



Beaumont speech pathologist Tina Latorre works with 2½-year-old Dayna Hyman over at tea. Some 300 children each week are helped at the hospital's West Bloomfield center.



Dayna Hyman, 2½, of Troy is one of 300 children who get help with speech problems through Beaumont Hospital's speech therapy program. Here, therapists work with her at a center on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

Lions, Beaumont team up

Program gives a boost to kids with speech problems

By Casey Hens
Staff writer

SPEAKING: It's something most people take for granted, but for many children throughout Oakland County and elsewhere, learning to speak is a fight.

An 11-year link between Lions and Beaumont has quietly aided hun-



Parent observation rooms at Beaumont's West Bloomfield center, donated by area Lions clubs, allow parents like Diana Hyman watch her daughter Dayna with speech therapy. The Hymans are from Troy.

comb, Wayne and Monroe counties and William Beaumont Hospital's Speech and Language Pathology Department has helped children with speech problems get help.

With donations of library books, toys, observation facilities for parents, audio-visual equipment, and time offered for things like field trips to the zoo and holiday parties, Lions groups have quietly aided hun-

dreds of children and helped to make the Beaumont facility one of the top speech pathology departments for children in the country.

In addition, up to 120 children each year whose families cannot afford — or have no insurance to cover — speech help, are aided by the Silent Children's Speech Fund, coordinated through a joint committee of Lions clubs and Beaumont representatives which generates some \$75,000 in grants annually. Between \$55,000 and \$60,000 of that money comes directly from Lions clubs donations.

"They're really unsung heroes," said Michael Holnick, a Farmington Hills resident who is director of Beaumont's Speech and Language Pathology Department. "It's a model program throughout the country."

The children's program is divided between centers in West Bloomfield and a new center in Berkley. Jon Lipson, clinical supervisor for the West Bloomfield program, said the many donations by the Lions enhance the program and the Silent Children's Speech Fund helps those who have nowhere else to turn.

"We've had families so grateful along the way, that they've called later and wanted to donate money when they're back in their feet," she added.

"We're quite proud of the program, of course," said Don Vogel,

chairman of the advisory board that oversees the Silent Children's Speech Fund, and past governor of Lions District 11-A2 which encompasses Oakland and Macomb Counties. "We feel the program has made tremendous strides. The Silent Children's Fund has been an important part of the speech pathology children's department and its growth."

LIONS CLUBS representing Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield, Farmington, Rochester, Southfield, Troy, Walled Lake and the Lakes areas are just a few of the dozens of

clubs making up District 11-A2, which donates money and time to the Beaumont program. They do it, members say, because it just needs to be done.

"It's just for the desire to help other people, that's the biggest thing," said Dick Carvell, a member of the Farmington Area Lions Club. "It all helps the final product."

"It really gets down to the point that Lions are givers, not takers," added Bill Kingensmith, current governor of District 11-A2. "We prove it year after year. We feel very strongly about this."

The Beaumont program offers help for children with various speech and language disorders including those who do not speak at all. Part of the program is The Communication Station, a preschool program where children interact and receive one-on-one therapy. Most children are referred to the program through their pediatrician, but parents can call Beaumont directly and obtain funds on a sliding scale if they need help.

Information on any children's speech programs at Beaumont can be obtained by calling 855-7460.

police/fire calls

Lost below are some of the Farmington Hills police, incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

HOUSE FIRE

A resident of a townhouse in the Farmington Village Co-Op, Nine Mile and Gull, burned his hands while trying to extinguish a fire just after 10 p.m. Friday. Farmington Hills fire officials said the blaze started in a second-story bedroom.

By the time we got there, there was smoke coming out of the windows," said deputy chief Peter Baldwin.

The fire, which firefighters from two Farmington Hills stations and Farmington Public Safety officers responded to, started on the bed in one of the two upstairs bedrooms of the townhouse on Lytle, Baldwin said.

"I think it was started by careless handling of smoking materials," said Chief Richard Marinucci. A fire determination has not yet been made.

The man burned his hands when he

tried to extinguish the fire in his pillow by taking it to the bathtub, according to the fire report.

The fire, which was extinguished within 15 minutes, gutted the bedroom where it started and caused heat and smoke damage to the other bedroom, Marinucci said. To be on the safe side, firefighters evacuated residents from the attached units on either side of the townhouse on fire. The residents were allowed to return to their homes once firefighters determined the fire was not spreading through the attic, Marinucci said.

Damage to the building was estimated at \$40,000 and damage to contents estimated at \$25,000, according to the fire report.

OUTLET SHORT

Farmington Hills firefighters responded to Woodmont Trailer Park on Inkster Road at about 11:30 p.m. Thursday when the homeowner discovered wires arcing in a kitchen outlet. No fire resulted, but firefighters isolated the power source and removed the shorted outlet, ac-

cording to a fire report.

THEFTS REPORTED

A trailer owned by Aerodynamics and valued at \$2,000 was reportedly stolen between Jan. 23 and Thursday from Nisan Road, which is under construction in the Farmington Hills Country Club Corporate Park on Halsted and 12 Mile.

Hubsaps valued at \$110 were reportedly stolen Jan. 26 or Jan. 30 from a 1990 Ford Probe parked on Montclair Jan. 29/30.

A wallet containing \$400 cash, checks and credit cards was reportedly stolen Wednesday from the Farmington YMAA, 28100 Farmington Road.

A 1991 Ford Ranger, valued at \$8,577, was reportedly stolen between Jan. 26 and Thursday from Tom Holter Ford, 39300 10 Mile.

Skis and ski boots valued at \$1,100 was reportedly stolen Jan. 26 from a garage on Bouché Road.

Approximately \$250 in cash was reportedly stolen Wednesday or Thursday from Hill Knapp's restaurant, 27925 Orchard Lake Road.

loads. The house is owned by Jamal Afro, 48.

Police believe the alleged gambling operation is a "floating game" that moved around various suburbs. "This was strictly a dice game and blackjack game," Dwyer said. Reported bets ran as high as \$5,000 on the dice game and \$300 on blackjack.

A dice table, too large to move, was destroyed at the scene, dice, cards, a blackjack table and other equipment used in a "casinostyle gambling operation" were seized, Dwyer said.



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Gambling arraignments expected

Farmington Hills police expected warrants to be issued Friday against 32 men for allegedly gambling and running a gambling operation, according to police.

Arraignments on the charges are expected sometime this week in 47th District Court in Farmington.

The charges against the 32 stem from a raid early Jan. 28 on a Colony Park West subdivision house in which more than \$52,000 cash and gambling equipment was seized by Farmington Hills police.

Eight of the 32 arrested may face state felony gambling conspiracy

charges and the remaining 24, many businessmen from Oakland and Wayne county suburbs, could face misdemeanor luring charges.

All 32 men were released from police custody after the raid, pending warrants from the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

SOME 15 police officers, including Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer, executed a search warrant 12:05 a.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at 28834 Lake Park, in the Colony Park West subdivision, south of 13 Mile, between Farmington and Drake