

Community Corner

This week's question:

How have you reacted to the recent rash of "carjackings" in the Detroit area?

We asked this question at the Crossroads A&W restaurant in Farmington.



"I'm scared a little... even more so for my wife and women in general."
— Peter Basil
Livonia



"I try to be alert and I drive with my doors locked. They might not get you if you look alert."
— Abbey Cross
Northville



"I feel more apprehensive about coming over (from Canada) and I take precautions."
— Sylvia Harris
Windsor, Ont.



"I actually lock my doors now. It's a scary situation."
— Lori Elby
Novi



"It's really made me think. I'd never drive alone at night now. Two weeks ago I would have thought nothing of it."
— Valorie Montello
Redford Township



"I try to travel in areas with lots of people... nothing remote."
— Al McLeod
Farmington Hills

Activities promote anti-drug awareness

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grown," said Sue Dolesh, president of the parent drug education group, Farmington Families in Action, and chairwoman of the anti-drug program. "We've kind of branched out and tried to reach more and more people."

"Three years ago, if I had said I was president of FFIA, they would have thought I was a future farmer," she added. "Now more than 50 percent say 'oh, you're the drug group.'"

A committee that has been working on the program since February selected the alcohol abuse theme "because it is the number one drug of choice," Dolesh said. "It's the one most people deny."

"A lot of people tend to deny there is a problem — we're just trying to make people aware of it," added Khal Hanna, director of student activities at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus and publicity coordinator for the program.

The month starts off Oct. 1, when upwards of 40,000 red ribbons will



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— Sue Dolesh

be distributed to the community and at schools throughout the area and anti-drug flags will fly at each city hall, the YMCA and at all school buildings. A kickoff breakfast will be held at Glen Oaks Oct. 2, where television personality John Gross will be keynote speaker.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS of the

month include:

• A rap music contest for students in grades 4-8.

• An Alcohol Awareness Week at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, which will include a speakers series, a reception and continued awareness on campus.

• On Oct. 30, people in the community will be encouraged to wear red to make an anti-drug statement. Oct. 15, red tulip bulbs will be planted at all the Farmington Public Schools.

• Businesses are also getting into the act. Oct. 9-13, the Little Professor Book Fair will be held, mention FFIA when making a purchase and a 15 percent donation will go to the group. That same weekend, local Domino's Pizza will put red ribbons on all pizza boxes and make a donation for each pizza purchased.

• A Valvoline Weekend will be

held Oct. 18-19 when \$3 per oil change will be donated to FFIA and anti-drug promotional items will be distributed.

A long list of other help groups, agencies, and other volunteers are also participating.

Two new programs being introduced this year are: Students at Risk Scholarships through FFIA, which will encourage achievement by at-risk students, and Talking With Your Kids About Alcohol, a parent education class scheduled to begin in November.

The TWYKAA classes are designed to teach parents what to say to their children about drugs and alcohol and how to say it. The YMCA will host the class on the first four Sundays of November from 1-3:30 p.m., and the Farmington Community School will host it on the first four Mondays of November from 7-9:30 p.m.

For more information on any of the anti-drug programs being offered, call FFIA at 851-8565 or call the OCC Student Activities Hotline at 471-7590.

Underground railroad topic of program

A talk on "Tracking the Underground Railroad" will be presented by Farmington Hills historian and councilwoman Jean Fox for the Detroit Black Women's Club at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25.

The presentation will be at the Philbrick Tavern, home of Dr. Lee Julian on Power Road and 11 Mile.

The Philbrick Tavern is purported to be a Civil War underground site — which cannot be documented — on the so-called railroad that helped aid fleeing former slaves as they made their way north.

A half-mile east of the Philbrick Tavern is a documented site of the underground railroad, which was the home of former slaves who settled there following the Civil War.

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