

IN THE PAPER TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER
Signing on: Students gather information on the Peace Action organization.

Service with a smile: From soup kitchens to bell ringers, students learned about volunteer opportunities at the annual service fair at Mercy High last week. See our HomeTown Life section. / C5

Moving on: Top-level Farmington administrator Jim Meyer has decided to go back to school, taking on the principalship at Dunckel. / A3

OPINION

Youth councils: Communities aren't complete unless all voices are heard - even from those who aren't old enough to vote. / A8

A day in the life: Harrison student Josh Rabinowitz reflects on his trip to the National League of Cities convention. / A9

ARTS & LEISURE

Award winners: Livonia rapper Freddie Beauregard and Paradime win a Detroit Music Award. / B1

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Farmington bumps shop plans



The Farmington Planning Commission unanimously denied an Orchard Lake Road building owner permission to bring in a frame and bump shop as a new tenant, saying the use was not consistent with the property's zoning.

BY TIM SMITH
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An Orchard Lake Road building owner's bid to bring in a frame and bump shop as his new tenant was unanimously rejected Monday night by the Farmington Planning Commission. Commissioner David Gronbach made the motion to deny Loisel's request

for a special exception use and then read a statement more than one page in length. According to the motion, the proposed bump shop use for 22855 Orchard Lake is not a use consistent with less-restrictive C-3 zoning. Gronbach read that the city's previous experience which such operations has not been good. In part, that is because a bump and frame shop "generates, of necessity, considerable noise,

which may be objectionable not only in volume but also in frequency, intermittence or shrillness. They belong in industrial areas." Other issues leading to the denial included aesthetics and safety, both due to the prospect of ugly wrecked cars being dropped off by tow trucks at any time, sitting dangerously outside the shop. "The exposure of unattractive and unsafe damaged vehicles is not consistent with protection of public health, safety and welfare when so many people are affected," the motion continued. Now faced with a still-empty 5,000 square-foot facility and growing finan-

cial losses due to not having a tenant, Loisel doubted the sincerity of Monday night's proceedings. In March, he was told there wasn't much support for a bump shop there, but was given the opportunity to return for a public hearing. "I can't fight city hall," Loisel said. "He (Gronbach) didn't write that. That was a prepared statement. I'm very disappointed. I pay my taxes. I would think I would have gotten a more objective view. They just didn't want it." During the public hearing, a few residents and business owners spoke out

Please see BUMP, A4



High five: Jordan Berman, poster contest winner, celebrates with Chief Bill Dwyer.

Poster boy

FHPD winner named

Jordan Berman, a kindergarten student at Eagle Elementary, took top honors and a \$150 prize in this year's Farmington Hills Police Department Poster Contest, which kicks off promotion of the department's annual Open House, held Sunday, May 6. Jordan's poster will be featured on all program brochures. It was unveiled at a press conference held at the police department on Friday, April 6.

Angel Gama, a 3rd grader at Eagle, took home \$60 for 3rd place. Second place honors went to Nicole Semonick-Jann, a 10th grader at Clarenceville High School.

Dwyer said the contest builds a positive relationship between kids in the community and the police department. It is among the department's many community policing programs. "This also increases participation of youngsters in our open house," he said. Among the activities planned for this year's event are child fingerprinting, bicycle registration, radar-timed pitching, a moon-walk, public utility displays, a Pirate Ship and U.S. Air Force Mini-F16. Held in and on the grounds of the Hills Police Department, 31655 W. Eleven Mile Road.



3rd: Chief Dwyer congratulates Angel Gama, who placed third.

New face shows in Hills race

Farmington Hills Zoning Board chair Randall Bruce has filed petitions to run for City Council, but says he's not running "against" anyone. He's running for what he believes in.

BY JONI HUBBED
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Add another name to the potential slate of candidates for this year's Farmington Hills City Council race.

On April 9, Zoning Board of Appeals chair Randall Bruce filed petitions to run in this November's election. Mayor Nancy Bates, council members Jon Grant, Cheryl Oliverio and Jerry Ellis have all pulled petitions for reelection.



Randall Bruce

A resident of the community for the past 15 years, Bruce was urged to apply for the ZBA by a neighbor who knew of his interest in government. He has watched the city council in action, either attending the meetings or watching on television.

"What I'd like to see is residents better informed," he said. "I'd like to see the council leverage technology better."

The only "outsider" to file thus far, Bruce emphasized his intention to run a positive campaign.

"I always like to think of myself as running for something, rather than against," he commented.

Which is not to say he doesn't have differences with some of the council's recent decisions.

"I was really troubled by the Alyceky development," he said of a hotly disputed housing project in the city's northeast corner. Developers wanted to place five site condos on a 4.8 acre property east of Orchard Lake and north of 12 Mile Road. "I felt the backs of homes fronting on the street violated our other ordinances."

Officials denied the project on a 4-3

Please see BRUCE, A2

Drug dogs hit on cars in FHS lot

BY TIM SMITH
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Farmington High School students had no reason to be shocked or surprised when five Michigan State Police canines last Thursday sniffed around their parked cars for potential illegal substances, according to school and police officials. But what the police dogs and their human counterparts discovered inside five of 400 vehicles in the student lot was a small amount of marijuana totaling about one-third of an ounce, said Farmington Public Safety

Please see DOGS, A3

Hills enacts youth council ordinance

BY JONI HUBBED
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History happened in Farmington Hills City Council chambers Monday night, with the passage of the city's first ordinance memorializing the formation of a Mayor's Youth Council.

The City of Farmington is expected to consider a similar ordinance at its next meeting. Officials from both cities have been working for months with local teens interested in giving youth a greater voice in city government.

"We think we're at the beginning of something that's going to be tremendous for our city," said Harrison High senior David Kinchen, one of a core group of teens who have been working with city attorney John Donohue on ordinance language.

Youth council members - 11 appointed by the Hills mayor and two by the Farmington mayor, subject to city council approvals - are to serve as a "conduit" between local government



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Youth in action: David Kinchen, who was involved in drafting the youth council ordinance, spoke recently at a celebration for the after-school program's fifth anniversary.

and its younger constituents. The draft ordinance specified the youth council is charged with making recommendations about youth-related issues, but Mayor Nancy Bates did a little word-smithing.

Bates asked that the word community be added to that sentence, because she felt young people had a much broader view of their community. As an example, she cited an effort by a group of Harrison High students to improve traffic safety in front of their school after a student died in a car accident.

"I don't think there are really youth issues," she said. "I think youth are concerned about community issues."

Aside from a few other minor language changes, the ordinance was passed as drafted by Donohue and students at a recent youth council meeting. They put their heads together after city officials reviewed an initial

Please see YOUTH, A2