

Some crafty work: Jacquelyn Waldecker of Farmington Hills concentrates on her beaded necklace she made at the craft area.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ANN HEALEY

How's tricks?: Ryan Quinn (left) and MacKenzie Parous of Farmington Hills are amazed at the tricks Zemo the Magnificent does on his yo-yo.

Night's all in the family

Family Night in Farmington Hills got off to a good start with about 700 participants descending on the Mercy Center on Friday.

"It was spectacular," said Eric Wurmlinger, assistant director of special services for Farmington Hills. He helped run the inaugural event Friday.

"I heard nothing but positive comments," Wurmlinger said. "People remarked that there was something for everyone."

There was no admission charge, but people could make a donation of money, food items, coats, gloves, mittens and toys to benefit local charities.

About \$300 in donations was split between Neighborhood House and the Farmington Goodfellows, Wurmlinger said, and 276 food items "as well as a lot of hats and coats" went to the Farmington Salvation Army.

Activities included hay rides (350 rode, Wurmlinger said, on a

pleasant evening), an open swimming pool (250), children's theater, a story teller and yo-yo master, a children's "Make It and Take It" craft area, face painting and a western line-dancing demonstration.

Entertainment included "Adventures of the Ugly Duckling," presented by September Productions. The musical, based on the classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, featured clever sets, wonderful costumes, fun music and dancing.

Story teller Sandra Wilkie from the Farmington Community Library told the audience "All About Animals" using finger plays, stories and puppetry.

Food was sold by athletes and volunteers from Team Farmington to benefit Special Olympics. "They actually ran out of food," Wurmlinger said.

Officials said that Family Night probably will become an annual event.



Making points: Lucille Walker of Farmington helps her son Marshall score a basket in the Mercy Center pool.

Getting on line: At right, Maggie Loidas (center, wearing hat), adult activity specialist, leads a group in Western line dancing. Below right, September Productions presents "Adventures of the Ugly Duckling" to a Family Night audience at the Mercy Center.



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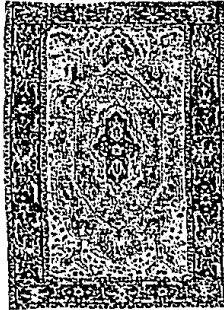
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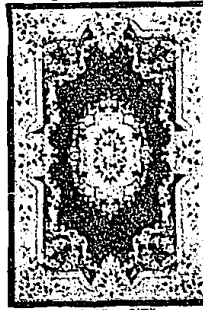
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