

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Farmington Planning Commission: On the Commission's Monday, March 12 agenda is a presentation about the zoning ordinance revision timetable, consideration of an expansion at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home and adoption of the city's six-year capital improvement plan. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall.**

## TUESDAY

**Farmington School Board: On the 7:30 p.m. agenda is approval of elementary limited boundary recommendations and review of a resolution for the school board elections and possible millage. The meeting will be held at the Administrative Center, 32500 Shiawassee, Farmington.**

**Jaycees "M" Night: The Farmington Area Jaycees is holding a general membership meeting at 7 p.m. at the Drakeshire Apartments Clubhouse, located at Drake and Grand River. Also at the Drakeshire clubhouse, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 15, is the Jaycee M-Night.**

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# Goss: Crime at an 'all-time low'



With the exception of armed robberies, serious crime in the City of Farmington dropped to an all-time low in 2000, according to the Public Safety Department's annual report, reviewed by Council members Monday.

By Tim Smith  
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Serious crime in the city of Farmington dropped significantly during 2000, according to the annual report of the Department of Public Safety.

The report was outlined by Director Gary Goss during last week's Farmington City Council meeting.

"Crime in Farmington is at an all-time low," said Goss to council members, specifically referring to a 10-year comparison of Part I crimes. Those crimes include murder, criminal sexual conduct, robbery, aggravated assault, stalking, arson, burglary, larceny and auto theft.

In 2000, there were 270 Part I crimes reported to the department, a decrease of 42 (13.5 percent) over 1999. Last year's total also was the lowest of the past decade, which ranged between 312 and 458 incidents. Of the 270 Part I crimes in 2000, most (78 percent) were larcenies.

"There was some bad news," Goss said, pointing out the statistics on an overhead projector. "There were six armed robberies reported in 2000. In 1999 there was one attempted armed robbery and one unarmed robbery.

Handguns were used in each incident, robberies of a bank, gas station,

music store, hair salon and two party stores. One bystander was hit over the head with a weapon and injured, but he was treated and released. Goss reported that no arrests have yet been made in connection with the robberies.

Listing some of the other categories, there were six aggravated assaults, six criminal sexual assaults, two arson fires and no murders.

In the category known as Part 2 crimes, namely all other reports of a criminal nature, there was a decrease of 7.8 percent. Total offenses reported

Please see CRIME, A3

## One on one Mentoring program includes Detroit exchange



Making mentoring memories: East Middle School student Hollie Weeks, 12, left, smiles while Horace Mann Elementary students sign T-shirts commemorating the exchange mentoring visit. From left, Kelsey Maddox, 10, Chafone Jones, 11, Sierra McKinney, 10, Adiras Thomas, 10 and Jasmine Brown, 11, (standing), pen their autographs.

By Ralph R. Echtenaw  
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The Farmington schools mentoring program has grown from 16 students in 1998 to 32 today and may well double again in the 2002-03 school year.

The program matches East Middle School students with adult mentors who spend time with the kids, in school and out, and take an interest in their academic progress.

Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce Director Carleigh Flaherty is mentoring East Middle School sixth-grader Taylor Robinson.

"Some days I am not sure which of us is really the mentor," Flaherty writes in the chamber newsletter. "Taylor is a special young lady and she helps me focus on being a better person all around. Mentoring is a challenging task, but the opportunity to become an adult role model in a young person's life is the greatest reward."

**■ 'Contact with an adult outside of parents or teachers really makes a difference.'**

Marybeth SiKora  
— coordinator

The program is sponsored by the Farmington Economic Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce and run by Marybeth SiKora of Farmington schools. East Middle School teachers recommend students who may benefit from the program to SiKora who follows up with interviews. The students are briefed on the program and asked if they'd like to participate.

Please see MENTORS, A3



Food for thought: Meagan Polk, 10, of Horace Mann listens to instructions.



Adding things up: Horace Mann fifth-grader Terrance McKinzie, 10, listens with student Phil Coffey, 15, in Phil's eighth-grade math class at East Middle School Wednesday.



Lunch break: Constance James, 10, speaks with classmate Savonna Roquemore, 10.

## Consumer group needs volunteers

By Joni Huberd  
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Consumer protection isn't the most glamorous cause to champion, but for Farmington Hills resident Jim Vandenberg, it's an important one.

A certified fraud expert, Vandenberg chairs the city's Consumer Protection Committee, which helps citizens resolve issues with sellers and service providers. The committee has also distributed volumes of information and added to the Farmington Community Library's consumer resource collection.

"We want to proactively alert ourselves and the community as to precautions they can take to limit or reduce the risk of consumer fraud in selected areas," he said.

Voice mail on the committee's hot-

Please see VOLUNTEER, A3



Martha Liggett Wells, M.D.

## Retired doctor, 95, still going strong

By Betty Monson  
SPECIAL WRITER

At 95, Martha Liggett Wells, M.D. is the oldest member of the Ridgewriters, a writers group that meets weekly in Farmington Hills. The Farmington Hills Twenty-fifth Anniversary Cookbook published seven of the recipes she submitted since joining.

Fashionably groomed, Wells' silver hair is coiled into a bun, held perkily in place by a black ribboned scrunchy. Her blue eyes sparkle behind wire-rimmed glasses as she recounts many anecdotes from her incredible career as an industrial doctor, proctologist and psychiatrist.

Wells speaks glowingly of having attended her 70th class reunion from Case Western Reserve University. "To have 34 of us still alive, out of a class of 169 was thrilling," she said. While on that trip, she also attended an auction — one of her favorite pastimes.

A 1938 graduate of Wayne State University Medical College, Wells is outspoken on medicine. "I don't understand the prejudice against Ritalin," she complains. "Even in the '70s, many young patients on Ritalin were able to live and function well in their homes and community. Without it, they were disruptive, making themselves and

Please see DOCTOR, A2

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