

## Sharp minds and pencils, too...



**Poster power:** St. Fabian School's Suzanne Valade (top) and Michael Garabelli have their pencils at the ready after the recent poster contest on fire prevention and pollution sponsored by the North Farmington Garden Club. Suzanne finished first. Michael took honorable mention. The posters were sent to district competition where Suzanne took first and Michael landed third. Both posters will be judged in state competition.

## ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
31655 11 Mile Road  
474-0116 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 10  
Council chambers

## Agenda items include:

- Presentation by Oakland County Commissioners David Moffitt and Don Wolf on SMART bus system ballot proposal and explanation of options.
- A public hearing to consider vacating the easterly 160 feet of Barlow Avenue adjacent to Bartlett Street in the Oakland

Hills Orchards subdivision in Section 11.

- Consideration of revised site and landscape plans for detached single-family cluster development on the west side of Middlebelt Road, north of 12 Mile.

- Public questions and comments.
- Council members comments and announcements.

- Consideration of a request from Councilwoman Nancy Bates to set policy for future board and commission appointments.

- Consideration of appointment to the Arts Commission.
- Consideration of appoint-

ments to the Cellular Tower Committee.

- Consideration of a request to transfer ownership of a 1994 12-month resort Class C licensed business with Sunday sales permit and official permit for after-hours service of food, at 31066 12 Mile from Morrison Restaurants Inc. to Ruby Tuesday Inc.

- Consideration of the introduction of an ordinance amending the city code on special land use, to add a new section to provide for amendments to Planned Unit Developments within the city.

- Consideration of setting the meeting schedule for April and May.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

On May 9, Suzanna Niermann, director of Community Services for Cleveland Heights, Ohio, will talk about services and programs that work to maintain a diverse community.

## Old Glory going up

A flag-raising ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II will be held at 9:15 a.m. will be held at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas St.

## Memory Lane

From the April 14, 1955 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

- Some \$50,000 of the Farmington Township budget for 1955-56 was set aside for road repair and building.

- Sidewalk banking was initiated in Farmington with the opening of the outside walk-up teller windows on the Grand River side of the Farmington State Bank.

- Mr. and Mrs. Clark Waack, 20424 Angling Road, were making preparations for their 55th wedding anniversary celebration. The longtime Farmington-area residents were both 74. The Waacks, who raised 11 children, had 30 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

- Beef hearts and tongues sold for 19 cents a pound, according to an advertisement for Farmington Meats, 33419 Grand River.
- Robert Irvin of Grosse Pointe was fined \$5 plus court costs for running a red light at Grand River and Eight Mile.

- Short item: "He who is afraid of being too generous has lost the power of being magnanimous. The best man or woman is the most unselfish."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48336, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.

## Extradited man faces several investigations

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A former newspaper publisher facing felony charges in Farmington also left his mark in Florida, according to police.

Derek Gendron, 39, was expected to be arraigned Saturday on three counts of larceny by conversion for more than \$100. The charges stem from his involvement in Homefront Delivery Corp. in Farmington.

Business owners paid for advertising in the Homefront News, but the paper never materialized.

Gendron, whose last known address was in Livonia, was brought back from Palm Beach, Fla., Friday night by Farmington police. Gendron was being held in a Palm Beach County jail.

Police in Ann Arbor, Warren, and Livingston County want to speak to Gendron. So do the U.S. Secret Service and the FBI, concerning \$8,700 of charges defrauded from Consumers.

Also, the state Attorney General's Office has filed a civil suit against Gendron for his involvement in two collection agencies.

"We're getting a thousand

calls on him," said Detective Mike Reardon of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Department.

Gendron was arrested Feb. 14 in Palm Beach County on a bad check charge. He was released on \$200 bond.

He was apprehended again, this time on outstanding warrants in Michigan. Farmington police followed through on his extradition.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department is also investigating the obtaining several thousands of dollars worth of computer equipment fraudulently.

A person using the name Philip Andrews had been ordering computer equipment on credit, saying he was with NCR Corp., Reardon said. The goods were shipped to an answering service address and claimed.

A computer supplier became suspicious and tipped police, who questioned Gendron.

When they entered the man's West Palm Beach apartment, they found 20 computer units and several money orders mailed out to a collection agency.

Police believe the collection

agency operated out of the apartment. Phones were "loped," so when someone dialed a Michigan number it rang at a Florida phone.

Several businesses had turned over bad checks to a man who promised a substantial return. The agency reportedly hounded the people who wrote the bogus checks, getting them to send money.

A lawsuit filed by the Attorney General's Office contends the collection agencies Gendron was involved with used deceptive methods, including threats and sending "shame cards" to delinquent accounts. The agencies were also unlicensed, the suit contends.

Businesses in North Carolina, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana turned over delinquent accounts to the collection agency, Reardon said.

The apartment was in an affluent area of West Palm Beach and near the Kennedy compound, Reardon said. Police believe another man was involved in the operation.

"People come here for the good life," Reardon said.

## Students have until Thursday to enter police poster contest

The Farmington Hills Police Department is holding a poster competition among Farmington area public and parochial high school art students.

The winning design will be printed on posters and fliers to promote the police department's eighth-annual open house, scheduled for Sunday, June 4.

All entries should be submitted on 18-by-24-inch white poster board with a design incorporating the theme of "Children and Police." Colors should be limited to red and medium blue.

Art designs must include the following text in large print:

**Farmington Hills Police Open House**  
Sunday, June 4, 1995  
noon to 4 p.m.

The address for the police department — 31655 W. 11 Mile Road — must also be included.

The deadline for submitting entries is 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13. All entries are to be submitted to the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Section, 31655 W. 11 Mile Road.

Entrants must write their name, school, grade level, home address and phone number on the back of their entry.

Prizes will also be awarded for second, third, fourth and fifth-place entries, and five honorable mention awards will be given.

Entries will be displayed prior to the judging at a location to be announced. The final judging is scheduled for the last week of April. All awards will be presented at the Open House Showmobile at 3 p.m. on June 4.

For information, call Chris Cogar, in the Crime Prevention Section of the Farmington Hills Police Department, at 473-9636 during weekday office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## 'Scaphoid' spells second

A Farmington Hills middle-schooler was involved in a battle for runner-up honors at the recent Lawrence Technological Institute Spelling Bee.

Lindsey Cook, a 13-year-old eighth-grader from Duncas Middle School in the Farmington District, took second place by correctly spelling the word "scaphoid," which means shaped like a boat.

Cook and Cassandra Roberts, 14, an eighth-grader from West Bloomfield's Smart Middle School, tangled for 18 rounds before second place was settled.

"That's better than I thought I was going to do," said Cook at a post-bee luncheon. "I didn't think I'd make it that far. I'm really happy."

Christopher Mullins, a Southgate 12-year-old, won the bee by spelling "chylolacous," which means having fleshy or succulent stems, in the seventh round.

## Recycle phone books

Old telephone directories, anyone? Yes, please, say the folks at the Farmington Hills Target store. Throughout May, the old phone books can be turned in for recycling at Target, 30020 Grand River. They will be accepted in the store lobby seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

## Religiously challenged

The Challenges of Religious Acceptance in Our Community will be the subject of a talk at the Tuesday, April 11, meeting of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council.

The free event will be held 8-9:15 a.m. at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas St. Speaking will be the Rev. Suzanne Paul, Farmington Universalist Church; Braxton Gero, First Presbyterian Church; Mark Somers, First Community Church; and Fran Perrett, pastoral assistant at St. Colman's Catholic Church.

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