

GRIP returns to help 8th- and 9th-graders in transition

Generations Responding to Issues and Problems - GRIP - is returning on Wednesday, March 3, at the William Costick Activity Center, 28000 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

GRIP is now in its fifth year and is sponsored by Farmington Families in Action (FFIA) and Farmington Public Schools.

This year's program is titled, "Common Sense for Uncommon Times," and will focus on the transition from middle school to high school. Begun as a way to help students and their families deal with drug and alcohol use

issues, GRIP has drawn hundreds of people to each of the four previous events.

This year, the workshop targets eighth- and ninth-graders and their parents. Rick Jones, a teacher and coach at North Farmington High School, will be the keynote speaker.

During breakout sessions, parents will have the opportunity to meet with district social workers, psychologists, administrators and police liaisons. Students will meet with high school student round-table representatives to discuss ways to have a suc-

Students will meet with high school student round-table representatives to discuss ways to have a successful high school career.

There will also be displays from many local groups to allow attendees to gather additional information.

Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield and Monique Luse, president of the high school student round-

table, will serve as hosts for the evening, which is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. with registration, refreshments and exhibits.

Free, on-site child care is offered through the Farmington Family YMCA. Those who need child care must preregister.

There will be no charge for this event, which is co-sponsored by Farmington Families in Action, Farmington Exchange Club, Farmington Hills Police Department, Farmington Public Safety Department, Farmington Public Schools and TRW-Automotive Group.

Registration is available by mail at Farmington Public Schools, School/Community Relations, 32500 Shiloh Avenue, Farmington, MI 48336, or by fax at (248) 489-3314. Due to the tremendous response, phone registration cannot be accepted.

During Tuesday nights Farmington school board meeting, high school round-table president Monique Luse, of North High, presented an "informal" about the upcoming GRIP.

Monique displayed an innovative registration card, titled "Are You Puzzled by Common Sense Issues in These Uncommon Times?" The inside flap of the card included a puzzle piece, to be filled out by recipients and brought to the event. Some puzzle pieces will be redeemable for prizes that evening.

Farmington Special Olympics Bowlation strikes Saturday

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER
(smith@00e.homescomm.net)

Thirty-five bowling teams will toss strikes and spares for Team Farmington Special Olympics, during Saturday's fifth annual Bowlation.

During the event, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Drakeville Lanes on Grand River in Farmington, there will be police and fire departments, teams, city council members, business executives and a striking entry wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the "Kids World" PlayScape logo on front.

The hopes are for the teams (comprised of five bowlers) to raise - through pledges and donations - about \$25,000 for Team Farmington. That money would help keep the program afloat for another year, said spokesman David Clineard.

"We raise half a year's budget through this event," Clineard said, adding that the proceeds will help Team Farmington fund travel to tournaments and sports equipment for the 16 sports it competes in.

Clineard said this year's Bowlation is "our biggest yet," with growing media interest in Spe-

cial Olympics aiding the cause.

"The interest is just there," he said. "Special Olympics, over the past year, has gotten out more in the media" and is being seen for the good things it does.

Team Farmington, affiliated with Oakland County Special Olympics, has more than 300 athletes and more than 50 volunteer coaches.

Athletes of all ages are given a chance to participate in local, state and national competitions. Besides bowling, among the different sporting events are alpine skiing, basketball, cross country

skiing, golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, softball, speed skating, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, weightlifting and polo hockey.

The latter sport was featured last fall during a tournament between Team Farmington and the Farmington Public Safety Department.

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POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

MARIJUANA ARREST

In Farmington Hills:

Police arrested an Oxford man, 21, after finding 16 grams of marijuana and 7 grams of Palcoybin - hallucinogenic mushrooms - inside the 1993 Ford Ranger he was driving on westbound I-696 and Middlebelt at 8:50 a.m. Feb. 20.

Police stopped the vehicle for speeding. Officers also seized \$200 cash as drug forfeiture money.

BREAKINS

In Farmington:

Police arrested a 21-year-old man on suspicion of shoplifting at a clothing store on Grand River on Feb. 20.

The man was arrested after he was seen running away from the store. He was charged with shoplifting and possession of stolen property.

IN FARMINGTON HILLS:

Store security nabbed two 14-year-old Redford girls who tried to steal \$180 worth of jewelry from Kohl's on Grand River Feb. 21.

BURGLARY

In Farmington Hills:

Burglars stole a jewelry box, radio, electric guitar, 20 cassette tapes and two necklaces after breaking in through a rear window of a Branchester Street residence Feb. 21.

VANDALISM

In Farmington:

A resident in the 35000 block of Oakland reported that someone drove a vehicle across his front yard, sometime between 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, and 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. Approximately \$200 in damage was caused. The resident told

IN FARMINGTON HILLS:

police it was the third such incident during the past year. There are no suspects.

DRIVING WITHOUT LICENSES

In Farmington:

Police issued tickets to two men who drove their vehicles despite having suspended licenses.

At about 3:20 a.m. Monday, Feb. 15, a 23-year-old Farmington Hills man was stopped on eastbound M-5 at Farmington, for speeding. A computer check of his driving record found he had a suspended license.

Likewise, a 61-year-old Detroit man, stopped for speeding on westbound Grand River about 6:50 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, also was found not to have a valid license.

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Walk for March of Dimes

More than 15,000 people in southeast Michigan will join forces to save babies by walking eight miles in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica the weekend of April 24 and 25. The nation's premiere walking event, WalkAmerica will take place at 15 southeast Michigan locations.

Proceeds raised by WalkAmerica participants help reduce infant mortality and birth defects through programs of research, community service, advocacy and education.

WalkAmerica will take place April 24 at Haggerty Field in Hines Park in Plymouth, while the following day, OCC's Orchard Ridge campus in Farm-

ington Hills will host the event.

In 1998, local participants raised more than \$1.4 million. Nationally, WalkAmerica proceeds exceeded \$74 million.

People who walk help the March of Dimes support grassroots organizations that provide access to health care for women who otherwise might not have that access. Two organizations that benefit from March of Dimes funding are Detroit-based Alternatives for Girls and the Michigan Catholic Hospital System's Infant Mortality Project.

For further information, call the March of Dimes at (248) 359-1550.

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