

AGENDAS

Farmington Hills City Council
City hall, 474-6115
7:30 p.m. Monday, May 11

Agenda items:

■ Update on 1998 Miss Farmington Pageant by the current Miss Farmington, Jennifer Hoemke, and an introduction of this year's Miss Farmington pageant contestants.

- Consider resolution to support library ballot proposal Aug. 4.
- Consider approving fee adjustments for building, planning and zoning services.
- Consider approving fee adjustments for City Clerk's Office.
- Consider approving city council summer meeting schedule.

Trial

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ton Public Safety Detective Scott Herrmann, a task force involving several police departments is continuing its investigation of the other robberies. The Grand River-Halsted Kmart was robbed on Jan. 11.

On April 19, a ski-mask wearing gunman held up the South Lyon Showerman's at closing time. An officer was assigned to a nightly stakeout there since November, when the store was robbed in similar fashion.

The gunman went out the back door, with a bag containing

\$27,000 in cash in one hand and a pistol in the other. After being told to stop, he was shot in the legs by South Lyon police and arrested. Police found a loaded-and-cocked .357 Magnum revolver at the scene.

Alexander had been serving a sentence imposed earlier this year by 47th District Judge Maria Parker for supplying alcohol to minors from an Oct. 25, 1997 party. Both Alexander and his wife, Michelle Griffith, were sentenced to one-year probation and fined \$500 by Parker.

Smoke

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health experts say. And, while smoking is on the decline among adults, teens are taking up the habit with alarming frequency.

At the seminar, retailers were told to check for picture identification for anyone under 27.

A simple inquiry whether or not a person is 18 doesn't suffice, police said. Neither does a parent waving from a car window outside while the child tries to buy cigarettes for him or her.

"Some of them get very angry when you try to card them," Lamont said. "They'll say, 'I'm 25.' I just say 'I'm sorry, but I'm just obeying the law.'"

Under state law, a person who sells a minor cigarettes or other tobacco products can be fined up to \$50.

One retailer understands the need to step enforcement on cigarette sales to teens, but wonders if it goes far enough.

They shouldn't only crack-down on the retailers, but also

on the underage kids who buy them," said Marvin Bednarsh, who operates Smokes N More on 12 Mile. "They'll penalize the retailer, but not the underage persons who use fake IDs to try to buy the cigarettes."

Police do ticket minors for cigarette possession. However, those infractions languish in Oakland County Probate.

Farmington Hills and Farmington police officials have met with 47th District judges to talk about ways of handling those tickets, including referring them to Farmington Youth Assistance for follow-up.

Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer was pleased with the seminar.

"What we're trying to get across is it's their responsibility to check for identification and to educate their employees," Dwyer said. "We'll continue to have enforcement."

Computers, Legos click for pupils

The first-ever Lego Dacta Competition in Farmington schools took place April 26 at TRW in Farmington Hills, with five teams from three schools participating.

The competition gave students a chance to demonstrate how much they learned with the Lego Dacta computer software program and tool kit during the weeks leading up to the event. Teams designed and built robots in the morning; the robots had to successfully move balls into a goal. Co-sponsoring the event were TRW and Robo Hawks: Harrison High School's Technology Group.

Students received some mentoring from "Robo Hawks" team members, who helped teach the elementary and middle school students. Harrison program coordinators are teachers Joyce Tomlinson and Cristina Broz.

"It was great fun and an incredible learning experience for all," said Gill spokeswoman Connie Carroll.

Three of the teams were from Warner Middle School,

with Gill and Lanigan elementary schools represented by one team each.

The first-place team came from Warner. The "T o c h n o Kids" entry, coached by Tom Ogle, included students Shawn B a l e , Nicholas Link and Jason Arsenault.

The "Lego Lions" team from Gill captured an award for most spirit. Coached by Gloria Poehlman, the team included Brennan Carroll, Shaun Cox and Tim Moore.

The Lanigan entry, "Lego Professors," won the award for building the best-looking robot. Coached by Karla Walkley, the team included students Michael Dennis,

Amy Lebeis, Linda Lei and



Splitted bunch: Gill School's Lego Lions are (from left) Brendan Carroll, Shaun Cox and Tim Moore. They and coach Gloria Poehlman won an award for their spirit.

Andy Kravis.

Another Warner entry, "Living Dead," won the award for best use of spare parts. Coached by Ogle, the team included students Matt Smith, John Antonietti, Lance Sabbag and Michael Habib.

The third team from Warner, "Captain Swaine," finished in second place overall. Coached by Ogle, students Marshall Dines, Daniel Cuts and Matt Henry comprised the squad.

OBITUARIES

JAMES JOSEPH MCGINNIS

James Joseph McGinnis, 82, died April 26 in Largo, Fla.

He is survived by daughters, Joan (Jan) DeGroot of Farmington and Patricia (Jan) Killen of Highland; brothers, William and Joseph; six grandchildren; and 14 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 3 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Leo Lukko officiating.

ROBERT A. BALINT

Robert A. Balint, 80, of Farmington died May 1 in California.

He is survived by wife, Virginia; sons, Stephen and David; daughters, Maureen (Dennis) Dempsey, Nancy (Jerome) Boardman and Mary Balint-Clark; sister, Irene Cramer; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. Arrangements made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Capuchins or the Salvation Army.

CHARLOTTE L. BAWDEN

Charlotte Lorraine Bawden, 77, of Farmington died May 6.

She is survived by daughter, Charlotte Ott; sons, Doug (Julie) and George (Karen Ann); eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 9 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. George Morse officiating.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Hospice of Southeast Michigan.

MICHAEL A. SCOTT

Michael A. Scott, 33, of Farmington died May 3 in Southfield.

Mr. Scott was the manager of Top Value Muffler & Brake Shop in Farmington Hills. He enjoyed fixing automobiles.

He is survived by son, Michael Jr.; parents, Richard Scott and Josephine Deede; and brother, Brian.

Funeral services were held May 8 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Neil Ellison officiating.

GLADYS M. SHOLLACK

Gladys M. Shollack, 83, died May 2 in South Lyon.

Mrs. Shollack was a homemaker and a member of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church.

She is survived by sons, Robert (Catherine) of Plymouth and John (Sharon) of Canton; brother, James (Ann) Wright of Farmington; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 5 at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church with the Rev. Myron Sordahl officiating.

MEAP

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■ Seventh grade mathematics: 1997-98, 75.5; 1996-97, 67.3.

One reason for the improvement, said Carolyn Mahalak, the district's assessment and testing coordinator, is that the MEAP test for fourth and seventh graders was given in January instead of at the beginning of the school year.

Eleventh graders, albeit only 16 percent of them, recently took the high school portion of the state standardized test - with most opting out. Last week, the state school board hammered out a compromise they hope will rectify the poor turnout. High school transcripts, and not diplomas, will be stamped for those students demonstrating basic skills. In recent years, students were required to attain the highest level (proficient) in order to have the state seal of approval.

"It helps that the test was given a little later in the year," Mahalak said, about the fourth and seventh grade versions. "That (gave) students time to acclimate and get in the groove."

The parents agreed that MEAP scores increased thanks to the later tests, something they thought was a productive idea.

"The 7 percent is probably exactly accurate with the 100 days extra" of instruction, Pedersen said. "Now if the scores were opposite (7 percent lower), given the test was taken later in the year, that would be a red flag."

But she said people shouldn't judge districts solely on MEAP results.

"Farmington is a good district this year and it was a good district last year," Pedersen said. "... Is it 7 percent better? I don't know."

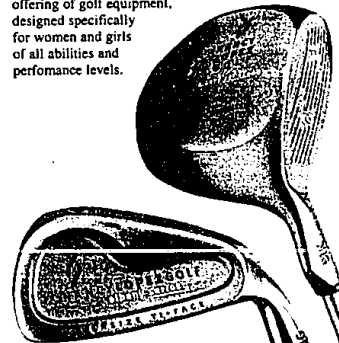
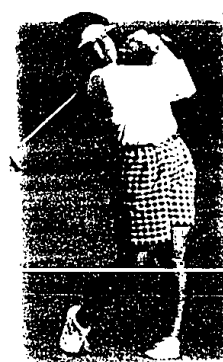
Some don't think it is fair to use MEAP scores to make broad generalizations about whether local districts are successfully teaching the state's core curriculum. But since comparisons will always be drawn from statistics, Longacre fourth grade parent Kim Heath said they should be done judiciously.

"I would look more at how Farmington did one year to another than comparing it to other districts," said Heath, whose daughter Lauren completed the test.

Although building-by-building results were not yet available, Mahalak said the level of improvement fluctuated. "We see some schools making dramatic changes and others making a nice, steady increase."

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