

Safety Town

Graduates mark a special day



Dyane Brettberg (left), Lee Cohn and Lori Schram gather around instructor Brigitta Sterk (center) as she explains the meaning of different

traffic signs. In the photo below, Lee Cohn keeps time to the songs with his whistle.

Graduation was a solemn occasion for Joe Reidl as Heather Stone-man (below) waits for her diploma.



The graduates looked a trifle young, but well educated none the less in the ways of road traffic.

The occasion was graduation from Safety Town, a preschool course sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department.

Safety Town is a minitown built on Sitawasse Recreation Center's blacktop, complete with stop signs and traffic signals and Big Wheels traffic.

Children learn safety through participation and demonstrations. Instruction includes pedestrian, motorist, bus, stranger, police, fire, railroad crossings, bicycle, drugs, home safety information and time for general play.

Movies, songs, and a bus trip to the fire department along with practice training are part of the Safety Town program.

The course is two weeks long. It meets five days a week, two hours a day. It's specially designed for children about to enter kindergarten. All other 4- to 6-year-olds will be accepted.

The program is co-sponsored by the Farmington Hills police. It costs \$22. That price includes a T-shirt and a diploma.

Sessions are scheduled to begin July 20 (morning and afternoon) and Aug. 3 afternoon. For registration information, call the parks and recreation office at 474-6115.



Staff photos by Randy Borst

INSIDE ANGLES

THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT of the Farmington Hills police headquarters is aglow these days with photos and a letter from none other than James Garner, straight from Rockford Files and Polaroid One-Step fame. The owner of the Garner shrine is secretary Lavonne Roberts, whose heart is aflutter for the Hollywood actor. Her friend in the police records bureau is responsible for the Garner goodies. Dorothy Gala wrote fan letters to Garner twice in her shy friend's behalf. Although Garner didn't respond to first letter, last year, Gala didn't give up. She wrote again this year and two weeks ago Garner sent a letter and photo to Roberts, who promptly framed and hung them above her desk.

Although Roberts wants to know what her good buddy plans to do for an encore, such as arrange a personal visit, maybe, Gala assured her that the ball is now in her court and any further correspondence will have to come from the fan herself.

THE NATIONAL LAMPOON'S newest irreverent reporter, Al Jean of Farmington Hills (a Harrison High School and Harvard University graduate) found last week that a youthful appearance has its drawbacks. The 20-year-old staff writer was moving into his Madison Ave. office and got hassled by a mailroom clerk who mistook Jean for a Lampon groupie. But alas, Jean is settled into his new work world digs and his new apartment, a converted factory building on Broadway.

AFTER COMPILING AN unusual number of ribbons, each for an area of expertise, Lois Bro and Eve Edwards, teachers in the Farmington Community Center, will combine efforts to form a company that will make reproductions of antique dolls. Bro sculpts faces, arms and legs, and designs period costuming. Edwards creates dolls in porcelain bisque and china. The women's first combined effort was entered in international competition sponsored by Doll Artist Guild, and they walked away from that with third prize.

SENIOR CITIZENS NEW to the Farmington area and interested in attending the Gathering Place at Mercy Center, 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads, will now have the benefit of an official welcoming committee. On July 16 at 10:30 a.m. (and on every other Thursday thence) the welcoming committee will meet under the guidance of Cella Chaplin, who was trained at the Institute of Gerontology at the University of Michigan. The group will be discussing the senior program and what it can offer you. It will highlight both quiet activities

and busy active times. Also, it lets seniors know what services they can offer — from sewing gowns for newborns to delivering homebound meals. Seniors can sing, dance, paint, teach, visit, craft, read and do other activities. All seniors are welcome.

ARTHRITIS CAN BE a real pain, and now Harper Hospital and the Wayne State University School of Medicine are teaming up to sponsor a series of free monthly classes on the crippling ailment. The first session will be Saturday, July 25, at 10 a.m. in the Kresge Auditorium at Harper Hospital, 3900 John R., in the Detroit Medical Center. Arthritis: Myths and Realities will be discussed by Robin May, director of special services for the Arthritis Foundation's New York chapter. The second session on Aug. 20 will cover arthritis and nutrition. The series is geared to the general public's understanding in arthritis and allow time for questions. Reservations can be made by calling 494-9082 during business hours. Free parking is available in front of the hospital.

KUDOS TO DR. JAY H. Ellens, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and a resident of Farmington Hills who completed two weeks of active duty at the National Defense University as a moderator for the defense strategy course. The course, held annually since 1959, is a professional military education program for senior reserve and National Guard component officers. It focuses on the study of national security. Ellens first attended the course in 1979. He is one of 24 former course participants chosen to return as a moderator. Ellens is a professor, pastor and psychotherapist.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES are hopping, reports the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation office. The second session of Camp Rainbow, a day camp for mild to moderately handicapped youth, is getting under way July 13 and will run to Friday, July 17 at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus. Tuesday, July 14, is the departments second planned trip to the wave pool of Oakland County. Registration takes place at Longacre, Gill and Flanders playground sites.

The portion of the Metro Youth Olympics, the portion of the Metro Youth Fitness Meet, will be Thursday, July 16, at North Farmington High School athletic field beginning at 5:45 p.m. Kids between 8 and 15 are eligible to participate. Registration for the Founder's Festival Softball and Tennis tournaments are also under way. For more information on any activities, call the recreation office at 474-6115.



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