

Farmington High senior Brian Townsley (left), as the mayor, and Velinda Stenson, as a councilwoman, listen to proceedings during a city council meeting Tuesday afternoon.



Farmington High senior Chris Jones, as Safety deputy director, delivers a department report to the city council.



Farmington High seniors Erin Kristoff (left) and Thomas Stanek deliver a report to the city council as the 47th District Court administrator and assistant court administrator, respectively.

## Politicians . for a day

Tuesday, students from Farmington High School discovered everything they wanted to know about city government, plus more.

Following an orientation meeting at city hall, they shared the morning with a variety of city administrators, including those from the city manager's office,

public works department, public safety department and Downtown Development Authority.

The students had lunch at the Farmington Elks Lodge, courtesy of the Farmington Rotary Club, then held a mock city council meeting to discuss issues of the day.



Farmington High senior Jamie Holliday, as the Downtown Development Authority executive director, discusses downtown redevelopment.

Staff photos  
by  
Randy Borst

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

### • GAS EXPLOSION

Damage was estimated at \$3,000 in a natural gas explosion in the storage room at Ernie's Deli, 35572 Grand River, Thursday. No one was hurt in the 3 p.m. incident.

"We haven't figured out where the gas came from. But we suspect a buildup caught a spark in the water heater," fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.

The gas might have come from the gas water heater. Damage was confined to the storage room and a nearby hallway. "It was a fairly violent explosion within the confines of the room," Marinucci said.

### • FRAUD CONVICTION

A Farmington Hills man who is one of three men convicted of 10 counts of mail fraud in connection with a Detroit real estate scheme said through his attorney that he will appeal the verdict.

A U.S. District Court jury in Detroit handed down a guilty verdict Wednesday after a 3½-week trial before Chief Judge Phillip Pratt.

The defendants were Richard S. Hartman, 63, of Farmington Hills, John Slicker, 44, of Keego Harbor and Stanislaus Gradski, 38, of Livonia.

The three were indicted last September based on an investigation by the Michigan State Police and the U.S. Postal Service, said Blondell Morey, U.S. assistant attorney who tried the case.

The indictment charged that the defendants bought U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development houses at \$4,000-\$6,000, modestly improved them, then sold them for four to five times that amount between 1982 and 1984. The defendants aided the buyers in falsifying their credit worthiness, Morey said.

When the buyers defaulted on mortgage payments after about six months, the quasigovernment mortgage holders claimed the houses. "By then, they were abandoned and worth about as much as the defendants paid for them," Morey said.

"We, of course, are disappointed by the verdict," said Hartman's defense attorney, David Steingold of Detroit.

Hartman has maintained his innocence throughout the case, said Steingold, who began representing Hartman about six weeks before the trial.

"I believe the result very well could have been different if we had earlier been provided material not disclosed until the trial — for which the judge admonished the prosecution," Steingold said.

Steingold will petition Pratt for a new trial on grounds that the court refused to grant a separate trial for each defendant and that the government withheld important discovery material that should have been provided well before trial.

He would not comment on specific facts of the case while sentencing is pending.

The defendants remain free on personal bond. They face a penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine per count.

### • THEFTS REPORTED

Tools valued at \$530 were reported stolen from a storage shed at Gateway Apartments May 1-7.

A color TV valued at \$315 was reported stolen from a storage room at the Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills, 38123 10 Mile, May 16-17.

A 1986 Cadillac valued at \$18,500 was reported stolen from Vladimir's, 28125 Grand River, May 18.

A VCR valued at \$500 was reported stolen from a house on Haggerty near 10 Mile May 19.

### • TICKETS ISSUED

Four West Bloomfield teenagers — two 18-year-olds and two 17-year-olds — were ticketed for possessing beer during a traffic stop at the Old Orchard Theatre, 28123 Orchard Lake, May 17.

A 35-year-old Lakewood Village man and a 32-year-old Union Lake man were ticketed for open intoxicants in a motor vehicle when beer was found in their car during a traffic stop outside the Quik Pik, 29405 12 Mile, May 17.

A 20-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing alcohol and violating the controlled substance act when beer and a bag of suspected marijuana were found in his possession during a traffic stop at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington, May 19. A 20-year-old companion from Tucson was ticketed for possessing beer.

## on the agenda

Below are highlights from agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
Council Chambers  
City Hall  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Monday, May 23

On tonight's agenda, the city council will consider:

- a rezoning request from RA-1 to OS-4 at 37685 Halsted.
- a rezoning request from RP-2 to RC-2 at 30700 Haggerty.
- a rezoning request from B-1 to OS-1 at 37586 12 Mile.

- a proposed charter amendment allowing board and commission members to maintain their seats while seeking city council election. The ballot is scheduled for the August primary.

- an ordinance amendment for the regulation of school buses and traffic in the vicinity of school buses loading and unloading.

- adding a historical site, the Mark Arnold home, 26460 Drake, to the city's historical district.

- an amendment to the house moving ordinance.

- a series of traffic orders.

- a resolution of notice of intent to levy additional taxes and set a public hearing for June 6.

- a request for Oakland County to take over 14 Mile Road, from Orchard Lake to Haggerty in exchange for Farmington Road, from 14 Mile to 10 Mile.



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Tumbling  
Karate  
Swimming  
Gymnastics  
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Tennis

### SESSION I

June 20 - July 8

### SESSION II

July 11 - July 29

### SESSION III

August 1 - August 19

### THEATRE

For Beginners  
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Theatre Activity  
Video Production

### OTHER

Computers  
Magic  
World of Numbers  
Self Esteem  
Role Playing Games  
Science Through Discovery  
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\*\* AGES 10-12 - Alice in Wonderland - First two sessions Theatre Skills

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