

10 seniors named
'Good Citizen,' 1B



Wrestling
results, 1D

Forum will focus
on Constitution, 2A

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HELPING hand. The Farmington Hills Police Auxiliary again brightened the holiday season for the less fortunate. The unit sponsored 60 needy children in K. mart's Angel Tree Program, provided an account at a local bread store for the Salvation Army Corps in Farmington Hills and provided toys and food to the needy. It also made a donation to the Special Olympics. The unit raised almost \$2,000 during the season of giving.

FORTUNE seeker. Maggie Gilkes of Farmington will guest star on the highly rated syndicated game show, "Wheel of Fortune," at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11. The show airs locally on Channel 4. Gilkes was among four local participants chosen to appear from among 600 who auditioned in Detroit in May as part of a nationwide contestant search.

PASSING the what? When outgoing mayor Ben Marks passed the gavel to new mayor Jody Soronen at the first Farmington Hills City Council meeting of the new year Monday night, he quipped: "And now, the formal passing of the gaudet."

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Shot in the face at point-blank range in an aborted robbery, Slick and Ale Restaurant co-manager Jeffrey Pechauer got up and ran to a nearby Mobil gas station, where the attendant called the Farmington Hills police.

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HOME IS
WHERE THE
HEART IS

CREATIVE
LIVING REAL ESTATE
GUIDE

NOW IN EVERY MONDAY
AND THURSDAY ISSUE

Hills to help battle major drug dealers

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Farmington Hills will be represented on a newly organized police conspiracy unit whose main targets are major drug traffickers in southeast Michigan.



Hedrick

Sgt. John Hedrick, reassigned from supervising the Farmington Hills Police Department Juvenile Division, starts his new job with the Southeast Michigan Drug Conspiracy Investigative Unit (SEMCO) Monday.

"I'm looking forward to it," Hedrick said. "That type of investigation is where my interest lies. I like developing raw information into a conspiracy case to the point where suspects can be brought in."

"I really enjoy the challenge," SEMCO will "detect, apprehend, prosecute and cause substantial asset forfeitures for individuals conspiring to import and distribute major amounts of narcotics," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said. "I'll identify persons

'There's an ever-increasing trend toward crack cocaine coming from Wayne County and Detroit to Oakland County.'

— William Dwyer
police chief

insulated from ordinary enforcement efforts." Dwyer sees investigators "developing cases that will take them outside the county, the state and, possibly, the country. You have to go to the source."

FORMERLY HEAD of the Detroit Police Department narcotics section, Dwyer said a crackdown on drugs is going to be a major pursuit in southeast Michigan this year.

"There's an ever-increasing trend toward crack cocaine coming from Wayne County and Detroit to Oakland County," Dwyer said. "I mentioned several months ago crack was going to reach this area."

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Her mission — to aid homeless

How people coped
with the weather, 8A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Her evenings were not spent in the warmth of a suburban home, but searching for those unwilling — or too frightened — to find shelter from this week's sub-zero temperatures on the streets of Detroit.

"The ones who are dying are either too proud or too scared to go to the shelters," said Farmington Hills resident Darlene Feldman.

Feldman began collecting blankets and shoes for the needy during the cold snap this week.

Calls for help traveled throughout Farmington Hills as mercury plummeted and bags full of blankets, boots, and other warm items were gathered.



Feldman

The original idea, Feldman said, was to take them to the overcrowded Detroit missions, which were running low on blankets and other items; instead, they were given directly to those living on the streets.

"I realized once they got into the

Schools revising all curriculum



The question is 'what are the skills and knowledge we want to deliver . . . and when do we want to offer it?'

— Judith White
assistant superintendent

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington school officials are moving ahead with curriculum revision plans in all subjects, at all grade levels, not only in high school as proposed recently by William Bennett, U.S. secretary of education.

Last week, Bennett prescribed "leaner, meaner, better academic medicine" for American high schools, in his dream curriculum that might require five or even six years of study for some students.

Bennett's proposed requirements of four years of literature; three years each of science, math and social studies; two years each of a foreign language and physical education; and one semester each in art history and music history courses.

"I think the community expects we will do a thorough analysis of the situation, and not give a knee-jerk reaction," said Judith White, Farmington assistant superintendent for curriculum and staff development.

The district began reviewing its curriculum more than one year ago and is approaching it on a subject-by-subject basis at all grade levels.

REVIEWING EDUCATION over 12 years is more important than simply looking at high school graduation requirements. The question is "what are the skills and knowledge we want to deliver . . . and when do we want to offer it?" according to White.

"It's a little larger and more thorough approach. We all can play the

numbers game," she added, referring to high school graduation requirements. "It can be seen very quickly."

Bennett's proposal would leave 25 percent of available class time free for electives, but many could not be

taken until the student's junior or senior year. The first year, the student would take all required courses.

White stressed it is important to keep education comprehensive and

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Gift of sight called a blessing

Somehow, not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.

Thank you for the kindness
and most of all, returning
to me the gift of eyesight.
Your best recovery, Merry Christmas
Jim Wilcox and Doc Ellis

Christmas gifts come in all shapes and sizes, but few hold the same value as Jim Wilcox's.

Nearly two years ago the 23-year-old Farmington Hills man, an insulin-dependent juvenile diabetic, was declared legally blind. His world was an undistinguishable blur; he relied on a high-powered magnifying glass to simply pick out the type of cereal he had for breakfast.

Today things are different for Wilcox. His Christmases are again filled with bright lights, laughter and hope for the coming year. His eyesight has been restored, and he is trying to put the terrifying experience of blindness behind him.

Wilcox suffered from proliferative diabetic retinopathy, an advanced type of eye disease that af-

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Through a holiday greeting card, Jim Wilcox thanked Dr. Mark Halimann of Retina Consultants of Michigan with "returning the gift of eyesight."

Employee of the Year



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Special services director Dan Potter congratulates Loretta Conway for earning Employee of the Year honors Monday night.

'Amazing gal' Hills cites senior adult leader

Public safety
officers cited, 3A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

WHEN LORETTA Conway began working for the city of Farmington Hills 14 years ago, her car was the heart of the budding senior adult services program.

After years in a small, cramped office off the Farmington Hills City Council chambers, Conway and her staff now work out of a newly remodeled office in the former police building.

But never mind. Whether operating out of a car or a spanking new office, Conway, supervisor of the Department of Special Services Senior Adult Division, loves what she does. "In a

'It's very special. I'm very pleased. It's something to receive an award for what you love doing.'

— Loretta Conway
Farmington Hills

way, I was just as happy then as I am now. But now I'm in awe of having my own office."

To a rousing standing ovation Monday night, Conway was honored by the Farmington Hills City Council, administrators and colleagues as the city's second annual Employee of the Year. Conway was nominated and selected for the honor by fellow employees and supervisors.

"It's very special. I'm very

pleased. It's something to receive an award for what you love doing," said Conway, whose program serves more than 4,300 senior adults in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

JOINED BY Mayor Jody Soronen and former Mayor Ben Marks, city manager William Costick lauded Conway. "If all the senior citizens were here . . . they'd fill the whole building."

Comments from those who nominated her rang of her contributions to the city, colleagues and the community's senior adults. "Empathy and concern" were among the adjectives used by colleagues to best describe her.

Providing a full house of city employees and residents with some anecdotes, Costick described

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