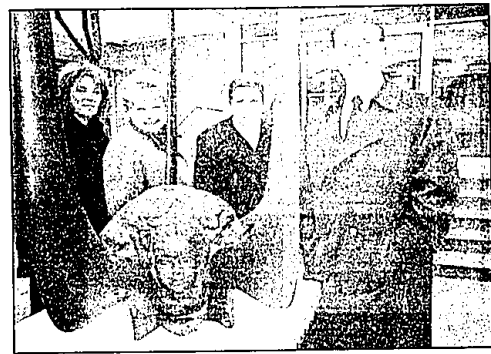


Resolutions from page A1



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMUEUX

Be it resolved: Farmington city workers took a break before the holidays to share their New Year's resolutions. Pictured with city manager Frank Lauhoff are (left to right) Joanne Fournier, who says her resolution is to clean the basement; Beverly Walters, who plans to stay off cigarettes and Theresa Bobrowski, who wants to get back to exercising again.

efforts involving graduation requirements and school start times. Barrett serves on committees for both those issues. "Every spring always brings with it the same challenges," he said, citing graduation, winter and spring sports, the school musical and concerts. "But winter and spring are also very exciting times." Like Barrett, Farmington Superintendent of Schools Bob Maxfield sees graduation requirements and start times as major issues in the coming year. This will also be the district's first year in a new athletic conference. But they aren't at the top of his list. Reaching every child in the district will continue to be the district's primary goal in 2002, said Maxfield. "The most important challenge is the pervasive element of equity in 'equity in education,'" he said. "Our theme for the (school) year is meeting the needs of all kids, with an emphasis on 'all'."

Official New Year's resolutions

Hills Mayor Nancy Bates: "I'd like to read more, pray more and worry less."
 Hills Police Chief William Dwyer: "I am hopeful we will see a decrease in high profile cases and I can spend less time before the TV media."
 Hills Councilman Barry Brickner: "To go out and meet more people in the community."
 Farmington Councilwoman Mary Bush: "My wish for the community is that everyone has a safe, beautiful and peaceful New Year."

Surveys still out, DDA seeks public response

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@co.homecomm.net

Instead of having business owners talking about their ideas and concerns in private conversations, Farmington Downtown Development Authority executive director Judy Downey hopes they will speak out publicly. She's scheduled a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 in Farmington City Hall for that purpose. The DDA board, all the businesses located in the district, and the public is invited. "We want to do what's best to help the economic base of Farmington," Downey said. Surveys regarding DDA-sponsored events were due back Dec. 31. As of Dec. 26, Downey had received 15 responses from 100 surveys sent. Those results will also be addressed at the meeting. Each business was asked to rate on a scale from 1-10 how each of these events positively affected his or her business: Winter Fun Series at the Civic Theatre, which runs for six weeks during January and February; Farmer's Market in the Village Commons parking lot, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. from mid-May

through October
 Summer Fun Series at the Downtown Center and the Civic Theatre, 10:30 a.m. and noon on Wednesdays for six weeks during June and July
 Evening Concert Series at the Pergola Gazebos on Grand River at 7:30 p.m. Fridays for eight weeks during June through August
 Halloween Fun Fest, which takes place throughout downtown from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. the last Saturday in October
 Shopping for Holiday Dollars, which includes all participating merchants, from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. the first Saturday in December
 The Farmington Founders Festival wasn't on the list, because it's not a DDA-sponsored event, Downey said. Business owners were also asked whether each event brought in customers. "We hope they will come forward and state their concerns," said Downey at a recent DDA meeting. "We will address the best way to market the downtown business district. The DDA works to support downtown businesses so they will be viable. This is a critical time."

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Good News from page A1

Bernice Brandon with the ATHENA 2001 award.
 6. Farmington Hills Fire Department named David Feichner its firefighter of the year. The Hills Police Department's VFW officer of the year was James Kase; the Optimist Club honored Hills Lt. Paul Cayvan. Farmington Public Safety Department named Frank Demers Public Safety Officer of the Year.
 5. It was a banner year for two Farmington schools. East Middle School principal Gene Seaborn was named Michigan Association of Middle School Educators Administrator of the Year, and East teacher Steve Koponen received \$26,000 as a Milken Foundation National Educator. Hillside Elementary School celebrated the honor of being named both a state and national Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.
 4. The renovation of the Farmington Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington was completed in February, with the addition of a handicapped-access elevator. A highlight for its inaugural season was an exclusive showing of Jeff Daniels' "Escanaba in Da Moonlight."
 3. Councils in Farmington and Farmington Hills passed an ordinance creating a Mayor's Youth Council, including teens from both communities who will

form an advisory board that gives young people a voice in local government.
 2. The Farmington Hills Police Department launched its Crime Prevention Kids Club, enlisting more than 800 elementary school children as members. Officer Bonnie Unruh came up with the idea for the club, whose members receive a decoder apple and a regular newsletter. Their kick-off event drew about 200 kids and parents to the Costick Activities Center March 3.
 1. The biggest, best good news story of 2001 was the amazing comeback of the Farmington Area Founders Festival, which returned to its original time slot in July. Suzanne Lichtman took over as Executive Director, coordinating scores of volunteers for an event that drew as many as 100,000 people into the Farmington area. The return of the Ox Roast, an expanded arts area under the direction of Nancy Coumoudouros, Brian Golden's Magical History Tour and greater participation in the parade made for an unforgettable event. To kick off the festival, Tracey Finlayson, 22, of Farmington Hills was crowned Miss Farmington 2001.

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