

Farmington Observer

Volume 98 Number 46

Monday, March 18, 1985

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-five cents

Teens join forces to halt drunk driving

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Not too long ago, it was "cool" for teen-agers to drink with their buddies and automatically hop into the car for a drive.

That scenario isn't totally absent in today's high schools. But if what teachers, students and parents are noticing is on the mark, attitudes are changing.

Today, many high school students will say it's the "cool" kids who warn their friends about having a beer too many. Or it's the "cool" kids who refuse to accept a ride home from one of their friends who has had too much to drink.

Although there are no tables of statistics to prove otherwise, many who are in the know about today's high school students attribute much of the changing attitudes to a growing organization called SADD — Students Against Drunk Driving.

"What's happening is the climate in the schools is changing," said Sarah Smith Hogg, a SADD adviser for the Macomb County Schools, who spoke last week at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills to representatives from 14 area schools.

THE STUDENTS from schools in Farmington, Northville, Novi, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Livonia and South Lyon met to discuss and exchange ideas for their respective SADD chapters.

"We started looking into what could be done (about drinking and driving)," said Maria Schneider, Harrison student council and SADD adviser.

Students at Harrison who were helping form the SADD chapter asked

Channel 7 news anchor Bill Bonds to serve as the chapter's honorary chairman.

Because of poor health though, Bonds declined but not without giving Schneider and students the idea to have a high school conference.

What the conference did was bring together some speakers — a police officer, MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) and SADD officials, and honorary chairman Free Press columnist Bob Talbert — and provide

an opportunity for students to exchange ideas.

SADD chapters become "a regular high school club" complete with student activities and projects — all designed to educate fellow classmates about drinking and driving, Hogg said.

And because parents have always known that children don't listen to them, Hogg said, SADD has become a vehicle where "students take care of their own."

"The real power comes student to student," Hogg told students last week. "The focus of SADD is to get you home safely."

FOUNDED SEVERAL years ago by Bob Anastas, SADD has four goals:

- To help eliminate the drunk driver and save lives.
- To alert high school students to the dangers of drinking and driving.
- To conduct community alcohol awareness programs.

awareness programs.

• To organize peer counseling programs to help students who may have concerns about alcohol.

A key element of the SADD organization is a contract to be filled out by students and parents. The contract states that should the teen-ager be unable to drive home they will call their parents. SADD also provides a contract between friends called "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk."

In a letter to parents that accompanies the student-parent contract, Anastas writes, "I believe that if our children realize that they can and should call us if they are ever faced with a drinking-driving situation, this does not condone the illegal use of alcohol on their part."

"It does, however, show that our love for our children and their love for us is strong enough to combat any obstacle that may force them to challenge death."

One of the perhaps most important underlying currents in the SADD organizations is communication, according to Hogg. That includes communication between parent and teen-ager and teen-ager to teen-ager.

A teen's enemy: Drunk driving

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills Officer Tim Conner makes no bones about what he faces at the scene of an accident.

"I'm the one who is called to your accident. I'm the one who has to call your parents," Conner said, introducing himself to students at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills last week.

The students represented 14 area high schools which either have or are considering forming Students Against

Driving Drunk (SADD) chapters.

While other speakers spoke to the success of groups such as SADD and MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers), Conner presented students with the facts about drunk driving.

"The presentation today comes at an appropriate time," Conner said, referring to the traffic deaths a week ago of two West Bloomfield sisters who attended Merry High School.

Drinking and driving is "your age group's number-one killer," Conner said. "You are the ones who are dying. And the statistics don't indicate

the injury accidents. Those people are just innumerable."

And the statistics bear out that drinking and driving is a number-one problem among the young.

IN 1984, for example, 128 people were killed in traffic accidents in Oakland County, according to Bruce Madsen, director of the Oakland County Traffic Improvement Association.

Of the 128 people killed, 28 of those were in the 15-19 years of age category

and 24 in the 20-24 age group, he said.

"These two categories by far, far are the highest. They are disproportionately high," Madsen said.

Another set of statistics categorized by the ages of the drinking driver reveal that only one driver age 16 or younger was involved in a fatal accident in Oakland County in 1984. But three 17-year-old drivers were involved in fatal accidents, Madsen said.

Please turn to Page 2

Please turn to Page 2

Street paving loses

By Julie Brown
staff writer

A second attempt to win city council approval for the Metroview paving project failed at last week's Farmington Hills Council meeting.

City legislators rejected 3-2 a proposal to establish a special assessment district for the street. A special assessment allows the city to tax residents living along the roadway for the paving. Voting in favor of the proposal were Mayor Jan Dolan and Councilmember Joan Dudley.

Council members had rejected the proposal at the Feb. 19 meeting. But following that meeting, the city was contacted by John Uznis, the developer of the nearby Green Hill Commons. Uznis offered to increase his expenditure on the paving to \$40,000, nearly three times the original amount he had been willing to pay.

"He re-evaluated his position," City Manager William Costick told the council.

THE UZNIS proposal reduced the residents' share of the cost by \$530, but also increased the city's share by \$4,300, from \$81,500 to \$85,800.

"We were surprised by the action of the city council in not establishing a special assessment district," Uznis told the council members at the Monday meeting.

As part of his most recent offer, Uznis stipulated that Metroview be extended from Eight Mile Road to Colfax Road during the 1985 paving season. Previously, the project had called for paving from Eight Mile Road to Green Hill Road.

A barricade now stands at the end of Green Hill Road at Metroview Road. "We certainly feel as a city policy we should not allow barricades to exist," Costick told the council.

Please turn to Page 3



RANDY BOSTER/staff photographer

Getting some pointers

Ice Capades skater Judy Gatlin of Rochester helps Eric McClain of Garden City learn to balance on his skates in preparation for the Special

Olympics. Turn to page 3 for a story about professionals teaching kids to skate.

Youth killed in shootout with police

By Julie Brown
staff writer

An 18-year-old Detroit man was fatally shot by a police officer during an armed robbery attempt Thursday in Farmington Hills.

Courrell Peterson was one of three suspects in the attempted robbery of the Taco Bell at 2740 Grand River Ave. He died shortly after 11 p.m. at Boistford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

The robbery attempt occurred at approximately 9:30 p.m. Thursday, said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer. The Taco Bell and the nearby Wendy's, on Eight Mile Road, had been under surveillance by the police department for the past three weeks, due to several armed robberies at the restaurants.

"They had been assigned to this surveillance operation," Dwyer said. Plainclothes officers in unmarked cars, members of the Special Patrol Operational Team, were observing the area.

"They had been directed to keep both of these operations under surveillance," the police chief said.

The Taco Bell has been held up three times recently (Jan. 9, Jan. 16, and Thursday), while the Wendy's had been held up twice, on Jan. 16 and again on Feb. 19.

"WE FELT these two restaurants would be held up again, possibly by the same people who had held them up before," Dwyer said.

At 9:30 p.m., Officer Charles Hub-

bard, a six-year veteran of the department, received a radio communication from Officer William Michaluk.

Michaluk had seen a 1970 blue Chevy Nova with three persons turn onto Colwell from Grand River Ave. Two of the suspects were then seen walking south on Colwell toward the Taco Bell.

Hubbard received the radio communication from Michaluk and continued the surveillance. He saw three persons look into the restaurant's windows and then enter the Taco Bell.

One of the two was seen by Hubbard pointing a nickel-plated handgun at the restaurant employees, Dwyer said.

Hubbard, upon watching the robbery attempt, radioed other surveillance officers. He also notified the department's dispatcher, requesting assistance from uniformed officers.

Hubbard used his car to block the restaurant driveway.

"He positioned his car in the middle of the street," said Inspector Richard Niemisto. Peterson had a handgun in one hand and a bag in the other.

"Hubbard told them to halt several times and identified himself," Niemisto said.

THE TWO suspects continued east on foot, between two houses. Peterson reportedly pointed the handgun at Hubbard.

Hubbard fired two shots at Peterson, who continued east for a few steps and then again pointed his gun at the officer. Hubbard again fired his gun twice.

Please turn to Page 3

Sign of spring — dust control

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Farmington Hills will spend \$161,122 on dust control for unpaved roads this year.

City council members authorized the expenditure in a 5-0 vote at last Monday's meeting. The expense will be born by all owners of property abutting public unpaved roads.

Bids for this year's dust-control pro-

gram were opened Feb. 12. The lowest bid for liquid calcium chloride was received from Michigan Chloride Sales Inc. That bid was 30 cents per gallon (58-percent calcium chloride), with a slightly lower price for 35-percent calcium chloride. The total estimated cost, including application, is \$135,000.

The lowest bid for asphalt emulsion was received from Highway Maintenance and Construction Inc., at \$1.42 per gallon. The total estimated cost, in-

cluding application, is \$113,360.

"We have asked for an assessment rate to be applied on a per-application basis," Dan Rooney, assistant to the director of public services, told the council.

The per-application cost for the calcium chloride will be 6.3 cents per foot of abutting unpaved roadway, not to exceed five applications. The per-application cost for the asphalt emulsion program will be 8.1 cents per foot of

abutting roadway, not to exceed six applications.

"IT REALLY isn't more work than we've had in the past," Rooney told the council. Although assessments will be made on a per-application basis, property owners will receive a single billing.

Before the vote, several people spoke

Please turn to Page 3

what's inside

Community Calendar . . . 7A
Letters 4A
Oral Quarrel 4A
Shopping Cart . . . Section C
Sports Section B
Suburban Life 5, 6B
NEWSLINE 477-5450
HOME DELIVERY . 691-0500
CLASSIFIED ADS . 691-0900



RECRUITMENT
HELP WANTED
Classified Advertising
Begins in SECTION C
of today's paper.