

Center for abused kids adds adoption services

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commitment," she said.

LAST YEAR, 10 of the treatment program children were adopted through outside agencies. The residential treatment center helps about 80 children, including foster children.

"Foster families aren't interested in adoption, center officials will search for families who want to adopt," Spratt said.

"I already have at least three to five families who want to adopt," Brook said. "Any of these kids are quite a commitment. That's why there is such special training so foster parents know what they are getting into."

"They are special need kids. They have all been abused in some way so they have some kind of learning disability, emotional impairment. Some are medically impaired infants and some have brain damage," Brook continued.

"While the kids are foster children, they continue to see the center's therapists, who also make house calls. When they are adopted, it's expected the center will provide some

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— Linda Brook
foster care specialist

type of post-adoptive services such as support groups and referrals, Brook said.

The adoption process also involves matching children and their particular needs with a family and its needs.

The center is in need of foster family homes and adoptive homes. The center's next orientation session is at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 18 at the center on the northwest corner of 12 Mile and Inkster roads.

The orientation is designed to cover both prospective foster and adoptive families. "A lot of the issues are the same — abuse, loss," Spratt said.

Anyone who is interested should call Latencia at the center, 626-2971

for more information and an initial telephone interview.

Spratt and Brook ask families to keep in mind that being either a foster parent or adoptive parent for a child in the center's treatment program is not easy. Though foster parents are paid for their services, "you aren't going to get rich. They are compensated but not for the amount of work that goes into it," Spratt said.

"Just because someone goes through the training doesn't mean they'll become a foster parent," Brook said. "We're talking about some seriously damaged kids and that's not for everyone. It's a 24-hour job."



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

The Goodfellow's a gal

Joey Schmidt, a Southfield business owner, stands on Farmington Road near Grand River Friday with Jody Soronen, head of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, collecting money for the Farmington Goodfellows. Schmidt, who is legally

blind, has enough sight to stay out of traffic while collecting. Goodfellows were out in force Friday for the annual collection drive. To contribute, call the group at the Farmington Chamber office, 474-3440.

Ad hoc group appoints an official spokesperson

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sity if the city is to obtain a permit and continue with the second mile-long stretch of boulevard construction on 12 Mile, Halsted to Haggerty.

Without the replacement of wetlands along 12 Mile — actually ditches with vegetation consistent with wetlands — the city could lose a \$3.6 million state grant that will help pay for the next estimated \$7 million boulevard mile, Halsted to Haggerty.

The first boulevard mile, Farmington to Drake roads was not beset with wetlands. The third planned mile of boulevard, Drake to Halsted, is expected to be constructed later. Wetlands replacement would cover both the Halsted to Haggerty and Drake to Halsted sections.

The state Department of Natural

'We're looking at reducing the size. The issue is not closed.' — William Costick
city manager

Resources requires the replacement of about 4.5 acres of wetlands along 12 Mile. The DNR also requires replacement of wetlands at 1 1/2 times what will be filled in.

CITY OFFICIALS are talking about 16 acres of replacement on MDOT. About 7.5 acres will be devoted to wetlands, three to berms and the rest will be a graded area sloping down to the wetlands.

The proposed plan calls for putting two separate wetlands on either side of an existing drainage course. It also includes a 16-foot high berm

along the northern-most wetland. An unpaved access road about 10-12 feet wide also is shown.

Around the two wetlands there may be grading to fill low areas to make a smooth transition to the wetlands. A structure also would be built connecting the two new wetlands — and the drainage course — to cool water flow.

Any changes to the proposed plan must be made by Feb. 1 in order to maintain the construction schedule for 12 Mile, which is scheduled to begin in March, according to city officials.

police/fire calls

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

● STRONG ARM ROBBERY REPORTED

An unidentified man described as about 30-years-old walked into Tanfaster, a tanning salon at 3554 Grand River, Nov. 26 demanded money and walked out with \$142 cash, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

A 17-year-old employee was in the front of the business when the man came in and walked up to the counter. "Give me your money," he demanded of the employee. Fearing for her safety, the employee complied and opened the cash register.

As the man was leaving, he said, "Don't call anybody." The employee saw him walk south along the front

of businesses in the Muirwood Square shopping center.

The owner of a nearby business also gave police a description of the man — that matched the employee's description — she saw walking in front of her business about the time of the robbery.

● BREAKING AND ENTERING

An employee of Pauline's Unisex Salon reported \$6,566 in cash and merchandise stolen when she came to work at 9 a.m. Nov. 23. She closed up the shop about 10 p.m. Nov. 22, she said. Robbery time was just after 11 p.m., based on the time the clock on the cash register showed.

A cylinder door lock cylinder was twisted off by using vise grip type pliers, police said.

Among items taken were: a \$280, 19-inch Zenith color TV; a \$350 Hasatchi VCR; a \$280 AM/FM Panasonic Cassette Stereo, a \$40 Sharp

calculator; \$503 in bills in coin with cash box; envelopes, paper, a Redkin product price list, nail polish; a \$30 Sunbeam toaster; some towels; \$130 in blow dryers and \$4,210 of miscellaneous hair care products.

● THEFTS REPORTED

An AM/FM stereo valued at \$350 was reported stolen from a 1983 Chevrolet at the Farmington Square Condominiums on 12 Mile, Nov. 25.

A stereo system and receiver valued at \$400 was reported stolen from the John Anthony Salon, 29305 14 Mile, Nov. 26.

● DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$1,000 when someone threw a 35-40 pound stone through the front and rear windows of a 1989 Plymouth on Vacri Lane, Nov. 25. The stone landed on the car's hood, which was also damaged.

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