

# Schools release annual report

A purposeful, upside down pyramid graces the pages of the 1991-92 annual report for Farmington Public Schools, released last week.

The idea, said Superintendent Michael Flanagan, is to put students at the top and make them the primary focus.

"I believe that, in order to do this, we need to turn some of our existing beliefs upside down," he said. The new organizational chart puts students at the top, followed by teachers, administrators, superintendent and board of education.

An overall district report, plus reports on individual school buildings, are available at both branches of the Farmington Community Library. The report was started last year as a mandate of the state's Public Act 25, and was put together by the district's School/Community Relations Department, which also has copies of the annual report. Reports on individual schools are available at each building.

The annual report shows a district which serves 10,979 total students, plus 512 enrolled in adult education, and 8,295 residents enrolled in the district's community education programs. A total of 99 students are enrolled in Head Start programs.

Highlights of the school year include:

- A total of 544 teachers attended 73 summer workshops. After-

school workshops during the school year focused on key areas including assessment, attention deficit disorder, technology, writing and multicultural understanding.

- Seventy two percent of Farmington high school students took the American College Test, or ACT, and 41 percent took the Scholastic Aptitude Test, or SAT. Both college entrance exams are voluntary. Farmington's average on the ACT for 1990-91 showed 22.1 percent compared with 20.6 for state and a cumulative score of 997 compared with 990 at the state and 896 at the national levels. The 1991-92 scores were not available for the report.

- All of the district's elementary schools and early childhood centers boasted 100 percent involvement at parent/teacher conferences. At the middle schools, participation was 97 percent at Dunkel and Warner, 98 percent at East, and 91 percent at Power. At the district's three high schools, participation included 72 percent at Harrison, 71 percent at Farmington and 81 percent at North Farmington.

- Financially, the district remains in a "wait and see" pattern with much dependent on November elections. Farmington would lose 28 percent of local revenues — about \$25 million — with passage of the Cut and Cap proposal.

## A medalist visits



PETER HOBART

Center of attraction: Chris Byrd, silver medalist in boxing in the summer Olympics, is surrounded by boys at the Bays Republic's 102nd anniversary in Farmington Hills Sept. 20. Chris' father, Joe Byrd, the Olympic boxing coach, was the keynote speaker. In a moving speech, Joe Byrd described how, as a teenager, he stole some hubcaps and was caught. "My mother let me stay in jail for four days and turned my life around," he said. "Remember, you can be whatever you want to be. If won't be easy, but you can do it."

# Residents warned: raccoons could carry distemper virus

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington-area residents are being warned to stay away from raccoons that are sick with distemper and are wandering near homes and into yards.

"Parents should talk to their children. They should be told not to touch the animals," said Beverly Cornell of Farmington Hills, who is licensed by the state Depart-

ment of Natural Resources as a wildlife rehabilitator.

In the past few days, Cornell has received a myriad of phone calls from residents frantic about sick raccoons in their backyards. Cornell isn't alone. The Farmington Hills police have gotten pleas for help as well as reports of the sick animals wandering around. A clue that the animals might be sick is that the generally nocturnal animal

is out in daylight.

It appears the raccoons are dying of distemper, an airborne virus, which is fatal in wild animals, but not necessarily in domestic pets, such as cats and dogs. Cornell said the disease is more prevalent right now because of the weather.

"The disease is always there. But it seems more of a problem when the air is heavy or humid," Cornell said.

Cornell and the police are urging parents to keep their children away from the animals. Because they are sick, the raccoons might scratch and bite anyone who approaches them. "People cannot get it. But that animal is sick."

Residents are urged to call police at 474-6181 if they find a sick raccoon in their yard. Police will come out and destroy the

animal. Anyone with questions can call Cornell at 553-8974.

Cornell recently received a phone call about a raccoon that was so sick it was huddled on a resident's front porch. The raccoon chewed through the resident's garden hoses. "It is a real danger. Raccoons will look all hunched up. It's like they are looking for their own medicine," she said. "You feel really badly for them."



SHARON LEMLEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tour on duty: Dispatcher Patrice Sullivan shows officer Martin Toland around the dispatch area of the Farmington police station.

## New public safety officer named

A Roscommon, Mich. native is the newest public safety officer in the city of Farmington.

Martin Toland, 25, joined the staff of 22 sworn public safety officers in September.

He will spend the next three months with the department's three field training officers, Terry Purves, James Madigan and Maria Putt. The three senior officers will each spend a month with Toland in one-

on-one training and working different shifts.

"By the time the officer is on his own, he's got experience under his belt," explained deputy public safety director Gary Goss. "He's got three months experience before he ever hits the road."

After field training, Toland will then move to the fire academy for two months of training there. The public safety department handles

police, fire and medical runs for the city.

Toland holds a bachelor of science degree from Western Michigan University in criminal justice and public administration. He attended the Northeastern Police Academy at Delta College and was a police officer in the city of Tawas before coming to Farmington.

He currently lives in Farmington Hills.

## Seminar teaches phone call strategies

Michigan Bell is sponsoring a seminar in Farmington Hills to teach home-based business people how to use the phone.

Called Home Office Telesales, the seminar will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 34115 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 300.

"For home-based business people, the phone is an invaluable tool for selling and creating new opportunities," said Ralph Burnett, Michigan Bell's manager of work-at-home services. "The Home Office Telesales seminar will teach you calling strategies and pre-call planning tips that can result in more profits."

The seminar will teach the latest techniques to enhance business by phone, including: setting call and sales goals, developing a positive presentation and buying relationship, questioning techniques, asking for the appointment, presenting a sales message, han-

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Ralph Burnett  
Michigan Bell

dling objections, closing the sale, time management tips.

Cost of the full-day seminar is \$122 per person, including all course materials, a continental breakfast and lunch. Participants also will receive a binder of pertinent facts and techniques for future reference.

For more information or to register, call 1-800-242-8580, Ext. H-28.

## CIAO IN STOCK COLLECTION SHOW

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