

Hills teen center re-opens

Area teens say they like the remodeled teen center at the Farnington Hills foe Arena on Eight Mill. New floors, drywall, paint and additional room has been added to the make the upstairs level of the arena more inviting to teens in the after-school program.

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Most said having a place to
be with friends after school
was the best part of visiting the center. They don't mind the free

They don't mind the free entertainment, either. A pool table, foosball, two hockey table games and two video game systems as well as free ice skating time, provide entertainment. Rosalle Rudski is the site supervisor. She said participation has increased since the facility reopened. It was closed briefly while remodeling took place.

"We expect to see the numbers increase," she said, adding the center will soon open up on weekend nights. The center is run through the Youth and Family Services after-school program.

Youth Director Todd Lina

gram.
Youth Director Todd Lipa sald some features like a food area and more furniture are

Jam Pile! Almays ready to pose for a picture: Arie! Isble, Emily Leonard, Kevin Leonard, Katle Amanda Hill. Marshall Walker, Valerie Mace, Ashley Stevens, Stephanie Schummer and



still to come. A mid-March grand opening ceremony is planned.

Usually about 60 teens visit the center on an after-school basis.

Lipa said teens told him they would like to use the rooms on weekends and as a safe place to simply hang out.

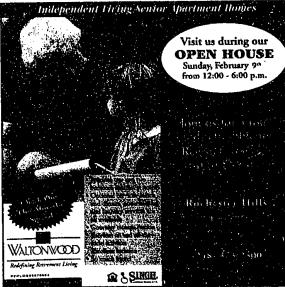
CVS.

Several students from Power Middle School sald they liked the remodeled area and missed being able to visit when it was closed for two weeks.

Valente Mare, 12, said being with her friends and listening to the radio is her favorite part of the teen center.

a sate place to simply must out. He said the main room, a 3,000 square feet, over-looks the two ice rinks, and an adjoining, 1,000-square foet room was added. Helping spearhead the renovation was a \$23,000 the said qutors also donation from the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation and a \$10,000 grant from





Newspaper's Web site notes record usage in January

Hometownlife.com, the por-tal web site for The Farmington Observer, registered record usage for the month of January 2003, according to Dan Sutton, HomeTown Digital general

manager.
Total site hits for the month were 12,062,111, up more than 50 percent from December, while total site page views were 2,165,140, up more than 40

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A more meaningful statistic, according to Sutton, is the total number of unique visits to Hometownlife.com. In January, 2003, the site registered 334,806 visits, up 20.3 percent from the previous month. To see usage gains of this sort on our site is unprecedented, said Sutton. We are offering a site that brings to Web users the very best of our local hometown newspapers and elephone directories, together with the 24x7, fully searchable capability of the Web. This is obviously very attractive to our audience."

Hometownlife com is the main Web presence for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

It includes local news items from The Farmington Observer, as well as classified ads and retail advertising from the paper.

The site also includes fully searchable lists of advertising from the other 40-plus community newspapers in Michigan published by HomeTown Communications Network, and as well searchable ads from telephone directories published by sister company, Michigan Directory Co.

The site offers links to help wanted ads placed by employers in HomeTown newspapers. Total help wanted ads viewed in January were 196,318, a 70 percent increase from the previous month, according to Sutton.

"At a time when lots of people

vious month, according to Sutton.

"At a time when lots of people are looking for good jobs, thelp wanted advertising on our site offers lots of local jobs, right around the corner, he said.

said.
The site also offers up to date real estate offered for sale, downloaded regularly from the MultiListService computer files. For January, a total of 2,270,340 views of MLS real

estate search results were logged onto Hometowniife.com. A total of 227,034 detailed listing views were registered in January (a 34 percent increase from the previous month) and a total of 15,337 (p) 1,023 from December) unkque detailed MrS listings were viewed by Web users interested in shopping for a home. Sutton said. Hometowniife.com also offers (in the section called Yellow Pages*) ads from HomeTown Directory Co.'s local Michigan telephone directories; a total of 71,846 site page views were registered in January, up more than 12 percent from December. January views of news items selected from HomeTown community newspapers were 60,542, up more than 20 percent from the previous month.

In addition to maintaining the HomeTown Digital offers custom web design services. Lord and eBrochures. The company may be reached at 1+800-999-4614 or at support@hometownlife.com

