

recreation news

Each week, the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column.

For information regarding programs, call the recreation office at 473-9570. Pre-registration is required for most activities.

For matters regarding city council agenda items, call the city's Newsletter at 476-3828.

● ASTRONOMY

During the course of the year, all of the 6,000 stars visible to the unaided eye rotate completely around the night sky. Learn about the constellation lore and other objects visible in the sky such as meteor showers, comets, planets, star clusters and galaxies. Class will be Friday, Feb. 7, 7-9 p.m. at the Gateway Room, Mercy Center on 11 Mile Road (Gate 4). Pre-registration is required.

● YOUTH SWIM LESSONS

Swimming instructions for beginners to advanced skill levels are offered at Harrison High School. The program meets on Saturdays for six weeks beginning March 7. Lessons are from 9-9:50 a.m. for levels 1-2; 10-10:50 a.m. for levels 1-5, and 11-11:50 a.m. for levels 6-10. Fee is \$21 per person and pre-registration is required. Children must be 38 inches at their chin height.

● SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Registration is now being accepted for returning adult softball teams from the 1991 season. New teams began registering on Feb. 3. Leagues will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Teams will play a 14-game schedule except co-ed leagues who play 10 games and playoffs. Fees are \$340 for co-ed leagues, \$280 residential and industrial

leagues and \$420 open and 35 and over leagues.

● YOUTH BOWLING

Children in grades 3-5 will be taught correct approach, delivery, scoring and lane courtesy in this four-lesson program. Participants have the option of joining a league after completing the program. Lessons will be on Tuesdays beginning March 17 from 4-5:30 p.m. at Bel Aire Lanes. Pre-registration fee of \$17 is required.

● EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Get your partner and register for the euchre tournament scheduled for Friday, March 13, from 7-11 p.m. at the Visitor Center in Heritage Park. A round-robin format will be used allowing you to play the entire evening. Awards will be based on the number of teams registering. Refreshments are provided. Pre-registration is required by March 6, and

the fee is \$10 per team.

● YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION

Registration is being accepted through March 18 at the Recreation office for children in grades kindergarten through third. Children will play six games on Saturdays with one practice per week. The program develops the child's individual soccer skills, concept of team play and sportsmanship. Fee is \$18 per child. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program.

● PARKEY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Join Parkey in enjoying the festivities of this day at the Visitor Center on Saturday, March 14, from 10-11:30 a.m. Children ages 5-10 will create a craft project, play games and have fun. Pre-registration fee of \$7 per child is required at the Recreation office.

carrier of the month

Farmington

Duane Wilder, 14, delivers the Observer in the Farmington Green West subdivision. He has delivered the Observer since August of 1989. The Thomas P. Beahan Jr. High eighth-grader's favorite subjects are math, history and science. His hobbies are soccer and basketball. Duane plans to attend Michigan State University. Being more responsible is something Duane has learned on his route. Duane is the son of Craig and Carole Anne of Farmington Hills. He has one sister, Michelle, 16, and two brothers, Andrew, 12 and Eric, 9.



Duane Wilder

If you want to be a Farmington Observer carrier, please call

591-0500

African dance troupe performs at elementary

One could feel the energy in the McIntyre Elementary School gym last week, not only from the African dance troupe performing for the 375 students, but also from the young eyes mesmerized by the expressive moves of the Omawalee Cultural Society.

Using all native instruments, including four different types of drums

and a dalafo (an African variation of a xylophone), the six Omawalee dancers, dressed in authentic West African costumes, entertained and educated students on several African cultures and traditions.

Young Audiences of Michigan, part of the Southeast Michigan Arts Forum, sponsored the group of Detroit-based dancers. McIntyre was

one school of many throughout the state that invited the Omawalee Cultural Society to perform for Black History Month.

Students learned the African word "ase" (pronounced ashe) means amen and then used the word in a

tribute to praise numerous black leaders, said Ounba (chief or king) Sundiata Kella, who formed the Omawalee Cultural Society in 1979. The students also learned how to play che-che-kule, an African singing game similar to Simon Says.

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