

Helping out Hillside

Well framed: Rodney Thomas, left, framing manager, and Preston Burke of Preston Burke Gallery in Farmington Hills donated 20 pieces of artwork to Hillside Elementary School for its annual dinner dance and silent auction, at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at the Novi Hilton. Last year's proceeds helped the school finish a new playground. For more information on the event, call 489-8785.



OBITUARIES

NINA HOUSTON BAILEY
Nina Houston Bailey, 94, of Farmington died Feb. 23 in White Lake Township.

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mrs. Bailey was a retired legal secretary.

Survivors include her sons, Frederick and James Pogue; brother, Alvin Houston; seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Feb. 25 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Janet Noble of St. Timothy Presbyterian Church officiating.

Memorials may be made to St. Timothy Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

ELVIRA COMEL
Elvira Comel, 93, of Farmington Hills died Feb. 23 in Novi. Born in Herminie, Penn., Mrs. Comel was retired from the hotel industry.

She is survived by her daughter, Diana Pipal and one grandchild.

Mass was celebrated Feb. 26 in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Magr. Walter Hurley officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Memorials may be made to the

Arthritis Foundation, 17117 W. Nine Mile Road, Ste 950, Southfield 48075 or The Capuchins, 1740 Mt. Elliott Ave., Detroit.

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Kindergarten from page A1

officials said they'll have a better idea about the interest at the end of the week.

Tuition costs will cover staffing, which includes a teacher and a paraprofessional in the morning and community education teacher and paraprofessional in the afternoon.

A committee comprised of principals, teachers and parents visited nine districts offering extended kindergarten programs. Tuition rates ranged from \$1,600 to \$3,200 with an average of \$2,500 per child.

Day care in the private sector runs \$2,500 to \$3,600, a committee member said.

The \$1,700 figure will make the Farmington program self-supportive, Somerville said.

Research indicates kids at that age benefit from full-day programs, Somerville said. The program is not about accelerating children academically, said another committee member.

Full-day immersion, though,

"helps close the gaps for kids who might be having a little difficulty," said Jan Colliton, principal at Hillside Elementary.

Trustee Bobbie Feldman is concerned the program still creates a number of changes in a child's day. Some kids would be going from the Prime Time program to kindergarten and then to the afternoon enrichment and possibly back to the Prime Time after-school program.

A child will not have the same teachers in the morning and afternoon programs.

"I was hoping we would've come up with a program that would give children a consistent teacher slash caregiver throughout the day," said Feldman, who supports the program.

York has no fault with the program, but had reservations about mixing day care with education.

"I have a question for the board: Is this a business we ought to be getting into?" York

said. "Are we in the education business or the Educare business ...

"I have a lot of reservations when public policy and government takes the place of parents to bring up children," York said. "I have a lot of reservations that we are adding another deck to the ship."

One Farmington parent — whose child is in the second grade — used to "burn some serious Michelin" from her job in Royal Oak Township to make sure she picked up her son after morning kindergarten. She likes the concept.

"That would be a huge advantage to parents," said Trudi Daniels, who is a morning news-caster at WRIF-TV. "Then they don't have to be involved in shifting them around. They don't have to get on one bus to go to another day care place."

"They're rooted and they feel secure while we continue to grind away at work."

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