Student driving draws concern from resident near high school

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills resident who lives across from a high school says many students drive by heavy peddle.

Betsy Good wasn't talking about their musical tastes. A 16-year-old girl exiting North Farmington High's parking lot lost control of the 1986 Chevrolet, jumped the curb and slammed into an evergreen tree at Good's 13 Mile Road residence Nov. 7.

The driver was not injured, but was ticketed by Farmington Hills police for driving too fast for road conditions.

Nearly two inches of rain fell in the area, making roads hazardous and leading to several traffic accidents. Students speeding out of the school is an everyday occurrence, Good said.

"These kids slam out of the high school at a very high speed, especially at lunch," said Good, whose evergreen tree in the front yard was completely uprooted. "They are creating dangers on the road for everybody."

Student drivers need to slow down before someone gets seriously injured, Good said. The warning comes during a time with increasingly inclement weather.

"I hear the screeching out there; I just hope everything is OK," Good said.

The 13 Mile and Fox Creek area doesn't have a high number of accidents, said Hills police sergeant Dennis Green. Police enforce speed limits in the area as any other.

"We don't key on that area," Green said. "We do know — whether its North Farmington, Harrison or Farmington High — kids in general drive faster than soccer moms going to things.

"Kids, driving and schools have always been a problem."

At North, the school has two parking lot attendants who monitor how students drive, Principal Deb Clarke said.

Students are reminded in the school about safety measures. Driving privileges can be revoked if there is sufficient cause, Clarke said.

"When we see kids driving inappropriately, we respond to it," Clarke said.

Making a play

STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Take away: *Mercy High play "You Can't Take it with You" takes place 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15-16, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, at the school's auditorium, Middlebelt and 11 Mile roads. Jana Strom, left; Francis Shiman-Hackett, and Meghan Moraniec; Amanda Lange, standing at left; Sarah Zakaria, Kristen Legg, and Don Milewski rehearse for the upcoming show.*

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RECREATION NEWS

Each week the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For further information regarding programs, contact the Recreation office at 473-9570. Preregistration is required for most activities. For matters regarding Hills City Council agenda items, call the news line at 473-9532.

HOLIDAY 'LIGHTS' CEREMONY

We invite you and your children to join us Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the front of the Farmington Hills City Hall to begin the holiday season with a lighting ceremony. The evening's program will include a short ceremony, singing of songs, a visit from Santa and refreshments Santa will visit with the children in the lower level conference room in City Hall immediately following the ceremony.

YOUTH BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Registration is being accepted through Nov. 29 for boys and girls in grades 4 and 8. Grade divisions will be comprised of 4 and 5, 6, and 7 and 8 grades. The program begins the week of Jan. 6 with two practice weeks before a ten-game schedule starts on Jan. 18. Fee is $55 per child. Individuals interested in coaching a team should contact the Recreation Division at 473-9570.

TEEN CENTER

This program, co-sponsored with the Farmington Youth Assistance, is open to students who are 12 to 16 years of age. The program is held a East Middle School on Friday evenings from 7-9:45 p.m. Scheduled dates are Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, Dec. 6,13 and 20. There is a one-time $2 membership fee.

TROPICAL FISH

Learn the steps to having a successful home aquarium from City Naturalist, Joe Derek. He will discuss tank size, water conditions, varieties of fish, breeding, plants and food on Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 7-9 p.m. at the Heritage Park Day Camp Building Pre-registration fee of $5 per person or $15 per family is required.

OPEN SWIM

Drop by and enjoy the warm 87 degree water of the Costick Activities pool for an open swim session. Open swims are scheduled for one hour and 1 1/2 hour time frames in the morning, afternoon and evening. Fee is $2 for one hour and $2.50 for an hour and a half. Call the Recreation office at 473-9570 for specific times.

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