

O&E THURSDAY, DECEMBER, 5, 1991

### IN BRIEF

#### Art on display

Sinai Hospital and the Sinai Hospital Guild will celebrate the centuries-old tradition of Hanukkah at the sixth-annual Sinai/Hillel Art Show and laika party on Sunday, Dec. 8.

More than 400 pieces of art created by the students of Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills are currently displayed throughout the corridors and public lobbies of Sinai Hospital, 6767 W. Outer Drive, Detroit.

On Dec. 8, Hillel students and their families are invited to view the artwork, much of which represents youthful ideas of the Jewish holiday known as the "Festival of Lights."

Latkes, which are potatoe pancakes offered with a variety of accompaniments will be the centerpiece of a traditional Hanukkah meal served at Sinai for the Hillel families at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be followed by a performance by the Hillel Day School choir.

"This meal is our way of thanking the Hillel children, whose 400 works of art brighten our lobbies and cheer of patients, guests and employees during the month," said Maria Rosenthal, Sinai Hospital Guild president.

The public is invited to view the Hillel art exhibit through Jan. 6.

#### Rights luncheon

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution — and the event won't go unheralded in the Farmington area.

The city of Farmington and the Farmington Exchange Club will co-host a communitywide "Salute to The Bicentennial of The Bill of Rights" luncheon at noon Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Farmington Elks Club.

Exchange Club and city officials hope that a large number of community leaders will share in celebrating the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.

For more information or reservations, call Barbara Price at 469-3352.

#### Excellence award

Marguerite R. Jaworsky of Farmington has received the Faculty Excellence award from the University of Detroit Mercy, where she is an associate professor of health sciences.

The award is made in recognition of teaching excellence and scholarly research. To be considered for the honor, a faculty member must have been with the university for at least five years and be involved in university activities.

## Leaders lend helping hands

By Casey Hana  
staff writer

Farmington Hills auto dealer Bob Sellers knows why businesses should help students build self confidence — and stay away from drugs.

The quality of today's student directly affects his business — in everything from the types of employees he hires to his insurance rates and product costs, Sellers said this week.

That's why he and other community leaders support the Farmington school district's Student Assistance Program, which links school resources with those from the community to help students whose needs go beyond basic learning.

"Unity for Youth" is its theme.

"I really feel strongly that business is part of the Farmington family," Sellers said Monday at a Student Assistance Program breakfast that focused on the community-school link as a key to student success. "Business is severely impacted by drugs and substance abuse."

Sellers cited entry-level hiring at his dealership, where prospective employees are routinely tested for

drug use. "We sometimes test seven or eight or nine before we find someone we can hire," he said.

SELLERS WAS one of several community leaders and groups lauded Monday for their support of the Student Assistance Program, which was started in 1988 to build student self esteem using a school-by-school approach with teams of school staff. The program is active at all large high schools and four middle schools in the district, and is moving into the elementary schools as well.

It deals with the emotional problems and pressures which sometimes push students into drug and alcohol use and focuses not only on drug and crisis intervention, but also on prevention.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan, believes Farmington is ahead of other districts in its student assistance efforts. Flanagan recently met with five other superintendents and federal officials in Washington D.C. where education was the main topic and student assistance programs were discussed specifically.

"We're out in front on something we're really putting an emphasis on," he said. "It is very, very rare to have a group coming together for something like this — for



Don Cowan, director of building and student services for the Farmington Public Schools (right), gives an award to Farmington Optimist's Rusty Soromen (left) and Neal Wolfson for their participation in the program.

helping kids find a productive place in society."

The program "has come to be one of my highlights in the role of superintendent," Flanagan added, saying that it is difficult for districts to address needs when students are in school only nine percent of each day.

Extralee Michaelson devotes half of her time with Farmington's Student Assistance Program. She and Don Cowan, director of Building and Student Services, have taken a personal interest in the program and getting it launched into all the Farmington schools.

"It targets all students," she explained, including those who have substance abuse problems, those who don't use drugs, and those who are affected by drug and alcohol use in the home or by friends.

AT EACH secondary school, a team of administrators, teachers, counselors and social workers meet regularly to discuss concerns in their school building and develop projects and all-school programs. Money from community groups and businesses is used to bring in speakers, send high-risk kids to camp, and sponsor other needed programs.

Each school's needs are as different as its student population.

"The overall goal of our program is to help kids feel safe," Michaelson added. "All of us need to pause and realize it's OK to falter — and we can have fun in learning."

Cowan took the three-year-old program under wing about one year ago and began to strengthen it with Michaelson's help.

"This program is more important to have now than ever because of families being broken down and the high level of stress," he said. "I think it's absolutely mandatory."



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Extralee Michaelson, who helps coordinate the Farmington schools Student Assistance Program, holds up a horse she did as a self-esteem exercise in a recent seminar.

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