

THE WEEK AHEAD

Hills City Council: Detroit Edison and Ameritech representatives will meet with officials at Monday's regular meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. The agenda also includes a public hearing on the Lowe's Home Center development proposed at Orchard Lake and Northwestern Highway, enactment of building and fire prevention ordinances. City Hall is located at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads.

MONDAY

Farmington Planning: The Commission will hold a public hearing on a rezoning request from Suburban Family Credit Union and consider site plans for the credit union project and Southwest Oakland Cable Commission's new location on 9 Mile Road. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in City Hall, 23600 Liberty

THURSDAY

Stars in the Park: The Matinee String Quartet will headline tonight's "Stars in the Park" concert in the amphitheater at Heritage Park. The quartet will play popular and classical pieces, from movie tunes to Mozart. The concert begins at 8 p.m. and is offered free of charge.

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Over here: Dave Walsh explains the layout of the new court facility to school's super Bob Maxfield.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRASLER

New court building begins

BY ALICE ASHMORE
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A dream that began almost 10 years ago became a reality Friday as ground was broken for construction of a new 47th District Court building.

The new court will be located on the Farmington Hills City "campus" on 11 Mile Road near Orchard Lake.

Judge Frederick L. Harris introduced retired 47th District Court Judge Margaret Schaefer during the ceremony.

"Over 10 years ago we talked about a new court. I am so pleased to see her dreams and my dreams come true," Harris said.

"The real significance this day is that it brings to one campus all three

Please see COURT, A7

Hills woman dies in accident

BY ALICE ASHMORE
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A single vehicle roll-over accident last week on U.S. 27 claimed the life of a Farmington Hills woman.

Jessica Susanna Lewis, 22, died July 1 as a result of injuries she sustained after being ejected from the vehicle.

Her fiancé, 21-year-old Michael Hart Arnold, also of Farmington Hills was also ejected from the vehicle.

He suffered a broken leg as a result of the accident, according to reports.

The 1997 Ford Explorer was traveling southbound between Alma and Mount Pleasant.

"Arnold stated he fell asleep, swerved to the right, then overcorrected," said Sgt. Steve Benn of the Michigan State Police.

Lewis and Arnold were not wearing

seat belts, Benn said. The Explorer rolled several times across the roadway and the median into the northbound lane.

The couple's 2-month-old son, Nathan Arnold, was secured in an infant seat and was uninjured in the accident, Benn said.

The accident snarled traffic on the highway for several hours, when movement was stopped in both directions.

"There was evidence on the northbound side of the highway, too," Benn said. The accident occurred about 3:15 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

Services for Lewis were held at 10 a.m. last Friday under the direction of Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Lewis had been employed at the A & W in Farmington for more than three years.

She is survived by her mother, Susanna Lewis of Farmington Hills; her fiancé, Michael Arnold; sisters Jacquelyn Lewis and Danielle Lewis; her brother, Joshua Lewis, and her infant son, Nathan Arnold.

Also grandparents, Travis and Sue Bowden, and her grandmother, Jannette Lewis.



History buffs: Barbara Burris, Royal Oak, left, and Dorothy Tarpinian of Farmington Hills question Shakespeare.

STAFF PHOTO BY HEATHER BOGGS

Shakespeare or Fakespeare? Library display debunks famous playwright

BY SUE BUCK
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Who really wrote the works of Shakespeare?

Was it William Shakespeare of Strat-

ford himself, or Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford who lived during the same time period?

The metropolitan-wide Oberon

Please see FAKE, A7

Founders Festival

Green excited to be part of Festival week

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Geri Green can barely contain her enthusiasm as she describes her upcoming performance during Farmington Founders Festival week.

"I'm excited to be a part of the Founders Festival and to be in the library."

Her children's program, Geri's Jamboree, is one of the featured attractions of this year's event. Green's bubbly personality shines through in her songs and programs.

"Everything I do is interactive. I guess you could say I am a music

Geri Green will be in concert at the Farmington Library on July 18, 7 p.m.

and movement specialist - we move to the music."

She explained that she teaches children to move while she sings. "I try to get people to feel good through music and movement."

"I show them that there isn't any one way to do something - that any way you do something is fine. I

never say 'no' or 'don't.' I try to provide a positive influence," Green said.

Her program features a mix of original music and some old favorites. She always does "The Unicorn Song" - made popular in the 1960s by the Irish Rovers.

Maughan Battle, Youth Services Coordinator of the Library, arranged for Green to perform this year.

"I first knew of her when I was working in Westland. We invited her to the library there. The children really loved her."

Please see GREEN, A2



Mayors of both cities look forward to festival

BY TIM SMITH
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The community is working up to a healthy buzz about the upcoming Farmington Founders Festival, and you can include top elected city officials among those who are anxiously awaiting July 19-21.

Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock said the 2001 festival is shaping up to be one to remember, for various reasons. Those include how issues with recent festivals were closely examined and how different facets of the greater Farmington area united to find a new recipe for success.

The product that will

be rolled out this time around is one that merges the best of traditional Founders Festivals with new and exciting twists.

"This is going to take some of the best things of the past and some new things, and I really believe the community is going to support this," Hartsock said. "It's a lot different from what's been done in the recent past. And everybody has a stake in this."

"I think this is going

to be the best one ever," said Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates.

"It's really taking on a family focus, which is really important to me."

Bates, who noted that some friends from years gone by don't see each other all year except for during festival week, said she likes the "new old" look of this year's event.

The Founders Festival returns to July, after last year's somewhat disappointing

June fest led to enough public sentiment to go back to what worked for decades.

Hartsock and Bates welcome the return of the traditional ox roast, which will be incorporated as part of the Founders Cafe. The ox roast hasn't been located downtown since the

late 1970s, according to Hartsock. Most recently, it was hosted at the Elks Club a few miles away.

"We're bringing back things that people remember, like the ox roast," Hartsock noted. "We're going to improve and expand on that."

Bates, meanwhile, also thanks Brian Golden's Magical History

Please see FEST, A2



Mayor Bill Hartsock



Mayor Nancy Bates

Look for more information about the Founders Festival in a special guide distributed with this edition of the Farmington Observer.



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