

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

Art Fair: Mercy High School holds its annual art fair today from noon-5 p.m. and on Monday from 3-7 p.m. The art fair, which features the school's seniors who have their portfolio on display, is at 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

MONDAY

Farmington City Council: Officials will meet Monday at 8 p.m. at City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street. On the agenda: a demonstration of an Automatic External Defibrillator and a presentation by the Multicultural / Multiracial Community Council.

Farmington Hills City Council: On the council's Monday, 7:30 p.m. agenda: public hearings on a tax abatement for Nissan Technical Center and costs for Stockton Ave. pavement and drainage improvements; consideration of water and sewer rate approval for 2002/2003.

TUESDAY

School Board: The Tuesday evening agenda, taken up at 7:30 p.m., includes a report from the high school start time committee; review of the 2002/03 proposed budget and tax levy; and approvals of the 2002/03 breakfast program and non-resident tuition rates.

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Growing: Counselor Ed Spitsbergen listens intently during a group counseling session held at Growth Works. The center helps teens with addictions to drugs and alcohol.

Back on track

Parents say Pathways transforms lives

BY JONI HUBRED
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Jon was always a difficult kid. His father and step-mother recall a lifetime of behavior problems, extreme trouble dealing with authority figures. Then a few years ago, things started taking a turn for the very worse.

"When we left the house, everything had to be locked down," Anne Marie, a Canton resident, said. "We got calls four and five times a day from school. I'd always say, 'I'm sorry...but what else can you do?'"

Odd behaviors and comments about drugs tipped off his parents, but they encountered a problem when they decided to take their 17-year-old in for drug testing.

"When I got to the doctor, they said, 'We

Please see **PATHWAYS, A5**

Treatment lets teen succeed

BY JONI HUBRED
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His parents, he says, lied to him to get him into treatment for his

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drug and alcohol addiction.

"They say he had to be convinced, because they couldn't sign him in against his will. Now clean and sober, Jon knows his parents did the right thing. And he's convincing others that a sober life is a better one."

"I really didn't want to see I had a drug problem," the Canton 18-year-old said. "I just thought that was dirty, that's not who I was, who I wanted to be. I had an image in my head of a homeless

bum." In the virtual lockdown of Pathways' first phase of treatment, he found himself completely separated from his family and old friends. But gradually, he saw his own life in the stories of kids who were farther along in the program, kids who were living life on the outside.

The hardest part, he said, was going back to his family when he entered the second phase of treatment. "They try to get you involved with your family gradually. That was really tough for me. I thought they didn't really love me because they lied to me at first. I had to get used to working my problem out with them as a family. In the past, I used drugs to deal with my problems."

Now in after-care, Jon goes back

Please see **SUCCESS, A5**

ATHENA winner Deichert wouldn't change a thing

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Despite the countless hours of hard work, time spent away from her family and even giving of her own money, Terry Deichert said she wouldn't change a thing about the time she has devoted to the Longacre House in Farmington Hills.

Her volunteer work and being a mentor to other women will be honored by being an Athena Award recipient Wednesday by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber and members of the business community will pay respects

to Deichert at a luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Executive Hotel and Suites by Best Western in Farmington Hills.

The Athena celebrates an individual who pursues excellence in his or her business profession and service to the community as well as supports women in achieving their full leadership potential.

Officials at the chamber said Deichert is deserving of the honor for her active role at the Longacre House, voluntarily taking on the role of executive director, contributing countless hours and even giving of her own per-

Please see **ATHENA, A7**



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREXLER

ATHENA winner: Terry Deichert will be honored Wednesday in part for her work at the Longacre House, for which she has been a volunteer executive director and board member.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREXLER

On board: New Farmington Public Safety Officer Mark Keeley was sworn in on Monday morning.

Keeley sworn in as city's newest public safety officer

BY SUE BUCK
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Mark Keeley was recently sworn in as the City of Farmington's newest public safety officer.

Keeley, 35, just completed 15 weeks of the police academy at Schoolcraft College.

He's been a paid-on-call firefighter with Farmington Hills since 2000. He is also

enrolled in an emergency medical technician course with the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

Keeley's interest in public safety began three years ago.

"Back in 1999, I was reading an Observer article about the City of Farmington in need of reserve officers," Keeley said. "It immediately hit a chord inside me and I decided to attend the orientation

meeting. When I came home that night, I knew that this was something that I really wanted to do. I attended all the necessary courses, medical first responder, police reserve officer training and also became a Michigan-certified fire fighter. When the opportunity presented itself to do this full time, there was no

Please see **OFFICER, A5**

Schools chief visits William Grace

BY SUE BUCK
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State School Superintendent Tom Watkins visited William Grace Elementary in Farmington Hills May 15 to observe how the school includes special education students in general education classrooms.

"We want to see inclusion programs at work," Watkins said.

Watkins brought a contingent from Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc., a Lansing-based advocacy group.

"We're pleased to have this opportunity to showcase our school," said Principal Mark Marowski.

The visit was the result of communication with parent Art Edwards who has a child in the school's special education program. Edwards is a weekend anchorman for Channel 4. His son, A. J. 7, is in Vitas Undery's class. Edwards is also on the United Cerebral Palsy board.

Inclusion in the general education classroom has been wonderful for his son, Edwards said. "We've seen a lot of progress in A. J. since the fall. He's doing things we hoped he would do but he is doing them more quickly. He goes to reading with the first graders every morning. Now he is just finishing up music with the first graders. The first graders have accepted him in their class and he loves being with them. The state should see a program which works. This building has been wonderful. They embrace the idea."

Watkins observed a variety of activities. In Fay Stone's fourth grade class, all children determined how difficult it is for butterflies to drink. Students constructed a lengthy, plastic proboscis to duplicate the sucking organ of a butterfly.

Along the way, Watkins exchanged some high fives with students.

"What makes a great teacher?" Watkins asked students in guest teacher Becky Wilson's third grade.

The answers included someone who's honest, someone who helps you with words and someone who gives no homework.

Watkins told fifth graders that they were the best fifth grade class in the state of Michigan. "You guys rock," he said.

Students in Heather Harrington's second grade class celebrated Rebecca Rice's eighth birthday with "dirt," plas-

Please see **VISIT, A7**