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THE WEEK AHEAD

Open house: Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi will be on hand at the Police Open House noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 16, for residents to ask questions or make suggestions for the city. Other activities and attractions include a miniature F-16 Air Force jet, the moonwalk, Safety Town and police horses. There will also be police dog demonstrations, puppet shows, child fingerprinting and "McGruff the Crime Dog and "Parkey" the Panda.

MONDAY

Meetings: The Farmington Hills City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. in city hall, 31555 11 Mile.

Agenda: The Farmington City Council meets at 8 p.m. in city hall, 23600 Liberty.

TUESDAY

Schools: The Farmington school board meets at 7:30 p.m. in board offices.

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Panelists: Talk to your children



It was a coming together of students, parents, school and community officials. There is no one answer available to avoid tragedies such as the one in Colorado, but all agreed the discussion was a start.

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@ee.homecomm.net

Explosive situations such as what occurred last month at Columbine

High School could happen in Farmington, Farmington Hills or anywhere — unless there is a renewed commitment to talk, trust and acceptance between teens and generations.



Viewpoint: Sitting on the panel, students Jeffrey Kroeger, Farmington High School; Jessica DiVito, North Farmington High School and Farmington police officer Chris Schutz, Farmington Hills police officer Patrick Stige, listen as Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer (left) and Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss (right) offer their opinions moderated by Vince Wade, veteran newsman.

Without those kinds of safety valves, tensions will continue to mount until they become dangerous. That was an overriding theme during Thursday night's "Can It Happen Here? A Community and School Forum In Light of the Littleton Tragedy" at the William Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

About 200 parents, students and community leaders attended the forum, moderated by former television newscaster Vince Wade. The panel was comprised of several high school students, police liaison officers,



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEALICK

Speaking: Erin Hendrix of Mercy High School at right and Brienne Silberschein of the Farmington Alternative Academy tell adults and students their concerns.

social workers and parents.

"True enough, it can happen here," said Mercy High School student and panelist Erin Hendrix. "But with enough communication, maybe we can avoid that."

Several other potential solutions touched on by the panel, directed at parents, included:

- Taking a more active role in how their kids use the computer. That

might entail "filtering" personal computer web sites, or at least making sure their kids know they plan on monitoring use.

■ Having a better handle on what kids are doing under their own roofs, such as taking drugs or listening to music with angry, violent messages.

■ Develop a loving, trusting relationship with children, and the sooner the

Please see FORUM, A7



STAFF PHOTO BY BILLY BRONKHORST

Preparing: Sandy Cimarolli gives treats to Ammo, a Shetland sheep dog, who is a member of the K-9 Clicks, which performed at the Pet-A-Pet annual meeting recently.

Pet-A-Pet

Humans are the beneficiaries

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@ee.homecomm.net

It's a dog's world, and humans are better off for it.

That was the message conveyed during the recent Pet-A-Pet annual meeting at the William Costick Activities Center.

More than 100 volunteers, some with their philanthropic pets, attended the meeting. They listened to testimonials about the wonders of pet therapy and then enjoyed a spirited performance from the "K-9 Click," comprising 12 dogs and their human handlers.

"We have all the problems (in patients) that go along with old age, restricted movement, surgical problems," commented Stacy Suida, a therapeutic recreational specialist at Garden City Hospital. "With pet therapy, this really motivates the people to communicate, to talk after a stroke. You'd be amazed at the things they're able to try when a pet is around."

Michigan State University veterinarian Sally Walshaw congratulated Pet-A-Pet volunteers for their efforts, and for sharing their healthy, loving animals.

"It's great to be here with your organization, with people who care about animals and (other)

Please see PET, A8

Police need information in carjacking

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@ee.homecomm.net

Farmington police are seeking clues or information to help track down a man who is accused of a Thursday afternoon carjacking.

The suspect, described as a Middle Eastern male approximately 50 years old, allegedly approached a woman about 4:45 p.m. after she parked her silver, 1997 Mercury Villager in the parking lot of the Grand River-Halsted Kmart store, police said.

Following an exchange of shoes near the vehicle, the suspect pried keys out of the hands of the 43-year-old victim, a resident of Livonia. He then hopped into the Villager and drove away on east-bound Grand River.

"No weapon was seen or implied," said Farmington Public Safety Deputy Director Mike Wiggins. "It

Please see CLUES, A4

Man arrested in car chase

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@ee.homecomm.net

Police arrested a Hamtramck man, 35, after he led Farmington Hills police on a two-part chase during rush hour May 11.

The pursuit ended when he struck a light pole and was captured after trying to run from officers.

At 4:20 p.m. police tried to stop the 1984 Pontiac Grand Prix after a license plate check revealed the car was reported stolen in Roseville.

The car came to halt on Glenbrook but the driver suddenly sped off and went north on Haggerty along the dirt shoulder. Due to rush hour traffic and dust from the roadway, police halted the chase as the Grand Prix turned onto eastbound 13 Mile.

However, the chase started again after another motorist called police to report a driver going 50 miles an hour in a residential zone on Drake and 11 Mile.

Police spotted the stolen car going south on Drake

Please see FLEE, A6

Sharp fulfills promise to school board with run

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@ee.homecomm.net

Gary Sharp doesn't want to infringe on Linda Enberg's territory.

So, only eight months after being appointed to fill a vacancy on the Farmington Board of Education, Sharp is seeking election to a one-year term instead of challenging incumbent Enberg — who is unopposed — for an available four-year stint.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for Linda Enberg," said Sharp, who instead is facing Melody Jaska for the single-year term. "I wouldn't have

wanted to run against her. I think she's earned her position. I don't think it would have been constructive to have run against her."

There was another reason why Sharp, 41, is vying for the shorter term that voters will decide during the Monday, June 14, election.

"I made a promise to the existing board when I was appointed (in September 1998) that I'd run to fill the seat for the remainder of the term," he



GARY SHARP

added. That term formerly belonged to Joseph Svoke, who resigned last summer.

Sharp was appointed to serve until this year's election. The final year of Svoke's original term, meanwhile, will be won or lost at the polls in about four weeks.

Long and short of it
The Farmington Hills resident and



GARY SHARP

parent of two Highmeadow Common Campus students is looking short term if elected. But he is looking long term when it comes to his support of, and dedication to, public education.

For starters, he winces when talk turns to the proposed Universal Tuition Tax Credit or about why high school juniors are staying away in droves from the MEAP test.

"I think the funding issues are extremely important," Sharp said. "And I think that as a public school board member, that is one of my chief

Please see SHARP, A7

O&E sponsors arts roundtable

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@ee.homecomm.net

Suburban arts educators will discuss the current state and future of arts education in the latest in a series of discussions on the arts in our communities sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"Opening the Book: Educators spell out the importance of arts education, and nurture talent and audiences for tomorrow" is 8:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, 2650 Southfield Road, (south of 10 Mile Road, north of the Lodge Freeway).

The discussion will begin at 7 p.m. followed by questions and answers, and conclude at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Our panelists include representatives from elementary, middle and high schools from communities the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers serve. They will talk about the state of arts education in their schools, share success stories, and explain how arts education helps students express themselves in a positive way.

This discussion, the sixth of a series sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, is in response to the American Canvas Report, published in October 1997 by the National Endowment for the Arts. The report recognizes the important

Please see Roundtable, A4



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