

## It's all good

# Farmington grads face future with confidence

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

In an uncertain world where businesses are downsizing and predicting the job market is as perilous as forecasting weather, Farmington High School graduates emerged from commencement ceremonies with confidence.

The school graduated 231 students in its 106th commencement at Craler Arena June 1.

"This was a very talented class, especially in the arts," said FHS principal James Myers. "It was a very adaptable group of students."

Those traits could serve the graduates well, he said, adding that the confidence of youth will help.

"At this age, they come out of school with a lot of confidence," said Myers, who became principal four years ago when the class of '95 began its freshman year. "And they are more flexible than older adults."

Myers said seniors quickly adapted to changed parking, construction and other distractions during the school year. And the class motto, "It's all good," was reflected not only in the many scholarships and awards students earned, but also in the school's athletic accomplishments.

"We had a winning football team for the first time in years," Myers said. "And we beat some good teams. I think that helped start off the year in a good way."

Class president Natalie Koczara addressed her fellow graduates at ceremonies. Superintendent Robert Mazfield and school board President Cathleen Webb also spoke to the graduates.

Of the graduates, 49 finished with a grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0, giving them high honors, and 54 earned honors, with grade points of 3.0 to 3.5.

Myers said most will be attending colleges and universities within Michigan, with the University of Michigan and Michigan State University the choice for many.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STURMEND

**Going smackers:** Jenny Martin has a graduation gift for Mark Mason following Farmington High's graduation.

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**There I am:** Scott Harman makes sure he's listed in the program for Farmington High's 106th Commencement.



**Most happy graduate:** Farmington High's Monica Galli looks like she's enjoying her day in Ann Arbor.



**Getting it right:** FHS grads Tammy Fischer Bridget Fleet help each other with last-minute adjustments.

## Hills police host run for MDA

The Farmington Hills Police Department will host its sixth annual "Cops for Kids" 10K Run to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association Saturday, June 10, beginning at 9 a.m.

Law enforcement professionals are encouraged to participate, but the run is open to all. Last year's event was a success, due in part to corporate donations of cash and in-kind services, said Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer. Dwyer is requesting sponsors to once again help in the cause.

The event features a 10K run that begins at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills at 9 a.m. and follows a path through

quiet subdivisions and winding, hilly roads.

In addition to the 10K (6.2 miles) run, there will be a non-competitive 5K run/walk, also at 9 a.m., and a 1-mile fun run beginning at 10:30 a.m.

This year, once again, Brett Marquardt, who suffers from congenital myopathy, plans to be on hand for the race. Brett, 7, is a Farmington Hills resident and the MDA Michigan Goodwill Ambassador for MDA.

Registration for the races is 7:30-8:45 a.m. at OCC. The cost is \$15 on race day and includes a T-shirt, course map and directions. Winners of age divisions and law enforcement teams will also

receive awards.

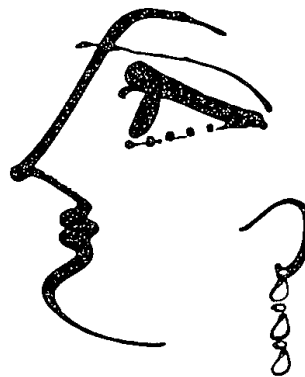
Refreshments include fresh fruits, soft drinks, beer, and pizza after the races.

"It's quite a sight to see all of those so-called 'tough cops' and highly competitive athletes assembled before Brett Marquardt, the MDA Michigan Goodwill Ambassador," said Lt. Marty Blodsoe, who serves as race director. "Brett's delightful nature instills a spirit among the individuals in the group that is touching and energizing."

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is a national voluntary health agency working to defeat 40 neuromuscular diseases. For further information, call Lt. Blodsoe at 473-9694.

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