

# Committee on family issues up and running

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates seems to have struck a responsive chord in the community with her desire to fulfill unmet family needs.

Bates, who made family issues a priority when she took office in January, said she was proud of the response to her call for a committee to see if family needs were being met in Farmington Hills, and if they weren't, what could be done to help.

"I thought it was incredible to see the amount of interest we had," she said of the first meeting Thursday of a new committee on unmet needs of families. "That's the kind of people we have in Farmington Hills."

About 28 representatives from several organizations attended the meeting at city hall and exchanged ideas on how they could better serve the community.

One thing the committee will likely do soon is to establish a clearing house on what services are available for families, said Steve Brock, assistant to the city manager.

"We had a pretty good cross section of people from the com-

munity," Brock said. "Some of the groups have obvious functions. But some of them don't."

Just knowing what groups can help families with what problems can make it easier to find help, he said.

The committee discussed several ways to improve services to families and to children of all ages including:

- Providing some type of family night or program similar to Birmingham's "First Night" celebration, which is a non-alcoholic night of entertainment specifically designed around family activities.

- Providing activities to children between 13-16 when they are too young to drive, but are starting to become independent.

- Trying to get more individuals from culturally diverse backgrounds to take part in the committee.

- Establishing a software program through the library that could be accessed by personal computers and modems for individuals, families or organizations trying having a specific need.

The committee will meet again on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Farmington Hills City Hall.

## A plant for you



Raising funds: Botsford Commons employees Sue Armstrong (left) and Marilyn Broom (center) sell a plant to co-worker Jacalyn Barynas during their annual plant sale. It's a fund-raiser for the recreation department within Botsford Commons, a senior citizen facility.

## 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 more information regarding programs, call the recreation office at 473-9570. For city council agenda items, call the Newsline at 476-3838.

### SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Registration is being accepted for adult softball teams. Leagues still available are for men or women. Teams play 14-game schedule and playoffs. Fees are \$395 for industrial and \$435 for open.

### NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

You'll travel throughout Heritage

Park hunting for non-destructive nature items from a list provided by the instructor. This is a great activity to put your mind to work. The activity is scheduled for April 24 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Heritage Park Day Camp Building. A pre-registration fee of \$15 per family.

### OUTDOOR SAND VOLLEYBALL

Registration for teams is being accepted at the Recreation office on a first come, first served basis. All games will be played at the sand courts of Heritage Park. For

further information, contact the Recreation office at 473-9370.

### SPRING HAY RIDES

Bring the whole family and enjoy a spring hay ride through beautiful Heritage Park. The trips will end with the roasting of marshmallows over an open camp fire. Fee is \$3 per person with pre-registration required. Ride dates still available are: April 23 at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., April 30 at 7:30 p.m., May 7 at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. and May 14 at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

### FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS

Farmington Hills Department of Special Services and the Farmington Community Chorus presents their Spring Chorus Concert "Everything Old is New Again" on Friday, May 7th and Saturday, May 8 at 8 p.m. at the Harrison

High School Auditorium, 2995 W. 12 Mile Road. Tickets at the door are \$5 for adults, \$4 for students, senior adults, and children under 10 free.

### BUMPER BOWLING

In cooperation with Drakeshire Lanes, a seven-week introductory program for children 4-7 will focus on interaction, develop strength, coordination and provide an enjoyable atmosphere. One parent per team is required for supervision. Three bowlers per team. Program starts April 29. Sessions offered are Thursday - 4-5 p.m., Friday - 12:30-1:30 p.m. or 4-5 p.m. and Saturday 12:30-1:30 p.m. Registration fee of \$7 due at the Recreational office. \$3 weekly fee for bowling at Drakeshire Lanes. \$1 if bowler is absent.

## ULCER DISEASE, IS IT AN INFECTION?

Recently there has been more public awareness regarding the possible role for a bacteria called helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) in inducing peptic ulcer disease and chronic gastritis. What about this bacteria? What does it do to our human body? Can it hurt us?

H. pylori bacteria has been shown to be a major cause of chronic inflammation of the stomach mucosa (lining of the stomach) and peptic ulcer disease. The bacteria usually attaches to the surface of the stomach mucosa. To diagnose the infection with this bacteria a variety of methods are available, including the examination of tissue samples of the stomach mucosa, sample blood or breath test.

Treatment for this infection should be reserved for patients who are not responding to conventional therapy of chronic gastritis or who have ulcers not responding to ulcer therapy. A triple antibiotics consist of Bismuth Subsalicylate, Tetracycline, and Metronidazole has a 90-95% of eradicate success.

M. ASBAHI, M.D.

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## "FUTUREKIDS" Is Coming...



### A Move Into The Future.

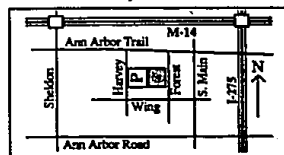
FUTUREKIDS: computer training that moves your kids forward, into the world of technology and learning.

The Grand Opening of "Futurekids" is happening in Plymouth, Michigan on Saturday, May 1, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The opening takes place at 550 Forest Ave. in the Westchester Mall. Your kids will meet their tomorrow today.

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