its "Kids Camp" and provides fitness and nutrition programs in school district's like Farmington year round.

"It's certainly a priority of ours," Perry-Nolte said.

## Dust settles: Gravel road residents will still pay for maintenance costs

BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Councilwoman Nancy Bates picked up support for her proposal that the city pay for dust control on its 23 miles of gravel roads.

But even with the votes of Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi and Councilwoman Vicki Barnett, the idea failed 4-3.

"This is not a cost or health issue," Bates said. "We're talking about justice."

The city applies calcium chloride four times a year to its gravel roads, assessing the residents who live on them for most of the cost estimated at \$47,046 this year. It does not assess residents on paved roads for maintenance costs.

Tom Biasell, director of public services, said the city has had a dust control program for the past 20 years that included oil, asphalt emulsion and most recently calcium chloride.

The city has considered the treatment a road improvement, to which the city can participate by up to 20 percent.

"If it were considered maintenance, we could participate as much as is appropriate," Biasell said.

Bates, who has in recent years been the "lone ranger" in advocating that the city cover the cost completely, said many projects

like the Kendallwood drain project, were paid for by all residents even though it benefited only one area.

Biasell said the annual cost of maintaining a gravel road averages \$9,759 compared with \$4,791 on average to maintain a paved road over 20 years.

Councilman Terry Sever said that residents on paved roads in new subdivisions pay for the paving, curbing and other improvements. And residents who decide to pave an existing road pay most, if not all of that cost as part of a special assessment.

Several residents, including those on paved roads, spoke up in favor of Bates' plan that the city cover the cost.

"I think this is a service to be paid for equitably by all of our citizens," said Gail Haynes, president of the Council of Homeowners. "In the long run, it's a service to the city at large."

Bates had some unexpected support on the council.

"I've changed my mind on it," said Mayor Vagnozzi. "We have tried to preserve our most pristine gravel road areas to lessen density."

But the majority said this would leave residents on paved roads to unfairly pay most of the cost for maintaining the gravel roads while paying for the construction and maintenance of

their own streets.

"I won't support it," said Councilman Terry Sever. "It's pretty difficult to argue for this when you consider the difference in cost factors. Paved roads are not costing the city all those maintenance dollars."

Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio said even though the 2,000 or so residents on paved roads had to pay for the dust control, the city provides the grading.

"To me, that's a wash," she said.

"It's costing more to maintain gravel roads," said Councilman Jon Grant. "Paving is a substantial investment."

Councilman Jerry Ellis said although he did not support Bates' proposal, he would like to change the formula for assessing the residents for the dusting program.

They are currently assessed by frontage. That allows residents on "flag lots," where only a driveway is considered as frontage, to pay less even if they are on a bigger lot and use the road more.

Along with approving the existing residential participation, 4-3, with Bates, Barnett and Vagnozzi opposed, the council voted 6-1 to change the assessment to a unit, rather than frontage basis. An amendment to allow residents to opt out of the dusting program failed.



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## Exam set for Hills man accused of child abuse

A Farmington Hills man accused of shaking, smacking and dropping his infant daughter will face a pretrial exam before Judge Barry Howard in Oakland Circuit Court at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Michael Mathias Giron, 22, is charged with first-degree child

abuse charges and could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Farmington Hills police arrested Giron after interviewing him and talking with emergency room doctors at Botsford General Hospital where he had brought the baby on Jan. 24.

The baby, then 39-days old, suffered head injuries and a broken leg. She was released several days later to the custody of her mother, 17, who had lived in the basement of her parents home with her baby and the defendant.

## CAMPUS PIPELINE

**MAKING THE GRADE**  
Daniel Gallagher of Farmington Hills has been named to the Miami University Dean's List for first semester 1996-97. The list recognizes academic achievement of a 3.5 or higher grade point average.

**HARVARD LAW**  
Roberto J. Dovoto has successfully completed his first

semester at Harvard Law School and has accepted a summer job with one of the most prestigious law firms in New York.

He graduated from Farmington High School

with a 4.0 GPA and graduated "Summa Cum Laude" from The University of Michigan. He also earned his master's degree from The Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**U OF M DEAN'S**  
Jennifer Sloan of Farmington has earned a spot on the University of Michigan's Dean's List for the fall 1996 semester.



Roberto J. Dovoto