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Officials discuss out-of-district enrollments - Local news, A3

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FARMINGTON Observer

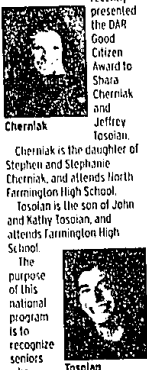
SUNDAY
 March 16, 2003
 75 cents

OUR TOWNS

DAR honors two
 Three Flags Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, recently presented the DAR Good Citizen Award to Shara Cherniak and Jeffrey Tosolan.

Cherniak is the daughter of Stephen and Stephanie Cherniak and attends North Farmington High School. Tosolan is the son of John and Kathy Tosolan, and attends Farmington High School.

The purpose of this national program is to recognize seniors who exemplify the qualities of a good citizen: dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.



Cherniak
 Tosolan

Citizen of the Year
 Farmington Area Jaycees are accepting applications for Citizen of the Year Award recipients.

A nomination form can be obtained by calling Valerie Knol at (248) 477-5277 or by visiting the Jaycees Web site at www.jaycees.org/project.html. You may also mail the completed form to: P.O. Box 33 Farmington, 48332 or fax it to (248) 848-3796 or e-mail to Fajc@yahoo.com.

Peace vigil
 There will be a Vigil for Peace at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Farmington City Hall (outside).

This is part of a worldwide peace vigil with the theme "Peace And Not War," called on the eve of a possible Iraq invasion. Everyone is invited to come and bring a candle.

Siren warning
 Oakland County Emergency Response and Preparedness will conduct a tornado siren test at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 18, in the City of Farmington.

The last siren test this year draws attention to Severe Weather Awareness Week. Sirens sound when tornadoes and severe storms that come with high winds are headed to the Farmington/Farmington Hills area. The test will consist of a single three-minute-long siren tone, according to Mike Wiggins, deputy Farmington public safety director.

"This is only a test," Wiggins said. "Residents should not call their local police or fire departments when the siren is heard." In the event of a threat of severe weather on this date, the test will be canceled, Wiggins said. Sirens will also be tested at 1 p.m. April 5 and the first Saturday of every month until fall.



Miles and Evan Peguese are irrepressibly active, like most 5-year-old boys. Gary Deschenes, of Foresters, Mom Andrea and Dad Daryl wait for things to settle down.

Hills twins champion charity

BY PAUL R. PACE
 STAFF WRITER

Andrea Peguese's twin boys, Evan and Miles, came into the world 14 weeks before their due date, each weighing about 1 pound.

Through courage, determination and support from staff at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, the twins made it through the ordeal.

Andrea and husband Daryl of Farmington Hills are now enjoying life with their boys, who just started their first year at Fairview Elementary School.

"They love going to school," Andrea said.

The coming year may be a little busier for the family. For showing they could make it through such a critical experience, Miles and Evan, 5, have been selected as Michigan's Champion Children for the Children's Miracle Network and Foresters.

As honorees for Michigan, the boys and their family will soon visit Washington, D.C. They'll participate in a special ceremony and enjoy a vacation in Walt Disney World in Florida with the other families selected from each state and 11 provinces in Canada.

Miles and Evan and the rest of the family were joined by representatives of Foresters and Beaumont Hospital at a celebration Thursday.

The event was hosted by Foresters, the title sponsor for the Champions Across America and Canada program, which honors children from Children's Miracle Network hospitals who face significant medical challenges.

Andrea said she never gave up hope that her son would survive being born so prematurely.

"It was a hard road, but (the hospital) made it better and I'm thankful to the staff at Beaumont," she said during Thursday's ceremony at Beaumont Medical Center in Royal Oak.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates gave each boy a plaque honoring their selection as representatives for Children's Miracle Network.

PLEASE SEE CHAMPIONS, A6

Calls pour in after Tyndale staff plea

BY PAUL R. PACE
 STAFF WRITER

The staff at William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills is getting hundreds of phone calls after putting out a call for funds that might keep the Christian-based school from closing after graduation this May.

As of Friday morning, about \$18,000 has been raised in reaction to 11 staff members' quest to raise \$1 million. Their goal is to show the college's board of directors the school should remain autonomous.

The board voted March 5 to close the six-year-old college unless a merger with a similar college or a buyout could be reached before then, said Karen Mulligan, college spokeswoman.

Eleven staff members are hoping the money will show the board there is support to keep the school.

PLEASE SEE TYNDALE, A6

Land brings message of change

BY PAUL R. PACE
 STAFF WRITER

Terri Lynn Land, the new Secretary of State for Michigan, was in Farmington Hills Tuesday, just one stop on her way toward visiting every Secretary of State branch office in the state.

One or two days a week, Land is visiting all the branch offices as promised in her campaign last year.

Kelly Chesney, communications director for the secretary, said Land is not only speaking with staff, but customers as well to gather ideas on improving customer service.

"I made it my goal to introduce myself to every employee," Land said. Roughly 1,900 people work for Land's office.

"The public has expressed they'd like us to be open outside regular business hours," said Chesney, adding the possibility of Saturday hours once a month is being investigated.

Technology and using the Internet to renew licenses is also a cost-trimming goal, said Land.

Last year, 18 million transactions took place.

PLEASE SEE CHANGE, A6

FPS honors longtime maintenance staffer

BY SUE BUCK
 STAFF WRITER

He whistles while he works, has a great attitude and delivers service with a smile.

Doug Riddell, a maintenance man and glazier for the Farmington Public Schools district, is a model employee in many people's minds and was a natural choice for Support Person of the Year.

"I can't think of anyone more deserving," said Pat Fletcher, Riddell's supervisor. "He's an exemplary employee. He's very thorough."

The South Lyon resident was chosen by a selection committee, after a nomination process.

PLEASE SEE RIDDLEL, A8



Doug Riddell is Support Person of the Year.

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LOOKING AHEAD
 Eating out
 In Thursday's A&E section:
 Morton's, The Steakhouse is
 using new Riedel stemware in
 all its restaurants.



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