

Making the most of good scents, 8D



Soccer results, 1C

Firefighters, cops get on fitness TRACC, 3A

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PET project. Near the end of the Farmington City Council meeting last week, city manager Bob Deadman discussed a brochure that will be sent to residents detailing the May 22 vote on how to finance a planned sewer separation and improvement project.

"I kid Farmington Hills city manager Bill Costick all the time," Deadman quipped. "He talks about roads, I talk about sewers."

TEAMING up. Farmington City Council members last week joined their counterparts in Farmington Hills in proclaiming April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamation was sought by Hills resident Vernon Kleiplinski, who urges residents to display a blue ribbon "as a symbol of hope" and as a way to increase awareness of the tragic problem.

Memory lane

50 years ago: Danger resulting from grass fires was emphasized by Farmington Township Fire Chief Ed Thayer after the fire department made two trips this week.

Shaw Brothers in Farmington was advertising a new Hudson coupe for \$470. — Farmington Enterprise, April 18, 1940

This week

HOW to spend the city's latest share of community development block grant funding will be decided by the Farmington Hills City Council at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the city hall, 31555 W. 11 Mile.

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Schools pull controversial movie

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington Public Schools has removed a controversial movie from its district media center shelves after concern that it may have led to an 8-year-old Canton Township boy's hanging March 24.

Meanwhile, Encyclopaedia Britannica Education Corp. in Chicago has pulled distribution of the film because of the controversy. "We had this film in our district. When we heard about this incident, we pulled it from the shelves," said Farmington superintendent Michael Flanagan, responding to Gill Elementary parent Kathy Webb's question at the school board meeting on Tuesday.

"We were very, very concerned. We dropped everything that day. We're pulling it . . . for obvious reasons," he added.

STEPHEN NALEPA, 8, of Canton Township, was found by his 10-year-old brother, Jason, with a belt around his neck and hanging from the upper level of the boy's bunkbed.

The Wayne County Medical Examiner's office ruled the boy's death "undetermined." A police investigation continues into his death, said John Santomaro, Canton director of public safety.

The day before his death, the second grader had seen the film "Nobody's Useless," in which an infection causes a boy to lose his leg. Depressed, he attempts suicide twice until a friend convinces him life is worth living.

Police and Stephen's parents are concerned the film may have prompted the boy to mimic it.

IN FARMINGTON, the film was checked out of the district media center "several times" in the past few years, but has always been shown to "age appropriate" groups of students, Flanagan said. Encyclopaedia Britannica recommends the film for students in grades four through nine.

He also said it is the Farmington district's policy to preview films before they are shown to students. In Canton, staff at Gallimore Elementary School said the film had not been previewed before being shown.

"We had this film in our district. When we heard about this incident, we pulled it from the shelves . . . We were very, very concerned."

— Michael Flanagan
Farmington superintendent

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Her method of teaching chemistry is explosive

By Casey Hans staff writer

The quick hand of veteran North Farmington High chemistry teacher Beverly Schmitt moved lightly across the blackboard, as she prepared students for an experiment the next day on the properties of hydrogen.

"Why are we doing this? Because you're sick of theory, theory, theory," she told her last-hour Chemistry I class. "When you signed up for chemistry, what was your dream? Fire . . . and explosions."

She stressed the fun, but also the safety.

"Explosive" might best describe Schmitt's method of teaching. She squeezes as much as possible into an hour, yet continues to question, motivate and encourage from one class bell to the next. She has an easygoing rapport with her students, but maintains high expectations.

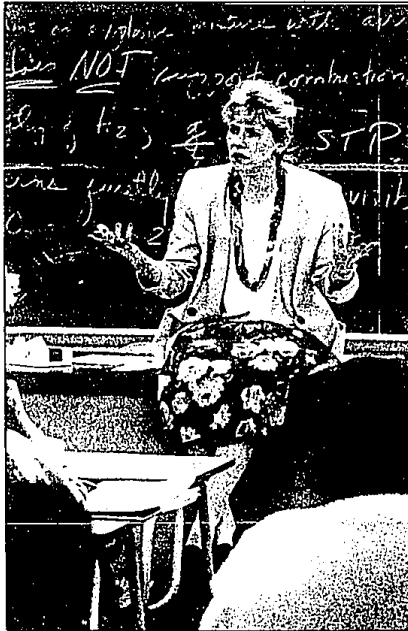
"Think a little bit — it's not against the rules," she chides one. Minutes later, she is tying chemistry to everyday life, talking about the Hindenberg, the Greenhouse Effect and global warming, and alternative energy sources.

SCHMITT'S TEACHING style draws unolicited student comments. "She's a wonderful teacher" or "she makes things interesting." One who studied under Schmitt last year called her "a favorite teacher."

Ironically, Schmitt's original dream was not to be a teacher, but to be a chemist in the private sector. Today, she wouldn't think of leaving the profession she has called her own for 25 years. Schmitt sees her job as teaching students — not just teaching chemistry.

Her attitude and dedicated teaching of some 3,500 students over the years, recently earned her the Farmington district's top honor as High School Teacher of the Year, and the same title among high school teachers throughout Oakland County.

"You have to make it relevant



Chemistry teacher Beverly Schmitt conducts a class at North Farmington High School.

and you have to show you care," she said. "You convince them they can do it. They keep striving. Most kids will measure up to what you demand of them."

state New York, Schmitt was a hard worker and a good student. After graduating as class valedictorian, she pushed forward to obtain a higher education.

GROWING UP on a farm in up-

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Cops, chief clash over fund-raising

By Joanne Mallazowski staff writer

The Farmington Hills Police Officers Association and Police Chief William Dwyer are at odds over the union's telephone solicitation program for a new political action committee to monitor city government.

Union president Bob Burkart said a professional fund-raising company, Midwest Publishing Co., Southfield, was hired on a three-year contract to solicit money for the PAC and other charity programs that the 70-member union will sponsor.

But Dwyer is angry because he believes the telephone soliciting and political action committee tarnish the police department's professional image.

"I'm angry about the lack of concern they (union members) have for the city administration, police department and residents of this community," Dwyer said.

Burkart said he believes Dwyer is just angry about the formation of a PAC and the union's desire to get involved in the political process. "The city has done nothing for us in the last few (contract) negotiations," Burkart said.

A 35-PAGE drug education manual will be distributed throughout the community and to the Farmington



William Dwyer police chief

Public Schools in the fall as a result of the solicitation program, Burkart said.

The manual "is one facet of the program," which residents can receive for a certain payment, said Ed Jacques, Midwest Publishing vice president.

But school district officials have no intention of using the drug manu-

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Officers, agent deny 'boiler-room' charge

By Joanne Mallazowski staff writer

The heads of the Farmington Hills Police Officers Association and the professional fund-raising company soliciting money for the union's programs say there is no evidence to support charges that William Dwyer's charges that the solicitation program is a "boiler-room operation."

"A boiler-room operation? That's so unfair to say that. Allegations are easy to make. I challenge anyone anywhere to document that any of that is going on," said Ed Jacques,

vice president of Midwest Publishing Co., Southfield.

The 70-member police officers union recently signed a three-year contract with Midwest to solicit contributions from residents and businesses for the union's new political action committee and for charity programs.

"I wouldn't have signed their contract if I thought they were shady," said Bob Burkart, union president. "Ninety-eight percent of the complaints turn out to be invalid."

Dwyer is warning residents and businesses not to give money to Midwest. "My recommendation to residents is not to donate any funds to this organization or any others because it borders on fraud."

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Coping with drugs

School officials, parents talk about incident

By Casey Hans staff writer

The head of a Farmington High parent group said Friday the school district appears to be taking appropriate action after a March 28 drug incident in which a student overdosed.

Tina Jensen, head of the Farmington High School/Community Forum group and active with Farmington Families in Action, said her group met Thursday night and discussed the incident with Farmington High officials and Don Cowan, director of operations and student services for the district.

The district has activated a Student Assistance Committee, designed to help students cope with such problems, and is cooperating

' . . . Drugs are dynamite. You don't know when they're going to blow up.'

— Tina Jensen
Community Forum head

with police in investigating the incident. A six-week help program has also been started to help students.

"We fell confident with what Mr. Cowan said," Jensen said. "They read us the statement (which was read to students). It was good. "We know there are problems in the other schools too. At least I think it (the incident) made the kids more aware. Drugs are dynamite. You don't know when they're going to blow up."

wrapping up their investigation, which they expect will result in juvenile petitions being filed against several Farmington High students for their part in providing a synthetic drug to a student who overdosed shortly after school.

Charges could be filed as early as this week, according to Farmington public safety director Frank Lauhoff.

The 16-year-old female student reportedly took the drug in the school

parking lot, a short time after school ended. She then went to her house where she overdosed, prompting police and emergency medical personnel to be called.

Based on interviews and other information, police believe the drug was LSD. But conclusive lab test results were not available as of late last week.

Area drug counselors and police started noticing a resurgence of the hallucinogenic drug with high school-age students last year in several communities.

Lauhoff said the incident has been "traumatic" to students at the school. The department has received a number of calls from parents and students offering tips as well as many calls from students upset about the incident, he said.

Patrols beefed up on OL Road

To help stem drug abuse and underage drinking, the Farmington Hills Police have reinitiated their annual task force along the Orchard Lake Road business corridor, between 12 and 14 Mile.

Officers assigned to the task force will promote the department's zero-tolerance program, aimed at people who illegally sell or use alcohol or drugs. The program will include selective traffic enforcement.

"The task force is a proactive approach to 'minimize' police problems in this area," said Deputy Police Chief Mirl Spencer.