

District forms task force to fight student violence

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

The Farmington School District has formed a task force to take on student violence.

The tentatively named Conflict Resolution Task Force is made up of 11 people, including administrators, teachers, counselors, social workers, police officers and parents.

Officials admit publicized fighting incidents prompted the task force. But Health and Family coordinator Estralee Michaelson added separate projects with the same purpose were going on inside and outside the district, including the work of Citizens Against Violence in the Schools.

A task force to coordinate those efforts makes sense, she said.

"If we do four different programs, we'll lose credibility," Michaelson said. "We need to be consistent."

The task force will look into such things as curriculum, peer mediation, conflict resolution and

parent involvement — all designed to cut down on the number of fights.

"We'll never eradicate all of it," said Building and Student Services director Don Cowan, "but we'd like to lessen it."

Michaelson said she'd like to see the task force make recommendations to the school board by the end of the year.

Joanne LaFleur is on the task force. Her son was seriously injured in an incident at Farmington High last year.

She was the driving force behind Citizens Against Violence in the Schools. Members from that group met with school officials April 6, which all sides describe as a positive meeting.

The idea of a task force emerged from the session.

The committee will meet every two weeks until the end of the school year. Members will examine safety procedures and conflict resolution programs and curriculum in other districts.

"This is fantastic, what's happening here," LaFleur said. "We (Citizens Against Violence in the Schools) want to see it happen at other school districts."

Michaelson said the district's student assistance program, which among other things helps high-risk kids for potential substance abuse problems, has been looking into conflict resolution programs.

Some teachers in Farmington have also received training. "Teaching Children to be Peacemakers" is a curriculum offered as part of the district's staff development program.

Michaelson sees the task force building on those developments. She envisions putting a program into place in three to five years, including curriculum and ongoing programs.

"Joanne and I were talking," Michaelson said. "You don't just train your teachers; you train the system."

Fight from page 1A

During the hearing, Lugo's attorney said his client was suspended from school and is already on probation. Another fight would lead to an indefinite suspension, the attorney said.

"With that cloud hanging over him, I don't think we need to do anymore here," Cibrario said.

Oakland County assistant prosecutor Brian Zubeil said he was not surprised Lugo wasn't detained. Zubeil said he plans to ask for detention at the May 25 hearing.

Said Zubeil: "This wasn't a fight. This went beyond an assault. This was an attack."

Lugo's mother and stepfather believe the incident has been blown out of proportion. Yvonne Romp added her son's grades have improved and he's abiding

by the school-imposed probation.

According to the police reports, Lugo and Kenneth LaFleur bumped in the hallway last Dec. 7. Lugo stated he (Lugo) turned around and went "crazy" and hit LaFleur.

LaFleur, 16, suffered a concussion (closed head injury), a cracked jaw and facial bone and swelling, according to an examining physician. He is experiencing some memory loss, according to Zubeil.

Kenneth LaFleur was present during the hearing.

Joanne LaFleur has been outspoken about violence in schools since the incident. She formed the public awareness group, Citizens Against Violence in the Schools, which met with Farmington school officials April 6.

LaFleur threatened a lawsuit against the Farmington Schools in January, but has apparently changed her mind. She said the schools are dealing with the problem.

A districtwide task force has been set up to deal with violence in the schools.

"This wasn't about Lance — the violence prevention thing," LaFleur said. "It was about violence, period."

"I didn't have a vengeance to go after him," she added. "It's what I found out after my son was assaulted that is going on."

LaFleur said she is considering a lawsuit against Lugo's family. "I wasn't," she said, "but I might be. I was upset about them stating that in court."

MOTHER'S DAY

REMEMBER MOTHER'S DAY — SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1993.
PUT A LITTLE PIZAZZ IN MOM'S SPECIAL DAY WITH A UNIQUE,
HEARTFELT GIFT FROM LAUREL PARK PLACE'S
GALLERY OF FINE STORES AND SERVICES.

FREE MOTHER'S DAY BOUQUETS

Receive Two Beautiful Rainbow Floral Bouquets Absolutely FREE with \$150.00 in Laurel Park Place Purchases.

- Beginning April 26, 1993 and while supplies last
- Receipts must total or exceed \$150.00
- Receipts must be from Laurel Park Place stores or restaurants
- Receipts must be dated April 26, 1993 or after
- Two bouquets per \$150.00 in receipts
- Receipts can be redeemed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Laurel Park Place Management office.

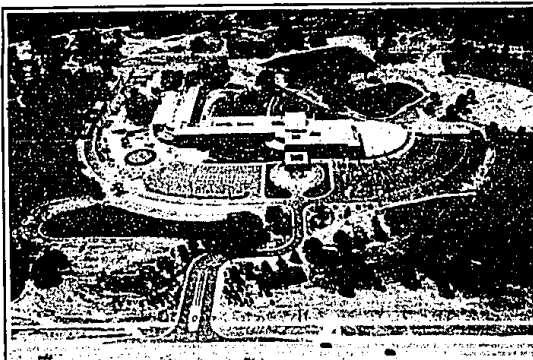
Official Rules Available in the Laurel Park Place Management Office. No Purchase Necessary.

MOTHER'S DAY PIZAZZ CONTEST APRIL 26 THROUGH MAY 6, 1993

Enter Your Mother to Win a Luxurious Bella Gift Basket Courtesy of Buon Giorno Gift Baskets at Laurel Park Place. Contains Fragrant Bath Accessories, Body Lotions, Scented Candles, Potpourri and Sachets... Everything to Pamper Mom. Plus Overnight Accommodations at the Livonia Marriott Hotel. Enter in the Center Court.

Laurel Park Place
I-275 Expressway at W. Six Mile & Newburgh Rds.
Livonia, Michigan • 462-1100

SCHOSTAK
FINE STORES AND SERVICES



Providence Medical Center-Providence Park: Meeting your healthcare needs at one convenient location.

Providence Medical Center-Providence Park offers a full array of outpatient services to care for you and your family in our Ambulatory Center and the adjoining Medical Office Building. More than 110 doctors practicing in 35 specialties provide outpatient services at Providence Park including:

- 24-hour Emergency Care Center
- Outpatient Surgery
- 24-hour Recovery Care Unit
- Clinical Laboratory
- Behavioral Medicine Services
- CT Scan
- Cardiopulmonary Testing
- Audiological Testing
- Corporate Health Services Department
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Diagnostic Endoscopy Center
- Nuclear Imaging
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Sleep Disorders Center
- Women's Imaging Center.



Providence Medical Center-Providence Park
47601 Grand River Avenue
at Beck Road
Novi, Michigan 380-4100

DIRECTIONS TO PROVIDENCE MEDICAL CENTER-PROVIDENCE PARK IN NOVI
From west bound I-96 — Exit of Beck Road. Turn right (south) on Beck Road. At Grand River Avenue, turn right (west). The medical center entrance is on the left off of Grand River Avenue.
From east bound I-96 — Exit of Beck Road. Turn left (south) on Beck Road. At Grand River Avenue, turn right (west). The medical center entrance is on the left off of Grand River Avenue.

PROVIDENCE

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Fashions for sizes 14 & up

On April 29, our newest For You from Spiegel store is opening at Twelve Oaks in Novi. You'll find more of the great fashions we feature in our catalogs, value pricing you'll enjoy everyday plus fashion consultants to help make shopping a pleasure. Be sure to join us for all the excitement.

April 29 - May 2
Grand Opening Discounts

April 29 - 30
Model Search
You could win a professionally produced model's composite, a \$200 For You outfit and a modeling assignment.

May 1 - 2, 11am - 5pm
Free makeovers courtesy of Salon Hayat. Enter to win a Salon Hayat gift certificate good towards hair styling, manicures, makeovers and more.

For You Fashion Club
Join and receive savings each month for a whole year.

Spiegel FCNB Preferred Charge Offer
Open a charge and receive 10% off your first For You from Spiegel purchase.



For You
FROM SPIEGEL

Twelve Oaks, Michigan • 313 347-2820