



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIREUX

Gelling together: Kids whip up a shaving cream frenzy Thursday on the last day of school.

Power eighth graders get lathered up

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A jubilant herd of eighth graders thought they'd whip up some fun Thursday with a shaving cream fight.

But the annual year-end school ritual left some business operators getting worked up into a lather. Farmington Public Safety officers responded to three calls after Power Middle School let out Thursday morning, including two complaints at the Farmington Crossroads shopping center on Farmington Road at Nine Mile.

Frank Tata Jr., who runs the A&W restaurant, said kids were squirting cars and windows and were disrupting lunch-hour business. An employee at a nearby Hallmark shop also called police.

"At least the school warned us that they were coming," Tata said. "That was nice."

Businesses had a legitimate complaint, Public Safety director Gary Goss said. The department will get together with Power Middle School officials to try to prevent the same thing from happen-

ing again next year, he said.

"I don't mind the kids letting off some steam," Goss said, "but we're going to have to find a better place for them to do it."

Children's safety is a major concern.

Several kids were running around the parking lot with incoming cars, squirting each other with shaving cream. A group also ran across Farmington Road to the 7-Eleven nearby.

Police initially responded to a complaint at the Farmington Post Office at 11:20 a.m.

The group of teens left when the police arrived. A few minutes later, the police responded to a call from Bonnie's Hallmark Shop.

Shortly after noon, the police were called back to Crossroads where kids had congregated in front of the A&W. The group began to clear once the patrol cars arrived.

Tata was upset the group wasn't dispersed earlier by the police. Officers in two patrol cars watched as the kids milled

around in the parking lot.

Goss said a police presence was used to keep the kids from getting out of hand. When they were asked to leave, Goss said, the kids cooperated.

"They just got out of school and were squirting each other with shaving cream," Goss said. "Is there something illegal in that? I don't know. . . I don't think so."

Added Goss later, "We probably should not have had to come back three times."

Others in the shopping center weren't upset.

Joon Kil, manager at Kii's Tae Kwon Do, was sitting behind his desk and didn't realize what was going on. For an employee at a nearby flower shop, it was business as usual.

Said Andi Ford working at the counter, "As long as they don't get our windows dirty, we don't mind."

Kurt Buker, manager at Perry Drugs, was prepared. He put out a sign on the door Tuesday forbidding the sale of shaving cream to minors.

Instead, they tried to buy mousse and shampoo. Buker refused to sell that, too.

"I've been a retail manager for 12 years," he said. "Kids do these kinds of things."



Foamy farewell: Jodi Guibord wipes shaving cream out of the eyes of fellow Power Middle School eighth grader Kristin Trest near the A&W in the Crossroads Plaza Thursday. The pair, as well as most of the kids in the parking lot, are headed to Farmington High School in the fall.

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