

Around Farmington

All announcements for this column must be mailed to Around Farmington, Observer, 3302 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Deadline is noon Monday for the Thursday publication and noon Thursday for the Monday publication. Requests for announcements will not be taken over the phone.

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, Aug. 31: Red Cross Bloodmobile receives donors from 8-9 p.m. in Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 3390 13 Mile Road. For appointments call Deven Richardson, 661-8135.

G.E.D.

Thursday, Aug. 31: Registration taken by G.E.D. (General Education Development) preparation classes from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays in Clarenceville Community Education Office, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia. Classes offered free of charge.

PALS

Thursday, Aug. 31: Screening for PALS, a preschool class for Potentially Able Learners who will be eligible for kindergarten in the fall of 1990, continues throughout the month in Early Childhood Center, 30415 Shilawasee. Appointments are made by calling the school, 477-3716.

CAR WASH

Saturday, Sept. 2: Car wash from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the parking lot of Antioch Lutheran Church, corner of Farmington Road and 13 Mile.

LABOR DAY ROUND-UP

Monday, Sept. 4: Franklin Community Association's annual Labor Day Round-Up opens at 10 a.m. with art on the Green; parade down Franklin Road begins at noon followed by the opening of the midway games, horse show, bake contest until 6 p.m.

CASTING CALL

Tuesday, Sept. 5: Open audition for Farmington Players' production of "Mr. Roberts" at 7 p.m. in the Players' Barn, 32332 12 Mile Road. Inquiries taken by calling the Players' box office, 538-1670.

MADRIGAL AUDITIONS

Tuesday through Thursday, Sept. 5-7: Auditions for The Madrigal Chorus' next season in Southfield-Lakrup High School's music room, 12 Mile Road between Evergreen and Southfield Road. Audition times are arranged by calling Pat Dunsing, 446-2937.

SIGN LANGUAGE

Wednesday, Sept. 6: Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced American Sign Language students begin at 7 p.m. in Our Lady of Loreto School, corner of Six Mile and Beech Daly. Registration information is available by calling the school, 542-4866.

TRAVEL FILMS

Wednesday, Sept. 6: "Brazil," "The Amazon Frontier" and "The Caribbean" open Fall Travel Films Series at 7:30 p.m. in Farmington Branch Library, 23500 Liberty Street. No charge.

BRIDAL FASHIONS

Thursday, Sept. 7: Fall and winter bridal gowns and bridal party attire shown at 7 p.m. in Jacobson's Designer Salon, Livonia. No charge, but reservations are requested by calling 591-7695, ext. 233.

BALLET, JAZZ, TAP

Thursday, Sept. 7: Registration for ballet, jazz and tap dancing taken from 9 a.m. to noon and from 4-7 p.m. in The Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Dance instruction by Barbara Burgess and Shirley St. Mary begins Sept. 18 in the center. In-person registration continues Sept. 11.

CHORUS AUDITIONS

Thursday, Sept. 7: Plymouth Com-

munity Center auditions for all male and female voice parts at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of the Risen Christ, Ann Arbor and McComplia Road, Plymouth Township. Inquiries taken by Tom Otender, 453-7389 at home; or 323-7961 at work.

CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE

Friday, Sept. 8: "The Sensation of Contemporary Furniture," collection from four contemporary furniture artists, opens with a reception for artist Dale Broholm from 5-7 p.m. at Artpark Services, 31505 Grand River through Door 10.

COMEDY ON THE HILL

Friday, Sept. 8: "Comedy on the Hill," stand-up comedians and polished acts add up to a night of humor at 7 p.m. in The Community Center's outdoor amphitheater, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Tickets are \$5 at the gate. Guests must bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

BREAKFAST AND FASHIONS

Saturday, Sept. 9: Misses Dresses Fashion Show for career women, versatile and after five dressing with breakfast at 9:45 a.m. in Jacobson's Livonia. Reservations are \$3.50, made by calling 591-7695, ext. 269.

STREETSIDE LIVE

Saturday, Sept. 9: "StreetSide Live," a two hour show begins at 2 p.m. in the new gazebo on the north side of Grand River, one-half mile east of Farmington Road. Lawn seating with some chairs set up for the performance. No charge.

BOTTLES AND CANS

Saturday, Sept. 9: North Farmington High School Band and Orchestra Boosters ask residents for a donation of their returnable bottles and cans, bagged and at the end of their driveway, to be picked up between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. by the music students.

TEDDY'S TRACK

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9-10:

Teddy's Track, benefit for Ronald McDonald House, begins with a banquet at 6 p.m. Saturday followed by auction of teddy bears and related bear items in the Sharon Oaks. Novel Bear show and sale runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3.50 a donation at the door. Inquiries taken by Sandra Crane, 682-2763.

DEDICATION CONCERT

Sunday, Sept. 10: Organist Huw Lewis plays the Rodgers Oxford electronic organ in the Organ Dedication Concert at 3 p.m. in Church of St. Fabian, 32200 12 Mile. No charge.

EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday, Sept. 10: Twentieth Anni-

versary Extravaganza, celebrating The Community Center's 20th year begins with a cake decorating contest, face painting for children, and a reunion of past board members, followed by Livonia-Oakway Symphony in concert at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$3 at the gate. Guests asked to bring blankets or lawn chairs for the outdoor performance.

FASHION FOCUS

Tuesday, Sept. 12: "Fashion Focus" designer fashions shown with lunch in Jacobson's Designer Salon, Livonia. Cost is \$5. Reservations taken by calling the store, 591-7695, ext. 250.

GOLF CLASSIC

Tuesday, Sept. 12: Golf Classic to

benefit St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center begins with continental breakfast at 7:15 a.m. in Ray Pointe in West Bloomfield, with full day of golf followed by dinner. Event sponsored by businessmen and civic leaders committed to support the center. For inquiries and reservations call Tom Conklin, 626-7527.

AAUW POTLUCK

Wednesday, Sept. 13: American Association of University Women (AAUW), Farmington Branch, annual international potluck dinner at 7 p.m. in First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, Farmington Road and 11 Mile. Open to all potential branch members. AAUW is open to those with at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited university.

Southfield set to launch premier on-site care

The City of Southfield soon will become the first Oakland County municipality to provide on-site child care for its employees. Southfield's child-care center should open this fall.

The initiative for establishing such a center came from a committee formed about six years ago to investigate child-care options for city employees.

Committee members, primarily employees with infants and toddlers, conducted surveys to assess the child-care needs of Southfield's 800 full-time employees. But until two years ago, no one took direct action.

At that time, an opportunity came when a one-story building in the civic center complex became available, said Joe Farland, deputy director of Southfield's parks and recreation and a member of the city's day-care committee.

"At that point," said Farland, "things really began to move. One of the most important things that we did then was to hire a consultant to help us through all the hurdles."

THE CONSULTANT, together with the committee, began to investigate factors such as required renovations, the costs to set up and run the center and insurance requirements.

In addition, they investigated the hiring an outside firm to run the center.

Other preparations included visits to other on-site centers in Michigan, such as those at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, and Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

SOUTHFIELD provided an in-house architect to plan the renovation. The newly-renovated center has three large activity rooms for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Other renovations include a kitchen and down-sized bathroom. After much consideration, it was decided to set up the Southfield Employee Child Care Committee, rather than hire an outside firm, to oversee the operation of the center.

This volunteer committee, which serves as a board of directors for the center, consists of City of Southfield employees.

The committee is hiring a director who will be in charge of staffing and running the center.

The on-site center, while supported by the city, remains a separate entity from the city.

"Liability is not a problem for the City of Southfield," said Farland, "since the center has a separate policy not paid for by the city."

THE COMMITTEE DECIDED quality was most important. "While the state requires a 1:5 ratio for caregivers to infants," Farland said, "ours is 1:3."



child care
Marcie Walker

The center will care for a maximum of 40 children, with children of full-time employees given preference. Costs to employees will be just below market rate.

"This project is the result of a fantastic group effort," said Farland. "Southfield allowed us the time necessary to work on the project. The city provided the building, as well as a \$40,000 annual subsidy and funding for equipment."

The city was successful in obtaining a \$175,000 federal revenue-sharing grant to cover the cost of renovations.

Marcie Walker, free lance writer who has researched the child care industry, welcomes your input-questions, suggestions for columns, examples of good child care. Write her in care of the Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham Mi 48010.

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