



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Flanders Elementary fifth grader Jeffery Wise is all smiles over his first-place birdhouse, designed for bluebirds.

## Birdhouse-building lesson helps studies take flight

By Casey Hahn  
staff writer

This was no fly-by-night project. Students in Bob McLean's class at Flanders Elementary have taken their feathered friends under wing. The fifth graders recently completed a birdhouse-building project, in which they combined skills in art, architecture, math and science as part of the hands-on learning experience. The students studied various birds and different types of birdhouses before beginning.

"As a teacher, it was very gratifying to see the team effort," said McLean. "Truly it was a cooperative learning experience. They all prove to themselves they can do it, and it gives them a good feeling about themselves."

Jeffery Wise took first place, Andrew Campbell took second place and Bradley Cox won third place. Honorable mentions went to Emily Yagman, Kyle Shea and Lauren Reagan.

Winning houses are on display in the school lobby.

A proud Wise said he built his bluebird house using black shingles and bark from the family woodpile. His model paper-mache bluebird sat perched on the house

next to the trophy he won for first place honors.

STUDENTS WERE required to design their own houses, make a paper-mache bird scaled to size and painted the appropriate colors, then build a birdhouse which would fit the bird's size and lifestyle.

McLean said he did the project years ago with his sixth graders, and began working again with fifth graders 3-4 years ago on the annual project.

The students were aided by Farmington-area Kiwanians who judged the contest and supplied trophies, ribbons and certificates to winners. A local company, H.A. Smith Lumber, provided wood for many of the houses.

Kiwanis member Russell Hunt, a high school woodshop teacher for 30 years before retiring, said it was difficult to decide a winner in the contest. The Flanders' birdhouses "would match any I've seen anywhere," he said.

Students told Farmington school board members about their project and showed their finished product at a recent school board meeting.

Tongue in cheek, McLean reported students encountered only six minor slivers and nine minor bruises from the project.

# Cities plan to collect hazardous wastes

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Saturday is your big chance to get rid of those household hazardous materials such as paint thinner, pesticides, drain cleaners and even old batteries you've been storing around the house.

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Farmington and Farmington Hills residents — no commercial or industrial businesses please — can dispose of their household hazardous wastes by taking them to the parking lot of the 47th District on 10 Mile, west of Power Road. (See map below.)

Farmington and Farmington Hills both have a six-year contract with Waste Management of Detroit, which has scheduled the household hazardous waste day.

Field scientists and technicians

with Chemical Waste Management, a division of Waste Management, will be at the site to help residents.

"THE RESIDENTS will drive up to the site, show their driver's license. They must be residents. A driver's license must be shown for proof," said recycling coordinator Karen Birkholz. "They will then drive to another spot in the lot where the technician will take out whatever the residents have brought," Birkholz said.

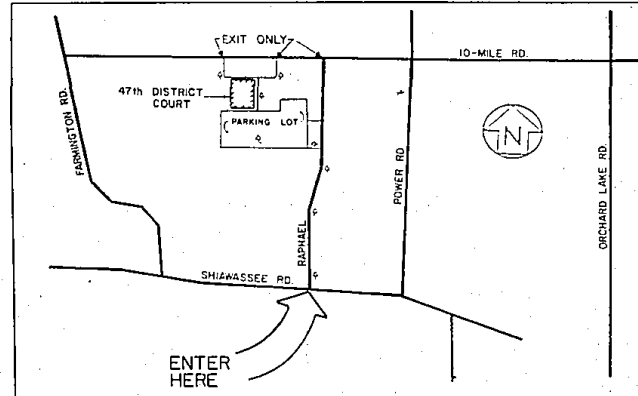
Chemical Waste Management, which will dispose of the materials, will limit single containers of waste to a maximum five gallons of liquid or 10 pounds of solid waste.

Items such as the following will be accepted for disposal: cleaners, motor oil, antifreeze, car batteries, household batteries, drain and oven cleaners, wood and metal cleaners,

gasoline mixtures, carburetor cleaners, stirrers and removers, adhesives and glues, pesticides and herbicides.

CHEMICAL WASTE Management will limit disposal to household hazardous materials and will not accept any commercial or industrial wastes. The following items will not be accepted: aerosol cans with freon 11 or 12, compressed-gas cylinders, radioactive materials, explosives, shock sensitive compounds, dioxins or their derivatives.

Residents planning to dispose household hazardous materials April 20 are asked to enter the 47th District Court parking lot on northbound Raphael — one-quarter mile east of Farmington Road — off Shiawassee. The 10 Mile entrance will be barricaded.



This map shows how Farmington-area residents should enter the 47th District Court parking lot to dispose of their household hazardous materials between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday. They should enter the site from northbound Raphael — one-quarter-mile east of Farmington Road — off Shiawassee. The 10 Mile Road entrance will be barricaded.

## Youths can bring Chaldeans, Jews together, panel says

By Tim Smith  
staff writer

Youths hold the key to better understanding between the Chaldean-American and Jewish communities.

That was one of the main messages of Monday's American Jewish Congress program at the United Hebrew School in Southfield, where several local Chaldeans discussed their culture, history and aspirations before a group of about 40.

Also discussed were that Chaldeans and Jews are both close-knit ethnic groups who have fought against discrimination.

The panel of Chaldean community leaders included Sharkey Haddad of Southfield, who heads the social service committee of the Chaldean American Political Action Committee, former Lathrup Village councilman John Mackay and Wayne State University professor Joseph Kassab of Farmington Hills.

"I'd suggest that Jewish youths meet Chaldean youths," Kassab said. "They visit us and we visit them. Get involved in activities where both could interact, so they can understand each other."

WEST BLOOMFIELD resident Arlene Levenson said following the program that the notion of bringing youngsters together was the most positive message to come out of it. "I was very impressed with the idea that children must be brought together through the schools," said Levenson, who attended with her husband, Albert. "They've got to understand each other and who they are."

Concurring was Troy resident Reva Gornbein. "Young people getting together, that's the spearhead for improved understanding between the two ethnic groups."

Robert Brown, president of the

Greater Detroit chapter of the Jewish congress, was optimistic about the results of the meeting and hoped that it would bring additional dialogue.

"It's only a first step that needs to be followed up," Brown said. "We want to encourage the breakdown of barriers and encourage dialogue between neighbors."

"Basically, the aspirations of Chaldeans, Jews and blacks — they're all the same," Brown said, listing higher education, laws that protect and financial security.

MEANWHILE, HADDAD predicted that within 5-10 years, the Jewish and Chaldean communities would be "working together" and making "a lot of progress" in the area of mutual understanding.

Haddad pointed out to the audience that Chaldeans are somewhat hesitant to make the initial step toward communicating with other groups, primarily because of language difficulties. Most Chaldean-Americans migrated from Iraq in the 1960s and 1970s.

"Chaldeans, because of the language barrier, are kind of insecure," Haddad said. "They're not going to make the first step to reach out and touch another ethnic group."

"Therefore, it would make it easier if non-Chaldeans would reach out and say 'Who are you, what is your background, how can we help?'"

Mackay said that Chaldeans historically have been "family oriented" because of their minority status first in Iraq, and now in the U.S. Only 5 percent of Arabs are the Chaldean Christian minority — 90 percent are Muslims, he said.

Dispelling the perception that Chaldeans only are merchants was Kassab.

"Everybody thinks they're

grocers," Kassab said. "That's not true anymore. The new generation is seeking a higher education. The Chaldean community now is so much more diversified, there's no way you can put a grip on it anymore."

KASSAB SAID many Chaldean-Americans are working in professional fields, including medicine, accounting, engineering and law.

Metropolitan area Chaldeans still maintain a close relationship with family members and friends still living in Iraq, Mackay said.

About how Chaldeans felt about the Persian Gulf conflict, Mackay said that "We have been involved in helping Chaldeans in Iraq, as I'm sure you would help Jewish people in Israel."

According to Haddad, the political voice of Chaldean-Americans is getting stronger but has a ways to go. Out of 10,000 Southfield Chaldeans, only 1,000 are active, registered voters.

One reason why they have been slow to get involved politically is their minority status, Haddad said.

"We are trying to groom Chaldean candidates and hopefully put them in office in cities that have large Chaldean populations," Haddad said. "In the next five years, we hope to see a Chaldean politician in office."

THE ROLE of Chaldean women — both in and out of marriage — is also changing, the panelists said.

That means they are pursuing higher education instead of becoming housewives, Haddad said. "The move to go out and accomplish things for society already has been decided by Chaldean women."

Also, they are actually dating before committing to a marriage, instead of having lifemates previously selected for them, Haddad said.

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## Cops, kids have date at movies

Fifty needy children will go to the movies Saturday thanks to Farmington Hills police officers.

The Farmington Hills Police Officers Association will sponsor the 50 kids to see a movie at the United Artists Theater in the West River Plaza at 10 a.m. Saturday. That includes admission, a soft drink, a box of popcorn and a T-shirt sporting the association's logo, said officer Tim Connor, project coordinator.

The 50 kids will be chosen by officials at the Farmington Salvation Army and Neighborhood House. "Mum and dad will drop the kids off and we'll have about a

half-dozen officers chaperoning," Connor said.

A morning at the movies for the needy kids is the second community project sponsored by the association. The first project, buying Christmas gifts and the fixings for a holiday meal for less fortunate children, was considered a success.

"We have come to realize that officers should give back to the community in which they serve," Connor said. "We organize and sponsor these projects. But the people providing the products and services are the local businesses and services agencies."