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FARMINGTON Observer

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Dreamzzz receives national honor

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

An organization started by a Farmington Hills woman worried about a sleepless child has grown into a nationally recognized effort bringing accolades to the Detroit metropolitan area. On Wednesday, the National Sleep Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., announced Detroit has been named the 2003 Healthy Sleep Capital of the Nation, thanks to the efforts of

Farmington-based Sweet Dreamzzz. The tiny nonprofit has since 1998 brought sleep kits and information to thousands of needy students in Detroit Public Schools. The Healthy Sleep Capital Award is presented annually during National Sleep Awareness Week (March 31-April 6) to acknowledge outstanding efforts to promote and educate the public about healthy sleep. The local all-volunteer organization is, in a word, thrilled. "It's something positive for the city to

be voted as that, because of the efforts of our volunteers," said Director of Operations Nancy Maxwell. The organization began around founder Kathleen Donnelly's table, as a small group of local women helped out a mother and child profiled in a column by Detroit Free Press writer Mitch Albom. The tale of a young boy huddled under a coat in a burned out crack house led to the realization that many children living in difficult conditions don't get a good night's sleep - which in turn affects their

ability to get a good education. Sweet Dreamzzz's two-fold R.E.M. program (Rest, Educate and Motivate) helps by offering kids a "sleep kit" that includes a sleeping bag and pillow, a toothbrush, a nightshirt and other goodies and information about how to get a good night's sleep. Those efforts impressed the National Sleep Foundation and led to Detroit city award. "Sleep deprivation negatively affects a child's overall mood and behavior, and a

PLEASE SEE HONOR, A9

Our Towns



Warner Museum

The Warner Museum has re-opened for the season. During the winter, the 1867 home of Governor Fred Warner was air-conditioned and renovations began on an upstairs bathroom. The bathroom will be restored to match the turn-of-the-century time period next year. The Warner Museum will begin a series of educational events in the spring. Lecturer Ann Petersson will discuss Victorian women's dress and manners in a talk 2 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Admission is \$5. Call the museum at (248) 473-7275 to reserve your spot. Additional sessions will be announced later this year. All talks will take place in the museum's barn educational center. For information on volunteer opportunities at the Warner Museum, call (248) 473-7275.

Blood Drive

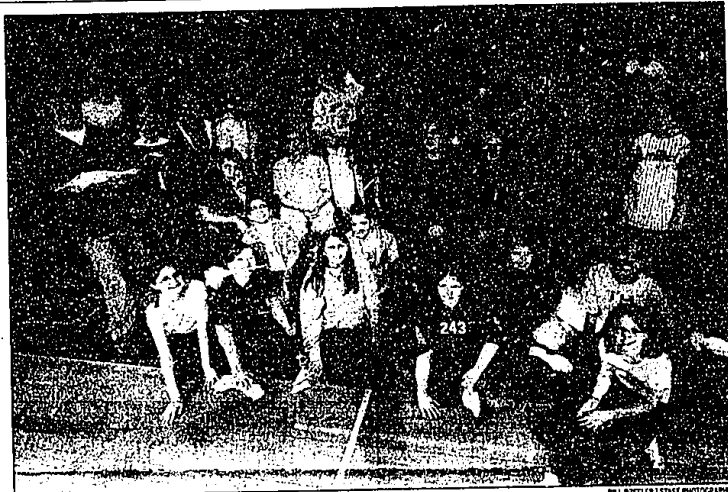
St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington Hills will hold a blood drive from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, April 5. The church is at 21300 Farmington Road. Call (248) 473-7470 to make an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

Kids/Comeria

Elks Kids Day with the Detroit Tigers will be held at 105 p.m. Sunday, May 4, as the Detroit Tigers take on Tampa Bay. Kids 14 and under will get the chance to run the bases after the game as well as free rides. Reservations must be in by April 8. To reach the Farmington Elks call (248) 476-1986.

Mail for freedom

Mail Works Plus is participating in the national Operation Mail for Freedom campaign. The Operation Mail for Freedom campaign provides, for free, mailing of letter mail to show support for locally deployed service people in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The store is at 33290 W. 14 Mile at Farmington Road in West Bloomfield Township. Mail Works Plus accepts letter mail for the Operation Mail for Freedom campaign daily during business hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information call (248) 737-8910 or visit the NPC Web site at www.npc-hb.com/hbpostoffice.com.



DELL BREKLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A princely story

Clareneville High School and Middle School will present 'Once Upon A Mattress,' the district spring musical, April 10-12. Learn how a CHS grad got involved in the production on page A3.

Board appoints deputy

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Public School Board appointed a deputy school superintendent Tuesday - Sue Zurvalec. Zurvalec, who was highly recommended by Superintendent Bob Maxfield, has worked for the district since 1989 and most recently served as assistant superintendent for staff and community services. "I don't want to just say it's semantics, because it isn't at all," Maxfield said after the school board meeting. "It's something I have really thought about. This reflects what she's done and gives her an opportunity for growth." Maxfield explained that when assistant superintendent Jim Myers was

PLEASE SEE DEPUTY, A8

Hills man wins Czech volunteer award

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

It's not often an American receives an award from the Czech Republic. In fact, Jim Miller of Farmington Hills can claim to be the only American to receive a volunteer of the year award, presented in March by the mayor of Prague, in conjunction with the National Volunteer Center in Prague. But volunteering is nothing new to Miller; he's led two other mission projects for his church, Birmingham United Methodist. Senior minister William Ritter said Miller's award shows he has become a role model in the Czech Republic, a country slowly embracing the importance of volunteering after decades of

PLEASE SEE VOLUNTEER, A7

Fair helps families prepare for worst

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is known for being self-supportive and helping those in need. To continue that long-standing tradition, the Farmington Hills church is sponsoring a Community Emergency Preparedness and Self-Reliance Fair from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at

the church at 33900 W. 13 Mile. The public is invited to attend the free admission event, where families can learn how to help themselves through workshops sponsored by the Farmington Hills Emergency Management Program. The event will include a discussion on family and personal emergency preparedness and an introduction to Latter-day Saints employment services. Also, information will be provided

about Web sites related to self-preparedness, and demonstrations and displays will be set up during the event. Pete Baldwin, deputy fire chief for Farmington Hills, will present workshops on the city's plans for dealing with possible disasters. Greg Geiger, community affairs representative for the church, said the Latter-

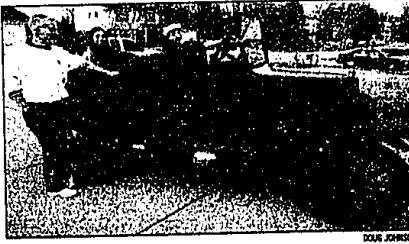
PLEASE SEE FAIR, A9

Classic car featured in WBHS 'Ragtime'

BY DOUG JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills fireman has helped rescue the West Bloomfield High School musical - well, sort of. West Bloomfield determined last fall to stage the play "Ragtime," a complex turn-of-the-century book, movie and Broadway musical. A key scene requires a Model T Ford car. A golf cart with a plywood cutout of a car seemed out of the question.

PLEASE SEE CAR, A9



West Bloomfield High School juniors Elyse Handelman (stage manager) and Jason Miller (projection designer) look over the Model T the school will use in "Ragtime." Hills fireman Robert Reblay has donated the use of the valuable vintage Ford.

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LOOKING AHEAD
Joni Schmuckler
In Sunday's Taste section: Vintage German wines along with sauerbraten, bratwurst, sauerkraut and German chocolate cake.

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