

Disc-tossing golfers swing into action, 1D



Baseball report, 1C

Buy a poppy to remember vets, 3A

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SIGNUP for Safety Town, a preschool education program, won't start until May 15 for residents and May 29 for non-residents. Earlier registrations will be returned. Register by mail or in person at the Farmington Hills Recreation Division center in the city hall, 31555 11 Mile. Call 473-9570 for more information.

ON board. Farmington Hills City Councilman Donn Wolf was elected chairman of the Washtenaw County Services Agency Board of Directors. Last fall, he received the board's Outstanding Citizen Award for his work in Washtenaw's anti-poverty programs.

The county agency mobilizes human resources to assist the poor and disadvantaged. Wolf is secretary of its subsidiary, CSA Enterprises, an umbrella for-profit corporation dedicated to creating jobs for the unemployed.

JOINS the DDA. Farmington City Council has named Oakland Street resident John Donohue to fill a vacancy on the Downtown Development Authority. He will represent the citizenry at large. His term expires next March. He replaces Richard Donner, who resigned in April.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week Farmington Public Schools' O.E. Duncel and Power middle schools will participate in a University of Michigan study to develop methods of helping students achieve basic literacy.

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HOME AND GARDEN II



SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Day care aide saves tots in fire

By Joanno Maliszowski staff writer

Thanks to the efforts of a 19-year-old home day care worker, five napping preschoolers were whisked to safety when a water heater caught fire.

"It was an admirable job. Her priority was with getting the kids out of the room and across the street," Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief

Peter Baldwin said. "She did exactly as she should have."

Firefighters were called to the Minglewood Lane home of group day care home operator Darlene Feldman at 2:05 p.m. Wednesday. The fire broke out next to a water heater in a closet in an attached garage converted to a playroom, Baldwin said.

Feldman's day care worker, Kathleen Paradis, 19, of Westland, put

the four toddlers to sleep in the playroom and a baby to sleep in a nearby den at 1:30 p.m. Shortly after, Paradis was washing dishes in the kitchen, near the den, when she heard coughing and noticed smoke coming from the playroom, police and fire reports said.

She immediately awakened the children and took them across the street to a neighbor's house. The neighbor called the fire department.

The children ranged in age from 9 months to 3 1/2 years.

THE FIRE, which caused damage to the closet's contents, electrical circuitry and telephone system, was brought under control within a minute of firefighters' arrival.

The fire was caused by wood and paper products stored too close to the water heater, Baldwin said.

Paradis' quick actions prevented

what could have been a serious, if not fatal fire, Baldwin said.

BUT FIREFIGHTERS are nonetheless concerned about the lack of a smoke detector in Feldman's house where the children play and nap. Feldman has a smoke detector in another part of the house. The detector did not sound because the smoke had

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5th grade pompon performers (from left) Amanda Wech, Amanda Borg, Jaimee Rose, Kerry Harnisch, Jodi Roth, Sharon Reifler and Jenny Kaplan.



Fourth grader Alexia Potrako, in Greek costume.



Kindergartners (from left) David Wildberger, Jeremy Wolf and Joshua Weinberg, as fishermen.

State played up Kids extend birthday salute

A PLAY written by Forest Elementary staff members involved a cast of 366 elementary youngsters as the school continues to celebrate Michigan's 150th birthday.

More than 300 members of the cast, which includes the entire school, had either speaking, walking or dancing parts, co-author and teacher Sue Patec said.

"150: A Michigan Odyssey" is a two-act musical with eight scenes. The play was staged Thursday in North Farmington High School's

auditorium for 900 parents and other members of the community, including Farmington Hills Mayor Ben Mark.

"The staff started working on this project last spring," said Forest principal Walt Jablonski.

"They even got together during summer vacation on a number of occasions. I'm very fortunate to have an upbeat, enthusiastic and dedicated group of people to work with."

in the production, from the art teacher who helped with costume design, to the speech teacher who helped students with their lines.

The story line begins with eight aliens landing in Michigan. They are invited to stay and learn about the state and celebrate its 150th birthday. The aliens learn about Michigan's Indians, explorers, resources and the history of statehood through skits and songs.

The aliens learn about the state's auto industry.

TEACHERS IN all areas aided

DDA leader named

By Casey Hans staff writer

A Farmington Hills resident with experience in fund raising and promotion — a former aide to a Pittsburgh city councilman — will direct the efforts of Farmington's Downtown Development Authority.

Wendy Strip Sittsamer was chosen Tuesday as the DDA board's top candidate for the position of DDA executive director.

She was selected from more than 50 candidates for the job, which ranges in pay from \$19,000 to \$23,000 per year. It includes city insurance benefits. She will answer directly to the DDA board.

She accepted the job offer early Thursday, according to administrative assistant Robert Schultz, who negotiated on behalf of the DDA board. The new director said she expects to start work May 15.

Strip Sittsamer comes to Farmington from several years of fund raising for the University of Detroit, where she held the position of assistant director of alumni relations.



Larry Freedman and his wife, Marilyn, in their Novi home.

After 26 years, educator retires

By Casey Hans staff writer

Memories of marching bands and trumpets, elementary children, and a lifetime of educational leadership are the building blocks that make Larry Freedman the man he is today.

It has been very satisfying and gratifying," Freedman said of his educational career, most of which was spent with Farmington schools. He recently announced he will retire at the end of this school year.

"I will go out feeling good. I think I've contributed. I'm going to be proud of it."

"If I had it to do all over again, I would have done it exactly as I did it," the assistant superintendent said.

"I've made decisions I thought were honest ones — I never reacted politically to anything. Every experience I had, I loved."

— Larry Freedman school administrator

plans to open a restaurant with his son-in-law and begin a new facet of his life.

"This fall, I think I'm going to start clean," Freedman said.

This change involves not only his job as educator, but his musical career as well. A professional musician for most of his life, Freedman currently plays with his own orchestra — something he says he may stop this fall.

"Music has been a thread all through the years," he said. "But I was always a teacher first and a musician second."

And now, he'll be a restaurateur — a new experience.

'I've made decisions I thought were honest ones — I never reacted politically to anything. Every experience I had, I loved.'

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