

Martin Luther King remembered, 1C



Hawks sunk, 1B

Hills water rates may be falling, 5A

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item, feature story idea or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

THERE were smiles at Clarendonville High School's first presentation of academic letters Jan. 6.

The letters were awarded to students who maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or above during the last school year.

MAYORAL salute. In a fitting early-year ceremony, Mayor Joe Alkateb presented proclamations to seven people who "contributed more than others" in the community and who "struck a chord in us."

Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation Chairman Robert McConnell was recognized as the "Father of Farmington Hills." His involvement includes charter commissioner, township supervisor and city councilman.

Louise Coleman was honored for being the first woman president of the Farmington Area Jaycees and one of the more active leaders of a community service group.

Resident David Barron, who brought the issue of political lawn signs to the forefront, was honored for his determination in changing an ordinance he felt unconstitutional.

Bob Sklar, Farmington Observer editor, was cited for his "outstanding contributions and achievements to the Farmington/Farmington Hills community."

Farmington Hills Councilwoman Jan Dolan was honored for explaining government through her cable television show, "Viewpoint."

Betty Nicolay, Farmington Families in Action president, was recognized for her work in drug and alcohol abuse education.

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FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — A recent opinion by state Attorney General Frank Kelley confirms the Farmington Public Schools' primary alignment. Last year Farmington Hills cannot create a Tax Incremental Finance Authority to help finance 12 miles' road improvements if property values along the corridor are not declining.

Teen rowdiness sparks debate

Curfew to be enforced

Highlights of the Farmington Hills Police Department's plan to curtail youth rowdiness (details, 2A) —

- Stricter enforcement of curfew ordinances for youths younger than 18.
- Develop an anti-hooligan ordinance.
- Continue stepped-up surveillance and patrol work.

Some solutions to youth rowdiness posed: 2A.

By Joanne Maliczewski staff writer

The evening began with tough talk. Teens were immediately warned that while their comments would be heard, the adults — parents, merchants, police — would not tolerate arguments or any type of commotion.

— and some parents — had to be warned they were getting out of hand with insults, argumentative behavior and commotion.

Some parents and students rebutted rumors that recent teen rowdiness and assaults along Orchard Lake Road north of 12 Mile in Farmington Hills are the result of growing animosity between Chaldean and Jewish teens.

Still others held fast to their belief the chasm between the two groups is growing.

Many teens blamed troubles on boredom and accused Orchard Lake

Road merchants of not wanting teen business.

And many others blamed the problems that have plagued Farmington Hills' major retail strip on the lack of parental control and responsibility for their children.

MORE THAN two hours of emotion-packed debate in the North Farmington High School cafeteria Jan. 14 among police, parents and teens did little to pinpoint the source of the problem, which has drawn

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'A gift of time'

Trends

Schools zero in on the young

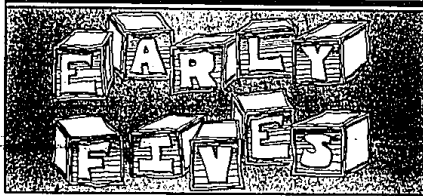
Editor's Note: This is the first in a series about developmental kindergarten — an early childhood program designed to give children not prepared for kindergarten an extra year of school. The first article gives an overview of how the developmental concept began.

By Casey Hans staff writer

APUSH for student achievement was launched in the United States in 1957, and education has never been the same.

That push followed the space flight of Sputnik, when the Soviet Union moved ahead in the game of one-upmanship with the United States.

Several Farmington-area educators and parents mentioned the global space race as an initiator of



a fierce competition in our rush to achieve — pressing learning levels in this country to extremes and affecting especially the way preschool children are educated today.

It has led us toward a society that pressures young children to achieve at an age when they may not be socially or emotionally ready to learn, according to educa-

tion experts and parents interviewed who are concerned about how their children are developing.

EMPHASIS IS being placed on preschool programs as experts realize what we do with our children will affect the rest of their lives.

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Storytelling is just one activity stressed in Early Fives. Fairview Early Childhood Center teacher Gayle Zimmerman tells a story to Jennifer Timmer (left) and Amy Newman.

RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Special zoning district at Mercy nixed

Sisters of Mercy conceptual site plan: 9A.

By Casey Hans staff writer

The Sisters of Mercy prayers were not answered Thursday night.

As owners of the property adjoining Mercy High School and the Mercy Center complex at 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills, the Sisters had proposed a special zoning district. The district would allow 129 acres to be developed with a variety

of senior housing and a three-story, 200,000-square-foot office center.

In a split vote Thursday, the Farmington Hills Planning Commission recommended the city deny consideration of the special SP-5 district, which would have been the first step for the project.

The issue regarding the property — which is zoned for single family residential — now goes before the city council for consideration.

Commissioners Vincent Valvona and George Benington cast dissenting votes for the seven-member commission.

"We face a set of risks, all of us," Benington said. "Unlike most things we see, we have an existing situation. If residences can be protected

... I think this commission should give serious consideration to SP-5. "I think the area could be adequately buffered," Valvona added.

THE ISSUE was addressed at a public hearing with residents from the Lincolnshire, Farmington Meadows and Kimberley subdivisions — the three that surround the Mercy property to the south, east and west respectively — filling the council

chambers. Neighbors raised the issues of storm water drainage, sewer backups, traffic congestion and

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'We wish to have the integrity of the (Farmington Hills) master plan upheld.'
— Margaret Ross McKay
Lincolnshire Estates

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He keeps an eye on city leaders



Farmington Hills City Council watcher Jack Joynt, in the office of his Springbrook house.

people

By Joanne Maliczewski staff writer

He's a casual kind of guy. Most Monday and Thursday evenings, Jack Joynt can be found sitting quietly in the Farmington Hills City Council chambers, preparing to hear the night's fare of political goings-on from either the city council or planning commission.

He doesn't say much — publicly that is. But there's no doubt he's listening carefully and cautiously. And every now and then, he quickly jots some notes in his loose-leaf binder sitting casually on his lap.

After the meetings, he'll wander up to city officials, shake their hands, pat their shoulder, ask a question, make a comment and he's gone. But the following day, he's busy checking things out, discussing is-

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