



Twelve-year-old Brian Fuller of Farmington Hills emulates his instructor, Bernadine Vida of Redford Township, during a theatre class rehearsal at OCC. At left, is Michael Kwapias, 10, and Leilani Bartele, 11, also of Farmington Hills. The theatre class is part of OCC's Summer Arts & Sciences Program for kids.

Summer fun

Oakland Community College offers plenty of classes for youngsters

By Casey Hane
staff writer

SOME KIDS get excited about building rockets and doing experiments. Others prefer to teach for the stars on stage, learn about radio broadcasting or mold their dreams into works of clay.

Whatever the interest, Oakland Community College's Summer Arts & Sciences program — which started in mid-June and runs through late August — offers area kids from age 10 through high school a chance to enrich their learning and fun. Three, three-week sessions are being held throughout the summer months, and kids can sign up for one or all of them.

Some people call the OCC program "summer camp," although its intent is to be more academically enriching. This year, the program has expanded to nine weeks, with several new offerings.

"We're the only one doing it, so we get kids from all over," explained Matt Watroba, a Plymouth-Canton high school teacher and musician who is working as an assistant coordinator for the summer program being held at OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

WATROBA SAID most of the kids come from Oakland County and the northern fringes of Wayne County. "I think it's got a lot of community appeal," he added.

About 60 students have signed up for the first session, and more are enrolled for future sessions, said Tom Williams, also an assistant coordinator who has been with the OCC summer program since its inception seven years ago.

Watroba said many of the students sign up for classes with friends, and carpool daily. Classes range from recreation and sports activities like soccer and swimming to indoor activities like cartooning, origami, radio broadcasting and photography.

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assistant coordinator

Students can also sign up for classes in magic, aquatic biology, calligraphy, and other areas.

Fees run about \$80 per class, or \$200 for a specialized "track" of classes that include leadership skills for all ages, science, art communication/media, and the performing arts.

The "Tracks" program is new this year and is designed to immerse a child in a subject.

"We just decided so many kids were struggling to decide what to take," Watroba said. "We decided to coordinate it, taking skills from the various classes and putting them together."

For example, the three-part Art Track teaches students basic pottery, basic drawing, then a third class called "Medieval Life" in which they will use their skills to design and build castles, armor, shields and banners. Students will also learn about Medieval life and the art and history of that period.

REGULAR CLASSES in the program have expanded as well.

One three-week class called "Pro Geo Phy" begins Monday, July 8, for students in grades 7-9, and is team taught by three instructors.

North Farmington High School teacher Kathy Chiason will do "hands-on discovery of basic probability."



Ten-year-old sports fan Jeremy Hines of Southfield takes on an artistic bent this summer, working with clay as part of OCC's Summer Arts & Sciences Program. The program runs through August.

OCC instructor Marie Aratari will teach the geometry section, and fellow instructor Dave Stoddard promises to "explore some fascinating phenomena such as light, energy, atomic structure, sound, and magnetism that occur in everyday life, but often go unnoticed" in the physics area.

Aratari said the class is designed to introduce students to concepts so they can enhance their regular

classwork during the coming school year. The idea is to be proactive to teaching kids, instead of taking a remedial approach.

"I'm just doing it for any positive stimulation in mathematics," she added.

OCC is also hosting instructional sports camps again this summer, including basketball, baton, softball, tennis, soccer pom-pom/cheerleading and gymnastics.

For more information about the youth summer program at OCC, call 471-7596.

Outstanding official

Dem panel taps mayor for award

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi will be honored Tuesday as the "outstanding elected official" for 1991 by the Oakland County Democratic Commissioner Committee.

The longtime Democratic activist will receive the Alex Perinoff Award at a special presentation at the Main Event in the Pontiac Silverdome.

"It's based mostly on achievement," said a spokeswoman for the Oakland County Democratic Commissioners Committee.

The award is named after the late county commissioner Perinoff. "The county commissioners wanted to do something in memory of Alex (Perinoff) for his contributions to his city (Southfield) and his county," the committee spokeswoman said.

Vagnozzi, 65, said he "was kind of surprised" by the award. "But I appreciate the meaning of it. It indicates an increased interest of political parties in local government."

Vagnozzi is in the second year of a four-year term on the Farmington Hills City Council. He was re-elected in 1987 after serving a two-year term.

IN RECOGNITION of the county award, the Farmington Hills City Council presented him with a resolution.



Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi
Farmington Hills

tion June 24. "The choice this year was an easy one to make," said mayor pro tem Jonathan Grant as he presented Vagnozzi with the resolution.

The resolution recognizes Vagnozzi's "deeply felt lifelong commitment to the betterment of his community" and the rights of the individual, according to Grant.

After Grant read the resolution, the city council gave Vagnozzi a

standing ovation.

"That was a complete surprise," Vagnozzi said of the public recognition during the regular city council meeting. "That was not on the agenda. But I think we'll allow it."

"You all had a hand in it (accomplishments acknowledged by the award), though I think I'm the only one up here eligible for the award," Vagnozzi said, acknowledging his role as probably the only Democrat on the overwhelmingly Republican non-partisan council.

VAGNOZZI served on the Farmington Board of Education 1969-73.

He is a former Farmington Public Schools trustee, a former Farmington Community Library trustee and was a founding member of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Community Center Board of Directors. He's also a former Farmington Area PTA Council president.

He also has served as an officer in the 17th and 18th Districts Democratic Committees and was a past chairman of the former 19th Congressional District. He has served as a precinct delegate and run unsuccessfully for state representative and Farmington Township supervisor in 1954 and 1966.

Before his election to the city council in 1987, Vagnozzi was well-known as an outspoken council watcher.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

THEFTS REPORTED

Approximately \$250 cash was reported stolen from Cafe Marie, 21200 Haggerty, June 25-26.

A 1991 Dodge valued at \$12,000 was reported stolen from Glencastle, June 25-26.

A radar detector and golf clubs valued at \$1,405 were reported stolen from a 1987 Pontiac parked at Indian Creek Apartments on Nine Mile, June 25-26.

A car phone valued at \$300 was reported stolen from a 1990 Ford on

Greencastle, June 25-26.

Two Yamaha all-terrain vehicles, valued at \$4,400, were reported stolen from Duffy's & Associates, 29280 Grand River, June 25.

Sound equipment, an air gun, air ratchet, sunglasses and cassette tapes valued at \$2,155 were reported stolen from a unit at the Fairmont Park Apartments on Nine Mile, June 25-26.

AN AM/FM cassette player, amplifier, speaker box and auto hard top valued at \$3,000 were reported stolen from a 1988 Suzuki on Sky Drive, June 26.

A radar detector, tape recorder, briefcase, calculator and watch val-

ued at \$885 were reported stolen from a 1987 Toyota at the Indian Creek Apartments on Nine Mile, June 25-26.

A car telephone, calculator and radar detector valued at \$350 were reported stolen from a 1989 Ford at the Indian Creek Apartments on Nine Mile, June 25-26.

A 1978 Ford valued at \$3,200 was reported stolen from U-Haul, 30711 Grand River, June 25-26.

Wallet, radar detector, garage door opener, dental supplies and golf clubs valued at \$2,460 were reported stolen from a 1991 Ford on Pillsbury, June 26.

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