

Boosters say response too slow

BY TIM SMITH
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It took six minutes for paramedics to rush to the aid of a Westland John Glenn High School junior varsity football player after he suffered a concussion during Thursday's game at Farmington High School.

That's six minutes too long, according to the Farmington Football Backers, who would like to see an EMS vehicle stationed on site.

Meanwhile, another visiting football player needed emergency medical attention during a game a couple weeks ago, said Farmington High School Principal John Barrett Friday.

FARMINGTON HIGH

"That time it took maybe 10 or 15 minutes" for paramedics to make it to the injured player, estimated Barrett.

Denise Albrecht, president of Farmington Football Backers, clocked that wait at 20 minutes. She said a player had sustained a pinched nerve and wasn't moving for a while.

"What we're trying to do," said Albrecht, whose son plays on the FHS junior varsity, "is get an

ambulance parked there on the field, like other schools do."

She listed Walled Lake and Livonia among Oakland and Wayne county districts where ambulances are stationed on site.

Albrecht said a collaboration between Farmington and Farmington Hills, to make sure emergency vehicles are at the schools, makes sense to the football backers - particularly since the school district serves both cities.

"Our biggest concern is that ... both Farmington and Farmington Hills (city councils) haven't stepped up" to deal with the issue, she added.

Barrett insisted that such injuries are taken care of as quickly as possible, and that medical attention actually begins as soon as Farmington Public Safety Department officers arrive.

Farmington Public Safety officers are fully trained to intervene in a crisis situation, and handle police and fire calls.

"The police were there immediately," Barrett emphasized. "And all of the police are trained for emergency medical situations. They have stretchers, they know how to contain things."

Even still, the district's athletic department is studying whether logistical improvements can be made to enable paramedics to more-quickly respond.

One of those might be to station ambulances at or near the field.

"It's being pursued," Barrett said.

The John Glenn player suffered a concussion after colliding with a Falcon player, just before 8 p.m. Thursday. Paramedics arrived at 8:05 p.m., then stabilized the player and dispatched him to Botsford Hospital.

According to police reports, there were "no outward signs of injury" and that the player was disoriented.



Dishing it out: Farmington High School Principal John Barrett and Jan Bajek, hall monitor and parent, hand out ice cream to students during the first week of school. The staff and parents were treated to a lunchtime ice cream social in appreciation of their patience and support during construction at the school.

Policy complies with new student suspension law

BY TIM SMITH
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Farmington school board members Tuesday approved an amendment to the student code of conduct that - on the face of it - gives teachers more classroom authority than they had.

But district officials don't think the mandated retooling changes how disciplinary matters in the classroom were already being handled.

"It had to be (approved)," said Priscilla Brouillette, president of the Farmington school board. "We had to rewrite our policy to incorporate the new state law."

Brouillette emphasized that the revision won't really impact how teachers deal with student disciplinary problems.

"We don't expect that it will change the reality of how our teachers interact with our students," Brouillette said. "We have a very clear procedure for inappropriate behavior. We're not expecting any major changes."

According to the amended student code of conduct, faculty members "may suspend" a student for code violations such as fighting, or they may decide to go the traditional disciplinary route - and forward the matter to the building principal.

James Myers, the district's executive director for kindergarten-through-12th-grade student services, said the policy amendment is to comply with the so-called Teacher Snap Suspension Law, or state Public Act

SCHOOLS

103.

According to the state law, suspensions "from a teacher's class, subject or activity for up to one full school day" can be meted out to students for fighting; refusing to wear safety glasses or safety-required attire; possessing or using a laser light without permission; possessing, using or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance; having a "dangerous weapon" as defined in the student code.

Teachers must make a written report to the principal immediately after handing down a suspension.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D., RHEUMATOLOGY
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TAKING A BLOOD TEST FOR ARTHRITIS

It would be convenient if a blood test existed, that could tell if you had arthritis. The reality is that many blood tests exist whose results are associated with arthritis, but none of these tests are always correct.

The problem is that what tests uncover as arthritis-related come from antibodies in the blood. The existence of these antibodies is related not only to arthritis but also to age, past infections, and present and previous medicines. At times physicians find arthritis-associated tests such as positive rheumatoid factor, positive Lupus test, and high uric acid in persons who are in good health. Often these individuals never show any evidence of the arthritis for which they tested positive.

The other side of testing is that often patients with swollen and painful joints have normal arthritis blood tests. Having no sign of arthritis in your blood, cannot be used by your physician as an indication that you have no arthritis.

Your doctor finds that arthritis and diagnoses the type of arthritis by your narrative of what occurred and by the pattern of joint swelling, tenderness and impairment he finds when performing a physical examination.

Blood tests are useful to confirm the diagnosis. Blood tests are also of value for following the effect of therapy. However, the main indication of improvement remains how you feel and how examinations of your joints change therapy.

Expensive technology may have a place in joint operations, but identification and care of arthritis still depend on you and your doctor observing the changes in your joints.

LEONARD

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by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.

IN RECOGNITION OF GUM DISEASE

Gum disease, which affects half of all Americans age 30 and older, can lead to tooth and bone loss. Many people are scarcely aware that they are at risk because the disease often has no symptoms until it has already destroyed the bone and soft tissue supporting teeth. When in very early stages, the University of Texas Health Science Center reviewed 191 patients undergoing treatment for periodontal disease, they found only 6% reported having the classic symptoms of painful gums. Those who do display symptoms such as swollen, red, or tender gums do not always recognize the symptoms for what they are. In view of the fact that early intervention can help preserve teeth, it pays to have regular dental checkups.

The type of treatment you require depends on how advanced your particular case is. Ask us at LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES about medical conditions or medications that can contribute to gum disease. Gum disease can be treated in ways ranging from cleaning to surgery, but more important, it can be prevented altogether by regular brushing, flossing and professional cleanings. We'll schedule your appointment, we'll look at your X-rays, and we'll address such conditions, a visit to our office is in order. Please call 478-2110 to schedule an appointment. We're located at 19171 Merriman Road, where you will receive a professional exam to detect and address any existing or impending oral health problems. Smiles are our business. We provide dentistry without fear. "Twilight sleep".

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P.S. The primary indication that most people over 40 have that they are suffering from gum disease is the slight shifting or loosening of a tooth.

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PLYMOUTH	FARMINGTON HILLS	NORTHVILLE
Monday, October 4th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer Rd. (between 5th & 6th St.)	Tuesday, October 5th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) The Longacre House 24705 Farmington Rd. (turn 10 E. 11 Mile Rd.)	Wednesday, October 6th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) Northville Public Library 212 W. Cedar (Downtown Northville)

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