

Plenty of programs available

A number of services and programs are made available through Farmington Families in Action, a grassroots parents organization whose mission is to educate the community about the dangers of substance abuse. Some of those are listed below:

■ **THINK: Teaching, Helping, Involving, Notifying Kids** - Provided to fifth-graders in Farmington Hills by the Farmington Hills Police Department. The program, developed in conjunction with Maplegrove Training Institute, focuses on teaching the harmful impact of chemical use on

students and their families.

■ **BABES: Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Education Studies** - A program developed by the National Council on Alcoholism, designed for preadolescent children through grade five. Its goal is to teach elementary school students the danger of drug and alcohol use and abuse at the prevention stage.

■ **TWYKAA: Talking with Your Kids About Alcohol** - A program for parents of school-aged children, designed to teach parents an effective, common sense approach to talking about alcohol use and

abuse with their children.

■ **Get a GRIP: Generations Responding to Issues and Problems** - Sponsored by Families in Action, Farmington Public Schools and other community groups, once a year workshop for students in grades 4-7 and their parents strives to promote understanding about growing up in today's world.

■ **Student Assistance Program** - Farmington schools' comprehensive program strategies beyond curriculum in an effort to facilitate success for students through prevention and intervention.

Drugs from page A1

tive and teacher daily rate (ars) only a dollar or two from each other.

There are several programs with overlap in terms of what their missions are and who they serve. Those include Farmington Youth Assistance, Farmington Families in Action, student assistance, middle school-based Get a GRIP, third-grade BABES and THINK.

On top of that, the coordinator will act as a go-between for the Farmington and Farmington Hills police departments, city government, 47th District Court and serve as an adviser to the Alternative Academy, Health Advisory Council, Sexual Harassment Committee, Wellness Committee and Guidance and Counseling Committee.

Maxfield insists that the coordinator will primarily work the controls to become "the classic liaison ... to provide a more seamless approach to coordinating all these community services."

"We naturally play an important role," Maxfield said. "We

have an important relationship with Farmington Families in Action, we have an important relationship with Farmington Youth Assistance, the Commission on Children, Youth and Families."

"And we really need someone who is positioned to be the district liaison to all those things. So, you eliminate overlap" and duplication.

The Safe and Drug Free Schools administrator will have an office at the Farmington Training Center, near Farmington Youth Assistance and in the same building as the Farmington Alternative Academy. Maxfield said space also will be provided for Farmington Families in Action.

Central location

Having a person in a centralized location, who is in touch with the schools, knows the issues and understands the role of various organizations is a positive step, Dymek said.

"Yes, there are a number of agencies like ourselves, but we're

not in the school system," Dymek said. "To have someone as a centralized person to coordinate it ... it's a good thing."

Schools are where the stay-away-from-drugs-and-alcohol message needs to get through to children. "It's a problem that younger and younger people are getting involved with," Dymek said.

Meanwhile, a coordinator would also "be knowledgeable about services and programs available from an organization such as ours," Dymek added. "It's going to be beneficial for everyone. The schools, the community."

About any criticism of the district for adding another high-salaried administrator, Dymek said he thought it shows that the public is dutifully keeping tabs.

"People need to bring that up anyway, (about whether) the money is being spent in a good manner," Dymek said. "So, I think it's good to question, always."

Motorist OK after hitting deer

A motorist was unhurt after hitting a deer while traveling on Northwestern Highway early Sunday morning, making it the third reported traffic accident involving a deer in the past two weeks.

A Commerce Township woman died from injuries sustained after the Chevy Malibu her husband drove struck a six-point buck on northbound I-275 near the I-696 entrance ramp Oct. 15. Last week, another deer-car accident occurred on Inkster Road. No one was injured.

At 1:35 a.m., a Southfield woman driving a 1997

Mazda hit a deer crossing Northwestern Highway near 13 Mile. The driver told police she did not see the animal until she struck it.

Police moved the severely injured deer from the road and had to destroy the animal.

Police note that deer-vehicle accidents increase this time of year due to mating season. Naturalist Joe Derok estimates the deer population could be as high as 100 in Farmington Hills, which has two nature parks and several wooded areas.

Thief makes off with loot from Hills video store

A bold thief made off with \$3,000 in cash and receipts after breaking into a Farmington Hills video store during business hours Sunday.

Between 10 a.m. and 11 p.m., someone pried open the door lock on a back office of Video Event

on 12 Mile. The burglar stole envelopes containing personal checks and credit card receipts. Employees pushed the envelopes under the locked office door throughout the weekend.

On Monday, a manager saw the pry marks and noticed the

envelopes missing. Two envelopes from Sunday's receipts were still on the floor.

The manager believes the thief got into the back through an "employee only" door near the video showroom.



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