



Evelyn Kaplan (right), a Gill second-grade teacher, escorts Timothy Rais (second from left), an 8-year-old Gill student, and to the gym. Freddy Young (far left), a Focus: Hope preschooler from Detroit, and to the gym.

Focus on friends

Gill opens doors to Focus:HOPE students

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington teacher Evelyn Kaplan took the giving spirit beyond the holiday season this year and turned it into one of "sharing and caring."

Some 18 preschoolers and six teachers and aides from Focus:HOPE in Detroit came to Gill Elementary, at Kaplan's invitation, for a morning of camaraderie, singalongs and lunch last week.

"The kids were like magnets," said Kaplan, a veteran teacher who handles both first and second

graders at the Farmington Hills elementary school. The students worked in a buddy system so there could be more one-on-one sharing.

"Sharing and caring has been my theme this year, and we're going to continue it," Kaplan added. "If we teach kids to get along with kids, we won't have the problems of the world."

The school's partnership with Focus:HOPE began last fall, when Kaplan's students participated in the Gift of Reading program, in which they purchased and swapped books and those the Focus:HOPE preschoolers as their recipients. The Gill students traveled down-

town just before Christmas to present their gift of books.

THE RETURN trip last week was a continuation of the new friendship, and was aided by a \$200 grant from the Gill PTA, which paid for the bus to bring the children to Farmington Hills.

"To help make the Focus:HOPE children feel at home, Gill students learned and performed "The World is a Rainbow," a song which the Focus:HOPE youngsters sang last fall when Gill students visited them. Students sang songs, did an art project, went to gym class together, spent playtime outside,

then ate lunch together.

The visit involved more than Kaplan's students, as staff and other students got into the act, Kaplan said. Two fifth graders videotaped the entire 3½-hour visit.

Kaplan said she hopes to have the relationships continue, and began that effort this week by having her students write to their "buddies" at Focus:HOPE. She also plans to schedule one more field trip to visit their new friends this school year.

"The world is in a tough state of affairs," Kaplan added. "If we can't care for one another, then who can?"

Raid on home yields drugs; 9 are ticketed

Nine people were ticketed for loitering or possessing drugs after Farmington Hills police executed a search warrant at a house on Tulane Friday night.

Five men were charged with loitering in a place of illegal occupation. One of these men also was charged with possessing marijuana. Four women were charged with possessing cocaine.

All were released pending their appearance in 47th District Court in Farmington on misdemeanor charges. They face up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine if convicted.

The suspects ranged in age from 20 to 61. Four lived at the Tulane address. The others were from Farmington, Wixom, South Lyon or Novi.

Armed with a warrant signed by visiting District Judge Carl Ingraham of Farmington, officers

searched the house at 9 p.m. Friday. Tips of narcotics trafficking at the house led to the search warrant. The investigation began three months ago, said Sgt. Charles Nebus, Farmington Hills Police Department Detective Section supervisor.

"ON ENTRY, we observed, in plain view, marijuana, cocaine and drug paraphernalia," Nebus said. Police seized small quantities of cocaine and marijuana with a total street value of about \$500. They also seized more than \$5,000 in cash under drug forfeiture statutes.

Seized paraphernalia included scales, wrappers, cutters, cutting agents and drug transaction records.

"We're theorizing that based on the amount of money on the premises and the amount of items seized, a majority of the products had already been sold earlier that day," Nebus said.

Schools warn of solicitation

A union representing Detroit police officers is not soliciting for money on behalf of Farmington Public Schools, officials said this week.

Representatives of the Detroit Police Officers Association have contacted several residents in the Farmington area, soliciting for money for a brochure entitled "Children and Drugs — The Next Generation."

According to one resident, the caller represented himself on behalf of the school district.

"This is not in any way affiliated with the Farmington Public Schools," said Pamela O'Malley, director of school/community relations.

PARENTS FROM Warner Middle School are soliciting local businesses for donations to a drug information program at the school, but O'Malley said this is not related in any way.

Residents interested in helping with Farmington school drug programs should contact individual schools, she said.

Betty Nicolay, one of the founders of Farmington Families in Action, which coordinates drug education in the schools, said she had followed up on the DPOA call. She was told the solicitor had been terminated for misrepresenting himself.

Athlete's death may be suicide, says husband

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

The husband of a former Farmington Hills woman who died of cyanide poisoning after taking part in a four-mile New Year's eve run on Detroit's Belle Isle thinks his wife may have committed suicide.

Allen Scafuri, a former Wayne State University economics professor now teaching at the University of Washington in Seattle, said he first suspected someone had tampered with his wife's non-prescription antihistamines, which she took to fight allergy symptoms.

Now, he said, he believes his wife — Marga Siya, 43, of Winslow, Wash. — may have committed suicide.

"The last thing she said was, 'I'm having an asthma attack brought on by the exercises,'" said Scafuri, 44. But, he said, she did not suffer from asthma.

Detroit police are examining the contents of a vial of white powder found in Siya's gym bag. Scafuri said he found the vial in the gym bag of his wife after her death.

Winslow Police Chief John Sutton

said he sent the vial of powder to Detroit detectives Jan. 23.

STYA WAS a healthy, competitive triathlete and a senior staff scientist at Bainbridge Laboratories in Bainbridge Island, Wash. She was doing well professionally but had always been troubled by mood swings, her husband said.

Her brother, Fred Schaatzma, said she seemed fine during her holiday visit to the Detroit area. The couple formerly lived at Village Green Condominiums in Farmington Hills.

But Scafuri's mother, Marie Scafuri, said Siya seemed sullen when she had her son and daughter-in-law over for Christmas dinner.

Detroit police have ruled out product tampering. They are investigating Siya's death as a homicide. There are no suspects.

Siya collapsed in a Detroit restaurant near Belle Isle Dec. 31, about a half hour after she became sick and about two hours after her husband took part in the Little Caesars New Year's Eve Family Fun Run.

STYA WAS having coffee with her husband and four friends after run-

ning in the race. Her bloodstream contained traces of cyanide and no other drugs, according to the Wayne County medical examiner's office.

The Detroit Health Department checked the restaurant's coffee, cream and sugar, but none of them showed evidence of cyanide. The fast-acting poison starves body tissues of oxygen.

Siya, dedicated to developing antibodies that could lead to early detection of lung cancer, moved to Washington in 1985 after accepting a medical research position. Two years later, the Netherlands native and former Royal Oak resident joined Bainbridge Laboratories.

Since their marriage 3½ years ago, Siya and her husband commuted between Washington and Michigan.

To end their commuter lifestyle, Scafuri accepted a teaching position in the economics department of the University of Washington. He was scheduled to start his new job Jan. 2. His wife's death delayed the start, but he's now in Seattle.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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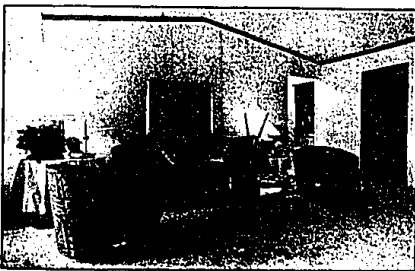
Tucked behind a yet-to-be-completed office building, a new Farmington apartment complex is aiming at renters who want a few extras.

Farmington Oaks Apartments was developed with the office building fronting it, as a Planned Unit Development — a special zoning given by the city. It is just one of many developments that have sprung up in the city of Farmington during the past year. It sits just beyond the Farmington Crossroads shopping center at Nine Mile and Farmington Road.

The parcel was originally zoned for office space, but will now offer offices plus 105 new apartments.

Featuring passenger elevators, emergency medical alarms in each apartment, a club lounge, an indoor mail room and a nature walk, co-owner and Farmington Hills developer David Gumenick said he was aiming for a "different kind of concept" at Farmington Oaks.

"IT'S TOTALLY unique — there's nothing like it in this area," Gumenick said. "We spent a lot of time designing it — and tried to think of everything. What we're trying to do is upscale everything."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Elevators, emergency medical alarm systems and vaulted ceilings are a few of the amenities in the newly built Farmington Oaks Apartments.

Gumenick sees the new units and their layouts appealing to retirees who might just be moving from a family house. Property manager Ron Roy of the Farmington Hills-

based Bemco/Berick said many of the apartments appeal to "older people who are beginning to room together, but they still want that privacy. Younger people also like this type of option," he added.