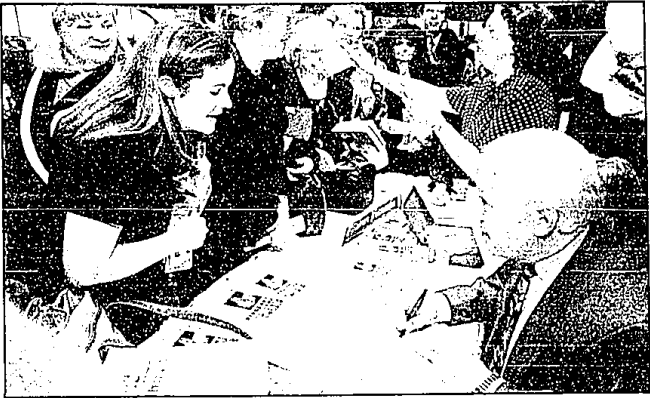


# Sober October

Former television anchor offers a simple message of hope



Speaker: Former television anchor, now motivational speaker and author, Mort Crim, autographs his book for Abbey Kimberly, who attended the 10th annual kickoff rally for Farmington Families in Action's Sober October effort.

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

The message was simple: hope. "Kids today are looking for hope. Deep down inside, they appreciate what you are doing," said former WDIV-TV anchor Mort Crim.

As the keynote speaker at the Farmington Families in Action 10th Annual Kickoff Breakfast for Sober October, Crim told volunteers, parents, police, firefighters, teachers and school and

municipal officials that they are on the right track.

"I think you people are involved in one of the most important battles today—to save our children's lives," Crim told a packed audience at Glen Oaks Golf Course Thursday morning. "It can't just be a negative battle," he continued. "We have to have something positive to offer our kids—and that's hope."

The breakfast kicked off the FFIA's designation of October as

Alcohol and Drug Awareness Month.

"I'm very proud to be part of this organization," said Farmington Mayor Mary Bush. "Every appropriate constituency is involved here. Everyone in this room is part of a coalition."

Farmington Hills Assistant Police Chief Chuck Nebus was honored with a plaque for his years with the organization. "I know his commitment to youth is ongoing," said Betty Nicolay,

FFIA board chairwoman. FFIA was started in April 1983 as a group of parents who wanted to inform the community about kids' use of illegal drugs.

The organization went from five volunteers to its current 50-60 and in the process worked with police departments to pass a host party ordinance, as well as including the Babes Program in the school curriculum, said Nicolay.

"We do make a difference with all the kids," said Bob Maxfield, Farmington Public Schools superintendent. "It seems clear this community has decided what kind of a difference it will make."

A dining table told the crowd, is to be made by organizations, such as FFIA, not governmental agencies.

Kids try drugs, he said, because they have feelings that they are nobody and they are trying to escape from painful problems in school, their families and the community.

"I think one of the main problems is cynicism," Crim said.

Kids have two emotions today: fear and anxiety and a flicker of hope. "Our job is to fan that flicker of hope."

That responsibility belongs to parents, teachers and other adults in the community. "We have to help put these things into perspective. There is always reason to hope."

To do that, adults must be willing to talk to kids about the big issues in life. That includes

helping kids with an answer when they ask why they are here.

Everyone, Crim said, has a spiritual thirst to quench. In large part, drugs and alcohol are used to fill a void. "Parents need to understand the deep hunger and longing."

Today there are no absolutes, no ethics. Today, ethics are "situational," Crim said. "Kids have no compass today."

An answer to kids' question of why they are here is simple. "We are here to serve others," Crim quoted Albert Einstein.

"Once you have asked that question, everything else will fall into place," Crim said. "We look at life and draw whatever lessons we want to draw."

Referring to his days in the news business, Crim noted that

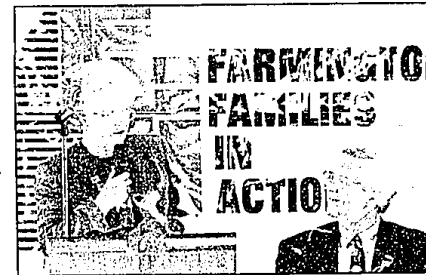
what is happening today in Washington, D.C., is not reality for most Americans.

"The politicians who are making the headlines aren't the ones who are making the decisions," Crim said. "The television screen is too small to present the much larger picture of reality."

Parent Bonnie Murphy said she was impressed with what Crim had to say. "It was dynamic and motivational. It is a great way to restore our vision and our hope."

Warner Middle School counselor Tom Gorman said the message he received from the breakfast kickoff was one of caring.

"I thought this was very meaningful. Life is about caring. We have to take care of each other."



Welcome: Families in Action chairwoman Betty Nicolay welcomes kick off rally participant, including schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

## POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are reports from the Farmington and Farmington Hills police and fire departments in the past week:

### VANDALISM

**In Farmington:** A business owner in the 33000 block of Slocum reported last week that vandalism to the outside of his property has taken place over the summer. The owner told police that \$220 in damage was caused to an outdoor sprinkler system, handrail, "no skateboarding" sign and security lights, between June 15 and July 23. He suspects skateboarders might have been involved because graffiti was written on a sidewalk in board wax.

### MALICIOUS MISCHIEF

**In Farmington:** An 18-year-old Farmington Hills man reported that he was having lunch at the Burger King in the 32700 block of Grand River, between 11 a.m. and noon Monday, when he was harassed by three teenage boys. The three then picked up two cartons of cola syrup and dumped it into the passenger's side of his parked car. An undetermined amount of damage was caused.

### DRIVER CAUGHT WITH POT

**In Farmington:** Officers ticketed a 47-year-old Detroit man for speeding and being in possession of marijuana, about 5:45 a.m. Wednesday at

Grand River and Cass.

The man was observed driving 15 miles over the posted speed limit and subsequently pulled over by police. Officers detected an odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle and saw two roaches in the ashtray. A container with an undisclosed amount of marijuana was found in the rear of the vehicle. A hearing in 47th District Court was scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 12.

### LARCENY

**In Farmington Hills:** Thieves targeted the contents of at least three vehicles between Wednesday night and Friday morning.

A \$2,000 set of Cobra golf clubs were reported stolen sometime Thursday night or Friday morning from the rear of a vehicle parked in the driveway of a residence in the 25600 block of Livingston Circle. There was no damage to the vehicle.

A number of items were reported stolen early Thursday morning from a 1996 Pontiac Bonneville parked in the driveway of residence in the 25700 block of Rutledge: a set of golf clubs valued at \$1,500; Zenith laptop computer (\$1,500); wood hamster (\$600); two black leather briefcases (\$200); leather day-planner (\$100); a checkbook with checks; Nokia black flip-phone (\$35); a man's Swiss

Army watch (\$150); Qualcomm cell phone (\$200) and a blue Ralph Lauren jacket (\$154). There was no sign of forced entry.

Reported missing from a 1998 GMC Envoy parked from 2 p.m. Wednesday to 8:30 a.m. Thursday at a residence in the 25200 block of Carrollton were: Qualcomm digital phone (\$300); pair of Rollerblades (\$400); set of inline skating pads (\$300) and 14 CDs in a black case.

### DRUG-BUST

**In Farmington Hills:** Hills police assisted agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in making a drug bust at 2:05 p.m. Thursday in the rear of the Novi Hilton Hotel on Hagerty Road. Agents arrested two suspects attempting to purchase 200 pounds of marijuana from DEA agents.

The arrests were made without incident and a "large sum of money" was confiscated from the suspects' vehicle, which was impounded by Hills police. The suspects were taken to the DEA office in Detroit.

### DWLS

**In Farmington Hills:** A 20-year-old Southfield man with four prior convictions on driving while his license was suspended was arrested and charged with the same offense

following a traffic-stop at 2:12 p.m. Thursday on Kingsgate Drive south of 12 Mile Road. The vehicle was impounded.

### CHECKS STOLEN

**In Farmington Hills:** An employee of the GM Bassett Pattern Co., 31162 Eight Mile Road, reported to police Thursday that 56 payroll checks

drawn on the NBD Bank were missing from the drawer in which they are kept.

The employee said he was tipped off about 4 p.m. Wednesday when the bank's branch on Grand River in Livonia told him a woman was attempting to cash a handwritten check. He said the company's checks are computer-generated, but by then the woman had left the bank.

### DRUNKEN DRIVING

**In Farmington Hills:** A 41-year-old Columbus, Ohio, truck driver was charged with driving without a license and under the influence of alcohol in a traffic-stop on Nine Mile Road was of Farmington Road Thursday. His Ohio license was suspended indefinitely.

## Condo fire under investigation

BY RICHARD PEARL  
STAFF WRITER

Officials are investigating a fire that heavily damaged two units early Monday evening at the Farmington Square condominiums on 12 Mile Road west of Orchard Lake.

No one was injured in the 5:20

p.m. fire, which caused an estimated \$350,000 in damage. Firemen spent six hours making sure the fire, which gutted a second-floor unit and spread to the attic and roofing above a third-floor unit, was out.

A number of units in the approximately 18-unit building suffered smoke damage.

Deputy Fire Chief Pete Baldwin said the fire was probably an accident.

He said firemen used ladders to help several people down from balconies. They waited there because they felt the smoke in the hallways was too dense, he said.

## Free depression screenings are available all day Thursday

National Depression Screening Day is 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at the ADA Center for Anxiety and Mood Disorders.

Free screenings, a chance to speak to a mental health professional privately, a video on depression, and an assortment of self-help materials will be on hand. Refreshments will be served.

The ADA center is at 6256 Orchard Lake Road, just north of Maple. For more information, call 932-3733.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, depression affects over 17 million Americans each year. Less than half of the people suffer-

## NATIONAL DEPRESSION SCREENING DAY

ing from depression seek treatment for it. Some symptoms of depression are depressed mood, diminished interest or pleasure in activities, sleep disturbances and thoughts of death or suicide. To find a screening location closest to you, call the National Depression Screening Day site location line at (800) 573-4433.

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