

# FARMINGTON Observer

**Magnificenzal!**

Italian art tells story of late Renaissance Florence. A&E, B1



Volume 116 Number 50

www.hometownlife.com

©2003 HOMETOWN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

## Our Towns

### Drug seminar

State Sen. Gilda Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods, will host a seminar 9-10 a.m. on Friday, March 14, in the Marcotte Room at the Southfield Public Library to provide information about prescription drug discount programs available to Michigan citizens.

This seminar was created



for nurses, health care professionals and community leaders serving the elderly, indigent and/or disabled.

"Prescription drug costs have become unmanageable for so many of our seniors," Jacobs said. "There are a number of programs that offer discounts on prescription medication, but many people are unaware that they exist."

The seminar will be led by a representative from Pfizer, who will walk participants through the programs it offers and provide detailed information about how to determine eligibility and enrollment procedures.

After the training seminar, information about discount drug programs will be shared through faith-based organizations, senior centers and family service agencies.

"Until a legislative solution is found to provide affordable prescription drugs for our most vulnerable citizens, we should be providing as much information as possible about programs that will help them reduce their costs," Jacobs said. "Friday's event is just one step in that direction."

### Crop walk

The 18th annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Crop Walk will be held Sunday, May 4, beginning at First United Methodist Church in downtown Farmington.

An informational rally for this event will be held 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. David Bower, director of the World Church Service, will be providing packets for all previous participants and additional information for new walkers.

Walkers can choose a 10-kilometer walk (6 1/2 miles) or a one-mile fun walk.

The walk raises funds for hunger and disaster relief for more than 12 countries around the world, as well as local charities such as Neighborhood House of Farmington and St. Alexander's Food Cupboard. For more information, contact Mary B. Andron at North Congregational Church, (248) 648-1752.



Lee Iverson and Becky Koenig, both students at William Tyndale College, pray for the future of the school.

By J. LESLIE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Tyndale seeks \$1M miracle

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills was hoping to raise more than \$10 million in 1999 to expand and boost enrollment.

But expectations of an increasing student body, grants and private contributions were overly ambitious, school staff said this week. Now the college's board of directors has ordered Tyndale to close in May if a merger or buyout agreement cannot be reached soon.

Eleven staff members don't like either scenario and decided to send out 10,000 letters over the weekend asking for prayer and \$1 million to show the board there's support to keep the college autonomous.

The letter states if the college is closed or sold, any money donated would be returned.

Karen Mulligan, director of community relations, said concerned staffers are asking for the money because the 58-year-old college is special to them.

"The people here who teach are committed to serve the Lord and that's what they want to do," she said. "If we merge, there is no guarantee they will keep up our mission statement or our programs."

Even if the money is raised by March 21, as stated in the letter, it will be up to the board of directors to decide the next step, Mulligan said. "We don't know what will happen."

Students set to graduate from the current winter semester will still be able to do so, Mulligan said, but so far, no spring courses are planned.

Students and staff are optimistic the funds will be raised.

Since Monday, there have been two student meetings a day where staff has been talking with the students about the situation.

Doug Chapman, chairman of the Christian Studies Division, said Wednesday that on March 24, staff should know more about the college's future.

A pole has been erected in one of the hallways to show how much money is being mailed in each day.

Chapman, one of the administrators who signed the letter, said the checks will not be cashed until a decision is made.

"We're praying for a \$1 million miracle," he said.

Student Ron Young was set to start his senior year next fall. He found out about the financial crisis Monday. "I was pretty surprised," he said. Despite the news,

PLEASE SEE TYNDALE, A4

## Wooddale school visitors share unlimited visions

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Several young men from Visions Unlimited brought some advice about everyday living to Wooddale Elementary students Monday.

Their message? Feel beautiful just the way you are.

"We are all different in some way and that's what makes our world so interesting," student speaker Nick Miller said.

Visions Unlimited is a post-secondary educational program for students 18-25 years old, operated

PLEASE SEE VISIONS, A8

## Richards headlines at Civic Theatre

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Bill Richards won't take requests, but he will serenade you with his own personal tunes.

By day, the community knows Richards as the city of Farmington's assistant city

manager. On Sunday afternoons, Richards takes up his guitar to entertain for about an hour before matinees at the historic Farmington Civic Theatre on Grand River.

Richards has been the theater's undervalued attraction for about two months.

"It's a little extension of how I feel about

Farmington," Richards said.

He described his audience as nice and kind and quips that no one has thrown anything at him. It's been going so well, in fact, that Richards hopes to eventually expand his gratis performances to

PLEASE SEE RICHARDS, A8

## Program honors Turn Around kids

BY JONI HUBER  
STAFF WRITER

"I know a little something about being a turn around kid."

And when Channel 7 news anchor Frank Turner spoke about his life at Tuesday's second annual Turn Around

Awards ceremony, an audience of some 160 students, parents, school and civic leaders listened with rapt attention.

Sponsored by Farmington Public Schools, Hills Police and Farmington Public Safety departments and the Farmington Observer, the event honored 26 young people who have made signifi-

cant positive changes in their lives over the past year. Students were from four middle schools, three high schools, the Alternative Academy and Community School.

Turner's message echoed their stories.

PLEASE SEE TURN, A3

**MEDICAL INSURANCE COMPANY**  
Looking for dependable...  
I received tons of quotes and will definitely be able to live someone's life. Farmington Hills  
**1-800-879-SELL**  
FULL RISK CLASSIFIED TO WORK FOR YOU

**CONTACT US**  
Newcomer - (248) 477-5400  
Newcomer Fax - (248) 477-9722  
Classified - 1-800-879-SELL  
Home Delivered - (248) 591-9200  
HomeTown  
LIVING WITH THE FUTURE

**INDEX**

Apartments	G5	Jobs	G8
Arts	B1	Movies	B2
Automotive	H1	Obituaries	A2
Classified	E,F,G,H	Real Estate	E1
Crossword	G4	Service Guide	G1
Eccentric Life	C5	Sports	D1



**LOOKING AHEAD**  
Matching wines, winning food  
In Sunday's Taste section, read about the eighth annual Michigan Culinary Food & Wine Extravaganza



If it's important to you,  
it's important to us.



For totally local news,

Read on...