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THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Study: The Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a study session in the multi-purpose room at Fire Station No. 5, 31455 11 Mile. The agenda includes the Eleven-Pines project. The council will then meet at 7:45 p.m. in a goals setting session at the same location.

Meet: The Farmington City Council will meet at 8 p.m. in city hall, 23600 Liberty.

TUESDAY

Agenda: The Farmington Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. in school board offices, 32500 Shiawassee.

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Mayor's race piques interest

Councilwoman Nancy Bates has announced her intention to run for mayor later this year. So far no one else has stepped up.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Though far from heating up, the burner is at least flickering in the race for Farmington Hills mayor. Councilwoman Nancy Bates has announced she'll seek the seat held by Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, whose two-year term is up and because of term limits cannot run for a third stint. The election is Nov. 2. Bates has been a Hills council member since 1989. She previously served as mayor in 1993 when council appointed a colleague to the position. She's currently mayor pro-tem.

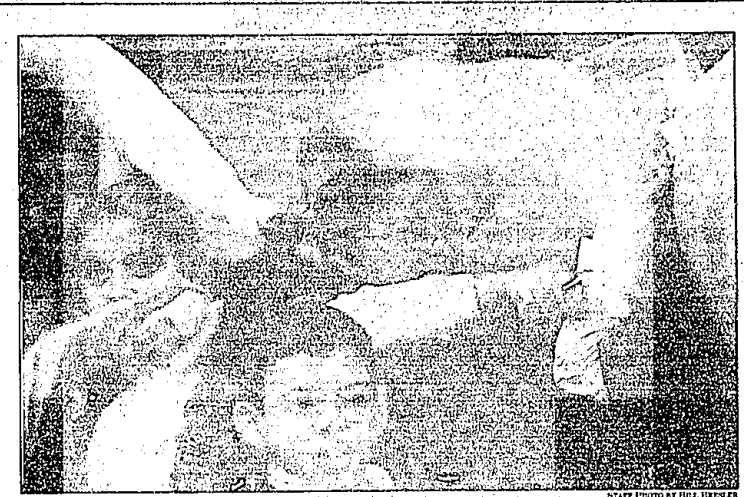
"As I look around, I believe I have the experience, background and knowledge to be mayor. I understand what the role of mayor means in Farmington Hills," Bates said. "It's pretty much ceremonial... You're one of seven council members. I understand that and I think Aldo understands that."

One factor in her decision to run is time — she has it. Bates worked as a legislative assistant to state Rep. Jan Dolan, but says now she is available to carry out the mayoral duties.

In the middle of February, Bates said she'll meet with supporters and set up her campaign committee. She will choose a campaign manager then.

She appears to be the only council member interested, though. Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said she's not going to run. Barnett cited time commitments and the fact there would be

Please see MAYOR, A6



In tune: Hillside Harmony, the chorus from Hillside Elementary in Farmington Hills, sings "...nothing goes together like you and me..." at the Rainbow Recognition Awards Thursday morning.

Rainbows Focus:HOPE co-founder embraces area multicultural effort

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
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Eleanor Josaitis — who co-founded Focus:HOPE with Father William Cunningham — was living a contented suburban life as the mother of five children when change came calling.

As she watched the Nuremberg trials on television, the program was interrupted with a special news

report about the march on Selma, Ala. She sat and watched police using cattle prods and dosing the marchers with gushing, powerful water from fire hoses.

"I sat there and cried my eyes out," Josaitis said. "I thought to myself: 'what is different between what is going on in Nazi Germany than in my own country?'"

That did it. Josaitis and her family

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moved to an integrated neighborhood in Detroit. "I wanted my kids to grow up in a neighborhood that was diverse."

Diversity was the key word at the fourth annual Rainbow Recognition Awards Breakfast — at which Josaitis was the keynote speaker

Please see RAINBOW, A3

Dwyer: No choice but to enforce law

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Despite public criticism, Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said he's going to continue to go after large scale gambling operations like the one authorities raided in Royal Oak.

"Until they legalize it across the board, we've got to enforce the law," Dwyer said. "How can we not?"

Hills police worked with Royal Oak and Oakland County Sheriff authorities to execute a search warrant at an invitation-only party at the Royal Oak Music Theater Jan. 17.

Though police arrested four people on drugs and weapons charges and seized \$226,000 in cash, some have questioned whether such raids are necessary.

On Jan. 26, Royal Oak police dropped misdemeanor charges against 360 people ticketed for loitering at a place of illegal gambling.

The Royal Oak city attorney could not be reached for comment. Reports indicate charges were dropped partly out of concern the organizers would plead guilty to a misdemeanor, which would prohibit prosecutors from bringing serious felony charges later because of double jeopardy.

The turnout in charges came as a surprise to the chief. South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium investigators, which includes Hills and Novi police, developed leads for the case and spearheaded the investigation.

"I was just shocked at the time. We weren't advised of their decision," said Dwyer, who found out from reporters.

"It really upsets me that we have to take the big hits when we're doing our jobs."

Please see CHIEF, A4

Humility remains despite 4th award

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Far from being humdrum, undercover police work makes one humble even after being named officer of the year for the fourth time.

Farmington Hills police officer John Markey gives credit to colleagues and, most importantly, his wife for his highly decorated career, which includes 36 citations and other commendations.

This is the second time he's been

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

selected for the department's officer of the year honor. Markey's been twice-chosen as Optimist Club officer of the year.

"There were 20 nominations and there was some really excellent work done by a lot of police officers in this department last year," Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said. "That's why he was selected."

His latest honor largely stems from his role on the South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium, an undercover unit that includes Farmington Hills and Novi police officers.

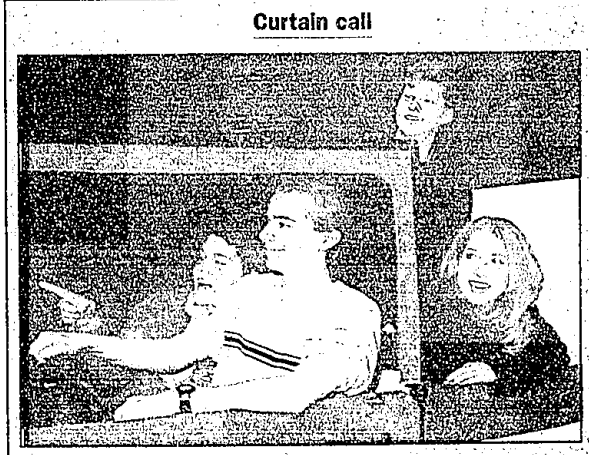
SONIC broke up a 50-kilo cocaine ring extending from Los Angeles to Detroit. Markey, 38, served as lead detective in the investigation, which resulted in several arrests.

"I'm getting a lot of credit for a lot of other people's work is what it boils down to," said Markey. "I happened to catch this case... This is truly a team effort."

"This isn't a John Markey thing. This is a SONIC thing. There is a lot of hard work by a lot of people. I just happen to be the beneficiary of their hard work and professionalism."

Undercover police work involves unusual hours and painstaking plan-

Please see OFFICER, A4



On stage: The Frake family heads for "State Fair," performed by Farmington High School students. Lindsay Pyrkosz, Brent Chismark, Devin Perdue and Kim Yoder play Mellissa, Abel, Wayne and Margy Frake, respectively. "State Fair" runs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students and \$6 with a gold card. Tickets may be bought at the door the night of the performances.

Great Harvest Bread rises to the occasion

BY TIM SMITH
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Since fall, rumors about Great Harvest Bread moving into the downtown Farmington retail space occupied by the 99 Cent Store have filled the air like a freshly baked loaf of honey wheat.

But city officials wouldn't confirm or deny it. The shopping center's landlord wouldn't, either.

Evidence that the rumors are fact was given during last Monday's American Red Cross blood drive at the Farmington Hills Fire Headquarters. A coupon given to donors invited them to stop by the Great Harvest store opening this May in the Downtown Farmington Center — just two doors down from the Post Office.

Great Harvest employees working at the blood drive apparently were mentioning the impending move to donors, and "pretty freely, too," said Diane Risko of the Red Cross.

"I heard them say, 'Yeh, we're moving into the 99 Cent Store,'" Risko said. Ray Novelly, owner of Great Harvest stores in Northville,

Brighton and South Lyon, last week confirmed that he will soon move next door to Big Apple Bagel.

"We're going to be taking possession of that building on Feb. 16," said Novelly, whose company provided cookies at the Red Cross blood drive to help donors replenish themselves after donating.

According to Novelly, Great Harvest received a "very long-term lease," adding that he hopes to stay at that location for 15 years. Renovation will take place before the store opens, probably in May.

"We love the small-town feel, the community feel that the downtown represents for us," said Novelly. Negotiations to come to the Downtown Farmington Center began about one year ago, he said.

Owners for the 99 Cent Store — which has been operating on a month-by-month lease — were served notice that the discount store will need to leave, Novelly said.

Frank Desenzano of Kimco Realty Corp., the landlord of the shopping center, could not be reached for comment.

Please see BREAD, A4