

# Ancient 'stocks' to be forum topic

Should we bring back "the stocks" to deal with teenage waywardness? No, not Wall Street before October, nor the Chicago stockyards of yesterday. These "stocks" are those used by the Puritans 300 years hence in New England, to punish culprits.

"Reinvesting in Ancient Stocks and Bonds — Cruel and Unusual Punishment?" will be thrashed out in the third Constitutional Forum, to be held at North Farmington High School at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16. The public will be the Town Meeting, which will vote to recommend the proposed ordinance to the Town Council.

The drama, based on the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, will be enacted by prominent local residents, and a number of students from the high school will have roles. The play is scripted by the American Bar Association and is one of a series that depicts modern constitutional controversies.

Two other dramas from this series have already been presented by the Farmington Area Committee on the Bicentennial. They were "The Trial of Elizabeth Ross," staged in January, which focused on the right to bear arms (Second Amendment); and "The Trial of the Rev. Walter Jergens," which underscored the First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. (In Farmington, Freedom of Speech lost on a narrow vote of the audience-jury.)

A unique feature of this series is that those attending — the audience — decide the outcome of the afternoon. In the first two cases, the audience was the jury; in the Oct. 16 presentation, the audience is the Town Meeting for the Village of Hopkocord, a mythical/typical



New England town. Because the Town has been having problems with its teenagers, an ordinance has been proposed that would bring back the stocks and sequester culprits within for several hours — on the Town Green — each Saturday afternoon.

The entire series is an attempt to have today's busy citizens ponder the rights and responsibilities of the Bill of Rights, upon which this nation focused its attention from 1787 to 1791, just after the U.S. Constitution was adopted, and which are of vital concern today, said Jean Fox, chair of the committee.

# Officer returns from benefit run

Farmington public safety officer Maria Putt recently returned from a rather different trip across Michigan, after participating in a police run to benefit Michigan Special Olympics.

Putt was one of 300 officers participating in the Little Caesars Law Enforcement Torch Run, the largest event of its kind in the country. She ran for five days, in four-mile legs several times a day. The major sponsor was the Farmington Hills-based Little Caesars Enterprises.

"I'm not a runner whatsoever," she said. "I did it for Special Olympics. It wasn't that hard — you don't run between cities."

Putt said she prepared for the race by running along Grand River in downtown Farmington after her shift with the public safety department was over.

Upper Peninsula from Ironwood to Manistique to Sault Ste. Marie, then in the Gaylord area, and finally through Oakland County. "It was a blast," Putt added. "We really had good support."

This year she used her own time off for the race and got pledges from three Farmington police unions, several local businesses and other friends. Putt is already preparing to run again in next year's event.

The torch was carried night and day through the state during the week of Sept. 12, beginning in Copper Harbor in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and ending at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit.

During the Oakland County leg, three Farmington Hills officers, Patrick Browne, Gary Brandemuhl and Gary Maillois, also ran.

# Farmington Observer

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# 69th House seat candidates to debate

The two candidates for the 69th state House district seat will debate at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile.

Republican Jan Dolan and Democrat John Dolan will be questioned by

panelists Jim Labadie, WDET radio news editor; Dr. Lisa Schwartz, University of Detroit political science professor; and Bob Sklar, Farmington Observer editor.

Under the League of Women Voters of the West Bloomfield-Farmington Area format, each candidate will make a two-minute opening statement.

Questions from the panelists will follow. Each candidate will have 1 minute to respond.

Questions from the audience also will be asked by the moderator. The program will end with a two-minute

closing statement by each candidate.

Metropolitan Channel 12 will cablecast the one-hour debate at the following times:

- Oct. 17, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 20, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 24, 8 p.m.
- Nov. 3, 8 p.m.
- Nov. 7, 2 and 8 p.m.

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