

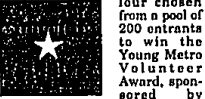


Mayoral meeting: Dave Kinchen (center) and Todd Lipa, youth and family services program director, meet with Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates on Tuesday afternoon at City Hall.

Hills student, 17, gets Young Metro Volunteer award from United Way

By KATHIE O'DONOHUE
SPECIAL WRITER

Seventeen-year-old Farmington Hills resident David Kinchen was surprised when he was one of four chosen from a pool of 200 entrants to win the Young Metro Volunteer Award, sponsored by United Way.



Kinchen received his award at the Celebrate Volunteer Luncheon held recently at Cobo Hall.

Kinchen was nominated for the award by the Commission on Children, Youth and Families. In his letter of recommendation to the selection committee, Todd Lipa, program director of Farmington Hills Area Youth and Family Services, states: "David personifies and promotes the spirit of this award through his service to the community in which he lives through his leadership and the shining example he presents to his peers and children, through his commitment to using the media to assist youth in communicating with each other and to inform citizens of what is important to

youth, and most importantly, by being a young man of highest character: humble, caring, conscientious and involved as a volunteer. In addition, David's many efforts are now reaching a national level."

This Harrison High Junior served on the Youth Task Team of the Farmington Hills Youth and Family Services; is a youth representative on the Commission on Children, Youth & Families, is the sole youth representative on the Southwestern Cable Commission, represented the City of Farmington Hills at the National League of Cities Conference in Kansas City and is a member of the Youth Advisory Board.

Responsibilities are many

He produces and hosts a monthly, award-winning cable show called Teen-Age which promotes discussion of timely issues affecting teens. His program reaches over 100,000 homes a month in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia and Novi. One of his shows dealt with smoking and the effects of tobacco, a hot topic in this age group and society in general. In addition, Kinchen works as a student freelance writer.

Lipa also says of Kinchen:

"David is a very unassuming individual. When asked, he does not even think about the hours that he volunteers to his community. He feels that this is just his responsibility and a way to give back to the community in which he lives. He also takes on extra responsibility at home since the death of his father in 1991."

Kinchen explains his role on the Commission: "I am chairman of the publicity commission. We provide a youth perspective on how teens feel about things. For example, after the Columbine incident last year, we worked on 'Can it happen here? We speak for our generation, and advise on issues.' In many ways, Kinchen and his youth colleagues work in a liaison capacity with city government and other agencies within the community.

Kinchen's mother, Veda, describes David's achievements as "a really great honor." While proud of her son, she admits: "There are a lot of people out there who are just as deserving."

She adds that it's "really nice to see a lot of teen volunteers out there. And kids ask David how to get involved. Many want to, but they're not sure how."

Kinchen relates that his

experience influence friends and others around him through his efforts, and states he is able to help "a lot of people (who) want to get involved with the cable show. For instance, or with the youth commission."

Creating stronger effect

"With youth involvement, it creates a stronger effect than without them," Kinchen adds.

"It's important to volunteer," Kinchen offers, "because it gives you a chance to realize what unhidden talents you may have. You learn to make great contacts and get more experience. For teens, it's intergenerational and brings cultures together as well."

A career in broadcast journalism and political science may be in store for Kinchen who enjoys following news and politics. He is an honor roll student who says he loves music, "especially rock and roll," and plays guitar.

While it may take time to get things going, Kinchen says, "volunteering is definitely worthwhile. It's a win-win situation. There's nothing better than giving back to your community."

"If everyone started volunteering, the world would be a much better place."

Sponsors made annual Arts Fest great success

Several sponsors made the annual Farmington Festival of the Arts a success.

Corporate sponsors, donating at least \$500, include the Farmington Area Arts Commission, Farmington Hills special services, Farmington Public Schools, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, Merrill Lynch, Northwest Gazette, Silk Garden and Costick Activities Center.

Patron sponsors, contributing \$250, include the Farmington Artist Club, Farmington Community Band, Farmington Community Chorus, Ellen and David Kendall, and the Farmington PTA Council.

Friends of the Arts, \$100 or more donation: ATL Plant and Flowers, ATT, Farmington Community Library, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, HALL, MAC/Northville, J. Howard Nudell architect, MetroBank, Cal and Rosemary Oppenheimer and David and Sara Woolard.

Supporter of the arts (\$50) were Paul and Leo Bliman.

Markovich, Jim Patterson, Pam Schultes, Marvel Steiger, Cheryl True and Sara Woolard.

Starry night backers

Financial support for the Gala Preview "Starry Night" came from Beth's Treasures, Chocolate Dream Shop, Colonial Oil Exchange, Contemporary Awards, Bill Cook, Country Epicure, Credit Union One, Bev Ellis, Farmington Bakery, Farmington Civic Theatre, Farmington Musicals, Farmington Players, Focal Point Studio, Georgia Gifts, John Olick, Gordon Food Service, Great Frame Up, Great Harvest Bread, Elaine Grohman Studio, Hammill Music, Larry Hayden, Holiday Inn of Farmington, Edes Joppich, Barry K and Local Color Brewing Co.

Also supporting the gala were Longacre House, Lord & Taylor, Macaroni Grill, Meadowbrook Arts Center, Meijer, Michigan Star Clipper, Miller Art Supply, Alice Nichols, Northville Rocky's, Novi-8 Theaters, On the Border, and Oria Jewellers.

Other sponsors include Outback Steakhouse, Page's Food & Spirits, Robert Piepenberg, state Rep. Andrew Raczowski, Target, Equipment Leasing, Ruby Tuesdays, Silk Garden, Kegan Taxian, United Artists Theater, Howard Weingarden, Wildbirds Unlimited, and the law firm of Monaghan, LoForte, McDonald, Yakima and Grenke.

Kudos to committee

The Festival of the Arts committee spent hours putting the program together. Committee members are May Arvo, Paul Barber, Bob Brewer, Robb Clarkson, Nancy Coumoundouros, Dixie Doerr, Ellen Kendall, Jo

BORDERS EVENTS

Borders Books and Music in Farmington Hills offers the following events for the month of May. They include:

7 p.m. Monday, May 22 - Gardener's Discussion Group. Learn how to turn your back yard into a natural habitat for wildlife. Master gardener Peggy Malnati, an advocate for organic gardening, will provide you with extensive information on creating a haven for wildlife, be they butterflies and birds, toads and frogs, snakes and bats, or even larger animals. Peggy will also discuss the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program from the

National Wildlife Federation and how you can get your own back yard certified.

7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25 - Creative Writing Workshop. Be a part of this extremely popular group of budding writers. This continuing monthly series of events is designed to help develop your writing skills and creativity. All ages are welcome to participate in this monthly encounter with words.

Events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 737-0110. Borders is located at 30995 Orchard Lake Road.

Spring tea at Warner Mansion slated as a June 3 fund-raiser

Everyone is invited to attend a spring tea on the veranda of the historic Governor Warner Mansion, 33805 Grand River in Farmington from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 3.

It is a fund-raiser for the mansion, which houses the community's historical museum.

Hostesses will be the Ladies of the Quakertown Questers. Finger sandwiches, scones and

desserts will be served with the tea. There will be a narration on the customs of tea.

Door prizes will be awarded. Guests are encouraged to wear hats, gloves and carry pretty handkerchiefs (though this is optional). Cost is \$15. Tables will be set for eight. Come with friends or meet new ones.

Seating is limited. To purchase tickets call Ellen at 471-6734.

Hospice Home seeks helpers

Farmington Hills Hospice Home provides excellent end of life care for residents in a home-like environment.

Volunteers fill many roles at the Hospice Home and are an essential part of the patient care team.

Opportunities to assist at the

reception desk or with patient companionship are available.

Hospice of Michigan provides a comprehensive orientation and training program for all volunteers.

If interested, please call Linda Smith at (248) 559-3195 at Hospice of Michigan.

Skating party on weekend to benefit Leukemia Society

On Saturday, May 20, and Sunday, May 21, there will be a Skating Party hosted by Bonaventure Skating Center in Farmington Hills to benefit the

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America. Skate sessions and ticket prices are as follows:

Saturday matinee skate from 1-4 p.m., \$8; Saturday family

skate 5-7:30 p.m., \$5 (ticket price includes standard skate rental); Sunday matinee skate 1-4 p.m., \$6.

Two dollars from each ticket

sold is donated to the Leukemia Society. Bonaventure Skating Center is located near Grand River and Halsted. Call (248) 476-2201 for more information.

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