

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### TODAY

**Annual Breakfast: The Farmington Masonic Hall at Grand River and Farmington Road is holding its annual breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24. Eggs, bacon and ham will be served.**

### TUESDAY

**Joint meeting: Farmington School Board will host the city councils from Farmington and Farmington Hills at the Farmington Training Center Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m., for a meeting to discuss common issues. On the agenda are school and community safety, the 47th District Courthouse project, high school start times and other district projects. The meeting is open to the public.**

### THURSDAY

**State of the cities: Business leaders and residents are invited to attend the annual State of the Cities breakfast, held Thursday, Feb. 28 at the Holiday Inn, 38123 W. 10 Mile in Farmington Hills. City managers Frank Lauhoff and Steve Brock from Farmington and Farmington Hills, respectively, along with Superintendent of Schools C. Robert Maxfield will speak about the issues in their communities. Tickets are \$25. Call 248-474-3440.**

### INDEX

Apartments/D5	Obituaries/A4
Automotive/E8	Pastimes/B1
Classified/D,E	Police Calls/A3
Classified Index/D3	Real Estate/D1
Crossword/D4	Service Guide/E8
Jobs/E1	Sports/C1
New Homes/D1	Travel/B8

**PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORT WRITER**  
Trainee position. Part or full time.....

"So many resumes to look through - Thanks!"  
L. Bloomfield Hills

**HOME TOWN CLASSIFIEDS WORKING**  
1-800-579-SELL



**New provost: Gary Oster, the new provost at William Tyndale College, stands next to a portrait of the school's namesake.**

## College names new provost

By PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER  
ppace@oe.homecomm.net

Academic staff changes are taking place at William Tyndale College.

According to college President Jerry Brangard, Gary Oster has been named the new provost and will also retain his previous responsibilities as vice president of Academic Affairs.

Oster said he will maintain the daily operations of the Christian college whenever the president focuses his attentions on outside matters. He is looking forward to helping oversee the college he deems special.

"Our professors have one of the finest relationships with students I have ever seen," he said. "The professors have a lot of personal contact with the students."

"Even though we're a Christian col-



lege, we have over 30 different denominations represented here. It's a rich environment."  
Oster has three master's degrees. They are in systems management, librarianship and arts and economics.

He said he is excited about two new programs that will be started this year, a new communications degree division and the college's first on-line bachelor's degree program, offered in product management.

"I plan to build on the good things that are here," Oster said.

He lives in Livonia with his wife Priscilla and children George, 13, and Genia, 10.

**When not working, he said, he enjoys reading and working on the computer.**

Reporting to Oster will be:  
■ Doug Chapman of Southfield, named chairman of Christian Studies Division. Previously, he was an instructor in that division.  
■ Barbara Bockbruder of Toledo, Ohio, named chairwoman of Natural

Please see PROVOST, A2

## Beechview kids learn about city's 'Underground Railroad'

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@oe.homecomm.net

Beechview Elementary parents and relatives led students along an imaginary underground railroad Friday in honor of Black History Month.

The school was darkened as children visited classrooms where adults played the roles of people like Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas and Harriet Beecher Stowe, who were involved in the effort to free slaves.

Children learned the City of Farmington had its roots in the abolitionist movement. Stacie Hensley played Selinda Power, the wife of Nathan Power, an early resident. Nathan was the oldest son of Farmington founder Arthur Power.

Nathan Power used the old Quaker meeting house as a station on the Underground Railroad in Farmington, according to "If Walls Could Talk," a book about Farmington history. The original house is hidden under the remodeling of the Oak Hill Nursing



**Journeying: Beechview Elementary students pass through darkened halls, following the underground railroad.**

home on Grand River and Gill Road, according to author Ruth Mochlman. Nathan also occasionally took slaves to Seymour Finney's hotel on State and Griswold Streets in Detroit.

John Thayer, who lived at Drake and Nine Mile, was known to harbor slaves. The Philbrick Tavern at the intersection of Orchard Lake and 11 Mile, too,

was reputed to be an Underground Railroad station.

Just as slaves recognized safe houses by symbols, Beechview Elementary hung quilts to point the way to the areas set up as safe rooms.

Hensley doled out water and cornbread to students just as slaves received; bandages were offered for cuts and bruises suffered along the way.

"The neat thing is adults learn as much as the kids," said Beechview Principal Norma Jean Sass.

Children moved silently in the hallways because adults explained the importance of not being seen or heard when they traveled the Underground Railroad.

"Some people didn't believe in safe houses," Hensley explained. Students seemed to enjoy the elaborate recreation, and learned something as well.

"I think it is very interesting," said Mike Erickson, a third grader. "It tells us a lot about how they got here and about safe houses in Farmington."

## Ready for more numbers

■ A new area code may not change your phone number, but it will change your dialing habits.

By PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER  
ppace@oe.homecomm.net

Just what you always wanted, a new telephone area code to remember.

Fortunately, most phones belonging to the 248 area code already in existence in Farmington and Farmington Hills won't be changed this year. But the requirement to punch in 1 and the area code first -- no matter who you call -- will.

According to Ameritech, after June 8, local calls will not be completed unless people punch in all 11 digits, just like a long-distance call.

That means calling your neighbor across the street will require just as much effort as your cousin in another state.

For attorney Barry Brickner who makes lots of local phone calls, the requirement will be "something you have to deal with."

"That's the price you pay for a society that communicates," said Brickner, who also serves on the Hills City Council. "And I am just starting to swallow the new Macomb area code."

He said he is getting used to using area codes whenever he calls outside the Farmington Hills area anyway, due to changes in recent years.

"I am getting pretty good at it," he said of the challenge in remembering so many numbers.

He joked that once the change goes into effect, he will be building a stronger index finger, if nothing else. But he will also have to reprogram the 40 numbers he has on his office auto-dialer.

Brickner pointed out that people who use an Internet dial-up connection on their computers will also have to reprogram their machines to include area codes.

According to Ameritech, because of the increasing demand for new

Please see PHONE, A2



**Story-telling: Brenda Cook tells the story of escaped slave Linda Brent, who hid in an attic, much like Anne Frank. Brent finally escaped on a ship, by dressing as a sailor.**

## Are 'cafeteria cliques' a problem in schools?

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@oe.homecomm.net

Common interests and comfort zones determine where some students sit in Farmington school cafeterias.

Some say these divisions are by cliques. But is this perceived as a problem by students?

Do students sit in a bubble for four years without ever trying to mingle with others?

High schoolers from Farmington, North Farmington, Harrison and Mercy High schools pondered the topic

at the Student Diversity Conference Feb. 21 held at the Farmington Training Center.

Cliques are formed according to grade, race, nationality or social groups, like those who party or do not, students said.

"The first attraction or coming together is physical features," said Bobby Kelly, a Harrison teacher who led the discussion.

Though people look the same, they may be nothing like you, he said.

"How do we get beyond that? Are we supposed to always be comfortable?"

Kelly asked. "There's risk involved. If you are comfortable all the time, you aren't going to accomplish anything."

"If you are a shy person you can't expect a lot of friends," said Erin Deere, a Farmington High student.

Others believe what's inside a person's mind and heart counts when choosing friends. "Their insides match my insides," explained Jayne Vainer, a Farmington High school student.

Ashley Rosenberg didn't think the North Farmington cafeteria was exclusive.

Please see CLIQUES, A5

