

PTA Council gets new leader

By Casey Hane
staff writer

The Farmington Area PTA Council has a new leader.

Downtown Farmington resident Debbie Cornwell has taken over as president of the group, replacing Sue Shapiro who left her 2-year post mid-term because of plans to move out of state.

Cornwell takes the reins as PTA groups across the state and country are increasing in membership and activity.

She will serve in the Parent/Teacher Association post for the next two years, with a goal of involving children with a hands-on approach to school activities.

"We want to enhance and touch all the children in each classroom," she said. "That's what we're here for."

Cornwell is also pleased with the increase in parent participation in Farmington and is promoting having PTA work with other community groups on various activities.

The PTA Council represents parent/teacher groups at nine Farmington-area elementary schools including Hillside, Wood Creek, Highmeadow, Kenbrook, Longacre, Eagle, Larkshire, Flanders, Gill and at the Cloverdale Training Center for special education students.

Other Farmington-area schools choose non-PTA groups such as Parent/Teacher Organizations and booster clubs, or work through the school district-sponsored School/Community Forum group. Some schools have more than one group.

A RESIDENT of Farmington

'We want to enhance and touch all the children in each classroom. That's what we're here for.'
— Debbie Cornwell

Since 1969, Cornwell is the outgoing president of the Longacre PTA, a post she has held for the past two years.

She has also been involved in several school district studies, including recent boundary studies. During the past year, she helped to organize the Elementary Information Exchange, a network for Farmington-area elementary schools which is still in its infancy but progressing with parent ideas.

Outgoing PTA Council president Shapiro organized the Highmeadow Common Campus PTA and served as its first president, served as the PTA Council vice president and was elected president of that group in May of 1990.

She is proud of the accomplishments of both the council and Highmeadow, where she and other parents pushed for, and got, a sibling priority enrollment policy.

"I'm very proud of that," added Shapiro, a psychologist who practiced in Southfield and who has since moved to the Orlando, Fla., area. "I think families need to be together. These are tense, stressful times for families — I see it every day."

The Michigan PTA has about 90,000 members.



Olymptiad team

Hillside fifth graders participated recently in the Michigan Social Studies Olymptiad, a five-year-old program designed to explore various social studies subjects. As part of the olymptiad, a Hillside team placed fourth in an activity called the Social Studies Bowl. Pictured here with coach David Hales are bowl team members (from left) Cheryl Cunningham, Courtney Joy, Jeremy Newth and Alex Goebel. They played in a field of 34 teams, comprised mostly of middle schools. Plans for next year include broadening Hillside's involvement in grades four and five.

campus pipeline

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, Farmington Observer, 21895 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

RECEIVES AWARD
Deborah A. Bielestein of Farmington Hills received the Lima Symphony Orchestra Award.

DEAN'S LIST
Christopher L. Cahill of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Western Michigan University for the spring semester. He was also inducted into the Order of Omega National Honors Fraternity. He has also received an academic scholarship from the Associated Food Dealers of Michigan.

Cahill is a 1988 graduate of Farmington High School.

Jennifer Bodkin of Farmington was named to the dean's list at Radford University, Radford Virginia.

Named to the dean's list at Madonna University from the Farmington area are Amy Adams, Marcus Alent, Jack Brown, Mary Canillon, Barbara Ellison, Joy Fenton, Colleen Hinde, Jennifer Iovan, Elizabeth LaFave, Marion Lacey, Patricia Lynch, Dana McDaniel, Robin Nelson, Kathleen Pohutsky, Myra Poyner, Michelle Quaine, Deborah Ronayne, Stephanie Siems, Deanna Vella, Sherry Wellner, Sarah Ford, Erica James, Theresa Leurich, Timothy Nadon, Maria Okorn, Judith Semonick and Michelle Zalewski.

Paul A. DiCicco of Farmington and Paul Chapman, Douglas Hoyt, Stephanie O'Hara and Carolyn Marie Ross of Farmington Hills were named to the dean's list at Schoolcraft Community College.

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