



Floored: Caroliese Frink-Reed has some children on the gym floor with her story Thursday at Hillside Elementary. More than 100 people turned out for the night of tales and stories.

Tale spin

Kids get storied lesson

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

There were fat ones, skinny ones, short ones and tall ones too. It's stories we're talking about, the kind of tales that are told in school.

Hillside Elementary and PTA hosted a group of storytellers, who managed to spin a few yarns and left their audience captivated.

More than 100 people turned out for the program in the school gym.

Hillside teacher Ami Jackson organized the event. She is a member of the National Association of Black Storytellers, who were in Detroit looking for a place to have their annual convention.

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■ While they were here, storytellers Kathleen Williams, Caroliese Frink-Reed, Felisco Keeling and James Graham wanted to drop by a suburban school.

Ami "D" and Milli "B" served as The Fabricators. Children listened, laughed and later got a little antsy.

Parents were impressed with the dramatic oratorical style of the storytellers.

James Graham received a rave review for his African folk tale about a piece of unknown fruit on a tree.

"He had such a booming voice," said JoAnn Hurland, whose three children ages 11, 9 and 4 attended.

"That is the part of the reason why I liked it. They (storytellers) did a nice job."

Another tale centered on a little boy who didn't want to go to sleep.

His parents tried talking to him, so did his 13 brothers and sisters and the police.

When they all gathered in his room, they began talking among themselves and the boy fell asleep without them noticing.

Admission to the event was a can of food, which was donated to Neighborhood House in Farmington.

"I think the parents enjoyed it as much, if not more, than the children," said PTA member Sue Boskey.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ANN HEALY

Telling tales: Frink-Reed is from Pittsburgh, Pa., and is a member of the Black Storytellers Association. The group was in the Detroit area, looking for a site to hold their national convention.

Farmington project on level for clearing sidewalk hazards

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington city officials don't want residents taking a trip on the wild side, or their backside, for that matter.

A sidewalk replacement program has been approved by the city council, which will put the brakes on some walkway hazards. New equipment will make the process somewhat easier. Last year, the city bought two scarifiers, which are machines that grind down unlevelled concrete sidewalk slabs up to 1 1/2 inches.

The scarifiers, in some cases, will delay the need for property owners to replace damaged slabs, not to mention alleviating some immediate risks for pedestrians. "Trip hazards are one of the biggest problems," city manager

Frank Lauhoff said. "It's one of the most frequent liabilities to the city."

Property owners are responsible for sidewalk snow removal, maintenance and replacement. Cities still find themselves on the other end of lawsuits, along with property owners, when someone trips and falls.

"It never ends," Lauhoff said. "It's a litigious society we live in. We all pay the price."

Use of the scarifier takes anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes, depending on the displacement of the sidewalk slab, said director of public services Kevin Gushman.

The improvement plan includes public services inspectors checking walkways during the spring. They'll grind down as

many slabs as possible.

"We'll walk through and eliminate the trip hazards to the best of our ability," Gushman said.

The grinding only takes place once since it involves thinning the concrete base. Repeated work would weaken the foundation.

Inspections will continue through the summer. In the fall, crews will identify what slabs are displaced, faulty or cracked and cannot be grinded. Notices go out to residents.

Replacement will take place the following summer.

The city bought two scarifier machines last year for \$2,500 each. Cost for the teeth that do the grinding is \$150.

The last sidewalk improvement program took place in the city's south side in 1989.

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ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public. Farmington Hills City Council regular meeting 474-6115 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, 1994

Agenda items include:
■ Consideration of a special assessment district for water main installation for the northwest portion of Quaker Valley Farms addition and notice of intent to issue bonds and declaration of intent to reimburse project expenditures with bond proceeds.
■ Consideration of determination and cost hearing for dust control program for 1994 and award of a contract to General Chemical Corp. in the amount of \$70,658.
■ Consideration of introduction

of an ordinance amending the city zoning code to modify screening requirements for satellite reception antennas
■ Consideration of approval of setting a public hearing date of April 11, 1994, for a cost hearing resolution for water main construction for Quaker Valley subdivision
■ Consideration of approval of setting a public hearing date of April 11, 1994, for a cost hearing for sanitary sewer construction for Quaker Valley subdivision.
■ Recommended approval of setting the date of March 28, 1994, for a public hearing on a proposed ice arena.

Farmington City Council 474-5500 8 p.m. Monday, March 21, 1994
Agenda items include:
■ Service agreement: Oakland County Animal Control Division.
■ Road salt contract.
■ Six-year capital improvement plan 1994-1999.
■ Request for a proclamation for Joyce Week April 18-24.
■ Request for a proclamation for Michigan Severe Weather Awareness Week March 27 to April 2.

Farmington Board of Education Lewis Schulman Center, 489-3300 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 22
Agenda items include:
■ Presentation by Highmeadow Common Campus.
■ Resolution on cost containment legislation.
■ Presentation by Dr. Richard Jones, senior consultant, International Center for Leadership in Education.