

# October offensive marks 10th year of drug fight

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Families In Action, the area's well-known group promoting awareness and education on substance abuse, will offer a month of activities in October. The group is marking its 10th anniversary this year.

Beginning with the student breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, representatives from all ninth grades will hear Eric Worley speak on substance abuse and how it affected him personally. Students will then go back and share this information with their ninth-grade health classes.

Worley turned his life around from drug use, said fund raiser Nancy Smith.

Said Smith, "He's somebody who's been there."  
Worley's parents learned he was a cocaine addict in his junior year in West Bloomfield High School, said Betty Nicolay, the group's board chairwoman. Through parental intervention and treatment, Worley went on to become one of 25 outstanding seniors at Michigan State University.

Today, Worley is an accountant for Plante & Moran.

Here's the lineup of other events:  
■ On Oct. 1, 7:15-9 p.m. at Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 W. 13 Mile, Detroit Free Press columnist Bob Talbert will speak on the theme "Use, Abuse, Addiction."

The Designate A Driver (D.A.D.) program, initiated locally by Talbert and promoted by 47th District Judge Fred Horrie, Magistrate James Brady and the city, tickets are \$12. Call Linda Emborg at 476-2303 for tickets. Call Judy Jonna for details 553-7574.

■ Oct. 2 and 3 — Thirty-five congregations are expected to participate in a Religious Weekend. Oakland Hills Community Church is planning to present a series of videos for parents and teens on alcohol abuse.

Oct. 3, 10 and 17 — Parent and student program will take place on substance abuse at William Tyn-

dale College with a Christian theme. Call 478-5001 for details.

■ Oct. 5-9 — Red Ribbon Week — Wear a red ribbon to show your support for a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

■ Oct. 8 and 9 — Valvoline Weekend. A \$3 donation from each oil change at Valvoline, 32888 Grand River, will go toward the group's Valvoline Race car. WRIF radio will be there. Valvoline will be spreading the "Yes to Life, No to Drugs" message via radio station WRIF broadcasts and a display of race cars.

■ Oct. 23 — Uptown Kids Karival with rap winners from participating schools performing noon to 1 p.m. The performance will be taped to air on local cable TV, channel 10. One winner will be chosen from the elementary and middle school categories. They will win \$10 in "Uptown Bucks" and will go to the TV 10 station to be taped again. There will also be a healthy body puppet show for the younger kids with free popcorn and face painting. All kids wearing their red ribbon will receive a free Coke and four tokens from Magic Planet. Call Nancy Smith, 476-5682, for details.

■ The Farmington Players present their fund-raising play "Lend Me a Tenor." The fund-raiser is sponsored by the group and the Farmington Elks Club. Call Nancy Smith at 476-5682 for tickets and information.

■ Oct. 29-Nov. 6 — The Gold Loft will donate 10 percent of its sales to the group as a fund-raiser. The Gold Loft, new to the Farmington community, is upstairs from the Grand Cafe on Grand River. Call Farmington Families In Action at 851-8565 for details.

A number of other community activities are planned during October, including:

■ Oct. 11-15 — Watch for drug-free messages at Kroger on your grocery bags. On Oct. 16, it's red ribbon day at Pace Warehouse. Come in and get your red ribbons. Oct. 20 — Wear something red day in support of a healthy drug-free lifestyle. Oct. 23-24 is Alcohol-free Weekend. Call YMCA for details.

## Teen still in serious condition

A youth who rode his bike onto Grand River against the traffic signal was struck by a car and remains in serious condition at the pediatric intensive care unit at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor.

### BIKE ACCIDENT

Grand River against the light. Drivers in the first three lanes were able to stop or avoid Hatch, witnesses told police, but Curtis Hills, 31, of Farmington Hills could not stop his 1990 black Mustang in time.

The car struck Hatch, who slammed into the windshield and then to the pavement. Hatch suf-

fered head injuries, a broken collarbone and multiple contusions and bruises.

Hill was able to stop his car within the intersection, but not until his car struck the youth.

"The driver (Hill) was just in the wrong place at the wrong time," said Sgt. Ray Cranston.

Hill was ticketed for a seat belt violation, but not for any moving violation.



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Proud citizen: Wally Christensen, recipient of the 1993 Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award, bats 1,000 in many people's eyes as the Memorial Parade organizer and as an American Legion baseball coach.

## With distinction Christensen is top citizen

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

"Service with distinction." That's how Gerald Lynch, commander of American Legion 346 Post described Walter "Wally" Christensen, CB, in his recent nomination letter which named Christensen the Farmington/Farmington Hills 1993 Citizen of the Year.

"If there was a title like Mr. Parade or Mr. Baseball, he could very well be the recipient," said Lynch. "His accomplishments are continuing."

Christensen gained recognition both as coach/manager of American Legion baseball as well as chairman of the Farmington Memorial parade.

He's also the current chaplain of the post.

"Chaplain Christensen, I salute you," Lynch proudly proclaimed.

Christensen made his way to the podium at the Botsford Inn Thursday night amidst thunderous applause.

Christensen was a former supervisor at the Ford Motor Co. Wisconsin plant. He's a former member of the Jaycees and was an investigational volunteer for the Goodfellowa.

He's also been the number one poppy seller for a number of years and has planned every Memorial parade that has gone through Farmington.

Farmington Hills Sgt. Darnel Krauso has

coached baseball with Christensen for almost seven years.

Through baseball, Christensen has given boys a future, Krauso said, often at his own expense.

"These boys are our future," Christensen said. Dentists, lawyers and even Mayor William Hartcock have played on Christensen's teams.

"The difference between a winner and a loser is that one of them knows how to lose with pride and dignity," Christensen told the crowd.

Christensen has lived in Farmington since 1941, leaving the area only to serve in the armed forces.

"There's one thing that people don't know, we don't charge one penny for American Legion play or to play American Legion baseball," Christensen said. "I raise the money for it."

Christensen is a graduate of Clarenceville High school in Livonia.

He remembers walking the soybean fields to Edgewood school.

His love of baseball has provided much personal satisfaction.

"It's a feeling that you are really doing something, he said. "All it costs you is your time. I have yet to have someone come back and say that some kid turned sour."

His wife Lorraine is a lifelong Farmington resident. The couple have six children.

## 'Tenor' opens Players' season

The Farmington Players have announced their 1993-1994 play schedule.

"Lend Me A Tenor" written by Ken Ludwig opens the season. It will play from Oct. 15 through Nov. 6. "Lend Me A Tenor" is about the internationally renowned tenor who travels to Cleveland for a performance of "Otello," that will save the local opera company. Attempts to meet him, romance him, subdue him and replace him are the fuel in this hilarious, door-slaming farce and recent Broadway hit. Sharlan Doubles directs.

From Dec. 3 through Dec. 18, "A Couple White Chickens Sitting Around Talking" written by John Ford Noonan will be performed.

The play, directed by Bob Myers, is a modern-day award-winning comedy that takes place in suburban New York and will do for the East what "Thelma and Louise" did for the West. Those two unlikely patriots provide the backdrop for this hilarious celebration of life, love, sex and friendship.

Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" will be on stage from Feb. 11 through Feb. 26. Directed by Bob Salisbury, "All My Sons" is a classic talk of deception and drama. The members of two families are drawn together by an innocent lie that may, in the end, rip them all apart.

Rounding out our season will be the spicy tale "Le Liaison

Dangeruses" by Christopher Hampton. Also known as "Dangerous Liaisons," this Tony-nominee and winner of London's Olivier Award takes you back to 1780s France. Adept at smooch, two French aristocrats bring new meaning to the saying "All's fair in love and war."

The play will be directed by Nancy Harrower and run from April 29 through May 21. The Farmington Players Barn is at 32332 12 Mile Road, west of Orchard Lake Road. Curtain time is 8 p.m. for performances except Sunday which is at 7 p.m. with one matinee at 2 p.m. For more information and tickets, call the Farmington Players at 553-2955.

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