

# Gold medal from page 1A

ording to statistics compiled by Farmington Public Library for the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

In Farmington, 1,735 people over age 24 have bachelor's degrees and 890 have graduate or professional degrees. That would appear to correlate

with residents' support of public education, which was measured by teacher salaries, student/teacher ratio and per pupil spending. Farmington school teachers earn between \$30,000 to \$64,000 a year. Classroom size ranges 21 to 25, depending on the grade level, while the Farmington district spends \$3,207 per student.

The Journal measured student performance on college entrance exams and graduation rates.

In 1993-94, the average Farmington schools student score on the American College Test was 22.5, above the 20.9 national average. On the Scholastic Aptitude Test the same year, the average

score was 1020 — above the national mark of 902.

The district also boasts a graduation rate of 92.7 percent. Of which, 85 percent said they planned to attend college.

"(Businesses) are quite interested in what goes on in the schools," said Chamber director Jody Soronen. "For instance, the number of kids who go onto to college, the variety of classes offered."

"Businesses are interested in the quality of the school system

and the quality of the graduates."


Support of public education, though, often translates into a higher tax bill. But that's not the only thing businesses consider when looking for a site, Soronen said.

They tend to look at overall quality of life, which includes public safety, schools and other types of business already there.

"Taxes are not the final thing they look at," Soronen said. "It's important, but it's not the only thing."

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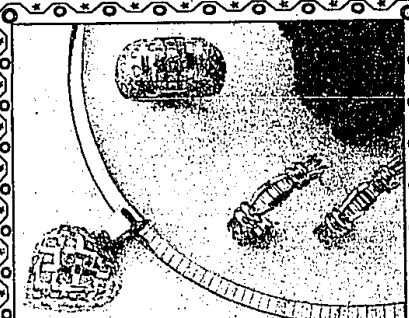
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**ON THE AGENDA**

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

**Farmington City Council**  
City Council Chambers, 474-5500  
8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4

Agenda items include:  
 ■ Presentation by Nadine Rafferty, managing director of Midwest Region Kimco Realty, regarding the Downtown Center.  
 ■ Recommendation from Traffic and Safety Board regarding Gill Road.  
 ■ 1995 Paving Program contractor payment.

**SEMCOG resolution for road repair funding.**  
 ■ Consideration of parcel split 24000 W. Nine Mile Road.  
 ■ Consideration to amend RC Plan option agreement.

**Farmington Downtown Development Authority**  
City Council Chambers, 473-7276  
8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5

Agenda items include:  
 ■ Financial report.  
 ■ Approval of payments.  
 ■ Financial incentive contract approval.  
 ■ Executive director's report.

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