

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Write on!** The American Legion announces an essay contest for Farmington high school and middle school students. See *HomeTown Life*. / See page C5

**Political shift:** Linda Jolicœur has taken over the Farmington Area Republican Club. / See page A3

**India.com:** A new Web site has information for natives of India. / See page A10

## OPINION

**Festival:** Raising fees alone won't put the Founders Festival in the black. / See page A8

**ERA:** An opportunity to resurrect the fight for equal rights. / See page A9

## ARTS & LEISURE

**Concert:** Enjoy the heavenly sounds of Classical Bells Handbell ensemble as they join four other groups for a concert on Saturday featuring guest conductor Margaret Tucker. / See page B1

**Theater:** Anthony J. Provenzola of Farmington Hills does an outstanding job in the Plymouth Theatre Guild's presentation "South Pacific." / See page B2

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**LASER, CHRYSLER**  
1996, new tires, great transportation, low miles, \$1,000.

"I sold the car on the first day. The phone wouldn't stop ringing."

D.E.  
South Lyon

**WORKS**

# Asset-building takes teamwork

By TIM SMITH  
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All facets of the community recently were encouraged to collaborate on promoting a list of 40 developmental assets geared toward steering young people in the right direction, away from societal pitfalls such as drugs, violence and illicit sex.

That list (see sidebar), developed by the Minnesota-based Search Institute, was the topic of a discussion involving the Farmington school board and the Farmington and Farmington Hills city

councils. That discussion was Feb. 13 at Farmington Training Center. The subject also delved into six key strategies for how the same message needs to be repeated to the point where it is ingrained.

Those assets, a list of positive experiences and qualities linked with helping young people make good decisions, previously were shared with the community at last fall's GRIP program (Generations Responding to Issues and Problems). They have also been the focus of recent meetings of the Call to Action Coalition.

## Consistency

Leading the discussion about educating the community about asset building and implementing the Search Institute's list was Dr. John Cotter, a Farmington Hills psychologist and chairman of the Call to Action Coalition.

"Every person in this room is doing things already to try and (positively) impact the youth of our community," said Cotter, about following up on the Search Institute's research, developed after the surveying of 100,000 students in 213 American cities and towns.

"This is not a handwagon to jump on. But the strength of this program is it provides the framework to forge a communitywide, consistent message for kids to ... hear everywhere they go."

Cotter implored the officials to join together and take advantage of resources available in the two cities. "As leaders of this community, how can the schools and cities work to strengthen and support what's already been done and move forward?"

Farmington school board Trustee

Please see ASSETS, A2

## Living history



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

**Serf's up!** Simon Breslav is an alchemist, Brian Fink is an astronomer and Lynette Von Husen is a travelling minstrel.

## Harrison High's Medieval Faire brings new life to 'olde' lessons

By TIM SMITH  
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In ones and twos, Medieval Faire folk strolled to the front of their "village" to tell the multitudes all about their lot in life.

Actually, the folk were Harrison High School humanities students, and the setting was teacher Laura Sparrow's classroom. The annual Medieval Faire, held last Friday, enabled students to dress up for ancient roles they studied over the past month. They also wore their homemade tunics and stolas all day long for additional class credit and gathered at a cafeteria table, for a lunch-hour "banquet."

Of course, Sparrow set the tone. She was in costume and kept an easy-flowing medieval-casque dialogue going ("What have you brought, my Lady?) with the students who went up to the front for oral presentations about their chosen fields.

There was an alchemist, portrayed by Simon Breslav. There was an astronomer, portrayed by Brian Fink.

"Princess" Cecily Blok brought a basket of fruit for the poor while Elizabeth Booth played the role of musician's daughter "Viola DeRosyn" and performed a tune on her flute.

Also describing their lives and respective reasons for attending the Medieval Faire were green-garbed "Allen the Farmer," who brought produce; "Audrey the Spinster," looking to entice a husband with a basket of hot-crossed buns; "Binna the Minstrel," traveling the landscape playing for royalty at garden parties; and "Sir Luke, Knight of King Richard," who intended to show for arts to put into his manor while "giving money to beggars."

"It's wonderful to see the depth of knowledge that they've built

Please see MEDIEVAL, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

**Pipe dream:** Elizabeth Booth plays a lively dance tune on the recorder.

## FPSD to revise cop standards

By TIM SMITH  
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An ordinance amendment introduced during Monday night's Farmington City Council meeting would reduce minimum educational standards required for potential public safety officers, and hopefully level the recruitment playing field with surrounding municipalities.

But Farmington city officials emphasized that the amendment would not lower existing employment standards, which were set 20 years ago.

"We've had high standards and our standards will still be high," said councilwoman JoAnne McShane, following the meeting. "This makes it easier for those (candidates) to get into the program. But we'll still be interviewing to make sure we have the cream of the crop."

The ordinance amendment, which still needs a second reading and adoption on March 5, would reduce minimum educational standards for public safety officers from a bachelor's degree to an associate's degree.

Because less than 2 percent of law enforcement agencies in the United States still require a bachelor's degree — a level recommended in the 1967

Please see STANDARDS, A4

## VFW honors veteran 'street cop'

By RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills' newest VFW police officer of the year is a self-described "street cop" who thrives on the kind of basic police work that others leave behind as soon as they have the seniority to get on the day shift or behind a desk.

With 16 years in the department, Officer James Kase has the seniority to work any shift he likes, and he likes 7 p.m. to 3 a.m.

"I like the kind of police work we do at night," he said, "crimes in progress, hands-on police work. It's much more interesting."

Even though Kase is married with children, he prefers the night shift, which can be more dangerous.

"Right now, this is my niche," he said. "I chose a career that was suitable for me."

His wife, he said, "knows that this is

Please see KASE, A5

## Local car enthusiast to display custom Accord at Autorama

By RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
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Farmington Hills resident Thomas Limpo appears to have hastened the arrival of the customized small car to the Midwest.

Limpo, who arrived here from California five years ago, is a designer with ASC, a local firm that builds concept cars for major manufacturers.

His father was an amateur race driver, and his step-father was a muscle car enthusiast. And he is an

inveterate gearhead.

Limpo is one of a few customizers who have worked with the Honda Accord. His 1999 model will be on display Feb. 23-25 at the Detroit Autorama in Cobo Center, Detroit.

Limpo's Accord doesn't look a great deal different from other Accords until you get close enough to see the 18-inch rims with wide tires, performance exhaust header, power pulleys, racing suspension and beefed-up brakes. He'll put a supercharger or

Please see AUTO, A5



**VROOM:** Farmington Hills car aficionado Thomas Limpo will show his '99 Honda Accord at this year's Autorama.

