

# Farmington Observer

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### MONDAY

**Meet the teachers:** Meet the new Longacre House ballet and jazz teachers 7-8:30 p.m. at the Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road.

**Agenda:** The Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile. A number of public hearings are scheduled.

### TUESDAY

**DDA:** The Downtown Development Authority hosts a public information meets at 7 p.m. to discuss the proposed renewal of the Principal Shopping District Special Assessment Plan. The meeting is in the Farmington City Council chambers. Call DDA executive director Judy Downey, 473-7276, for more information on the plan to promote, market and maintain the central business district

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## Beanie game makers told to halt sales

BY MARY RODRIQUE  
STAFF WRITER

A temporary restraining order prohibiting a Farmington Hills couple from selling a board game they created called The Beanie Chase was issued last week in Chicago.

Ty Inc., maker of Beanie Babies, is suing Ellen and Ken Keils of Farmington Hills in federal district court. The Keilses are now fighting to get jurisdiction over the case moved to Michigan. Chicago is the home office of Ty Inc.

"Last Wednesday was oral arguments only," said Ellen Keils, who dreamed up the idea

**The Keilses are now fighting to get jurisdiction over the case moved to Michigan. Chicago is the home office of Ty Inc.**

Please see BEANIE, A2

## Residents make waves with suit



BY JOANNE MALJSEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Jeanne Jones and other Lincolnshire subdivision residents say they have had enough with basements flooded by storm water and raw sewage.

"We want the problem fixed," Jones said. "We have made that request over and over."

On behalf of the residents, a class action lawsuit was filed in Oakland County Circuit Court Friday morning on behalf of Jones and other Farmington Hills residents who have suffered with flooded basements.

"We are arguing that this is a trespass nuisance," said attorney Steven Little of Detroit, who has filed a num-

ber of class action suits over sewers and flooding in other communities, such as Livonia.

"We are arguing that the city of Farmington Hills caused a physical invasion of these people's homes with the contents of the sewer lines," Little said.

The suit also alleges an unconstitutional taking of property. "That basically the city is too cheap to improve the sewers. Why build suitable sewers when you can use the plaintiffs' basements? We want to remove the city's incentive of using people's basements,"

See related story, Page A6

Little continued.

Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock said he had heard rumors that some residents would file suit.

"We will continue to work cooperatively with all the residents. We want to understand what has gone on," Brock said.

"We just haven't had the opportunity to get out and assess what's going on. We will meet with everyone who had a

Please see FLOOD, A6



Unforgettable: The Mercyairens practice on the shore of Lake Huron during their weeklong camp north of Port Sanilac. The experience stressed teamwork, all in preparation for the upcoming season.



Get ready: Larry Teevens (at left) directs the Mercyairens during camp where girls crammed months of practice into seven tough days of work. Teevens founded the group.

## An unforgettable week

When the bus left Mercy High School for a summer camp on Lake Huron, there were about 20 girls on board. When it returned to Farmington Hills on Wednesday, it brought home a team.

It wasn't football camp, either. Those girls learned about teamwork and each other, during the Mercyairens summer camp, held north of Port Sanilac. They honed voices and dance moves under the direction of Mercyairens founder Larry Teevens and

professional choreographer Alison Kolinski.

Cramping three or four months of work into seven days is tough work. But several said it is very rewarding.

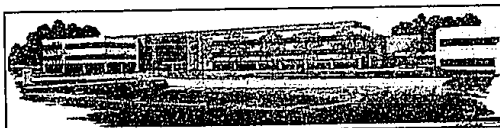
"This is the best experience of our life," said Stephanie Barlow, entering her senior year at Mercy. "We will never forget this."

For more on their unforgettable week at camp, please turn to Page C7.

- Tim Smith



Again ... Stephanie Barlow, Erin Johnson, Katie Garagiola, Krystal Dalton practice "Crazy Rhythm" during the camp where girls honed their voice and dance skills.



Imagine: This is a drawing of what a \$37 million expansion of the Robert Bosch Corp. on Hills Tech Dr. will look like.

## Bosch grows at home

BY JOANNE MALJSEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Just in time for a new century, a \$37-million expanded facility will serve as the new Bosch Automotive headquarters in North America and will provide more than 400 new jobs.

"This (site) was chosen obviously because it is close to our customers," said Bob Oswald, chairman of Robert Bosch Corp., at ground breaking ceremonies at the Farmington Hills site Wednesday.

Tax incentives from the state and city helped keep Bosch, an independent automotive supplier, in Michigan. The expansion marks the first time since 1981 that the city of Farmington Hills awarded a tax break to remain in the community.

The six-to-year tax abatement fulfilled

a requirement under the three-year-old Michigan Economic Growth Authority, which provides tax incentives to encourage businesses in the state.

"Bosch needed to expand. They were looking at Indiana. The incentives helped them stay," said "Cari Arbenowksi, Farmington Hills economic development coordinator. "The city council really worked on this for a couple of months, studying the issue in great detail. They decided that, financially, it was worth keeping Bosch."

Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock agreed. "We decided it was the best thing for the community." He added that the expansion will increase the city's tax base, provide new employees and yet another source of philanthropy for the community.

Please see BOSCH, A6

## 'Lost' Where's the mailbox?

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington residents living in George Maier's subdivision, near the closed U.S. Postal Service station on Slocum, wondered where the mailboxes went to.

"I saw people coming up and looking around, not seeing them," said Maier, 65. "Even though they're pretty obvious."

The issue of "lost" mailboxes was even brought up during last Monday's Farmington City Council meeting by resident Nancy Leonard.

But Maier didn't waste much time finding the bank of six mailboxes, which were moved a mere 200 feet on Friday, Aug. 14, from behind the old post office to a temporary home in the city parking lot at Orchard Yoder.

"All they have to do to find them is look around," said Maier Wednesday morning, after walking to the relocated mailboxes to mail a letter. "It's like looking for addresses."

Now it appears others will have ample chance to become reacquainted with the mailboxes because it appears they aren't being moved anywhere else.

**'I saw people coming up and looking around, not seeing them. Even though they're pretty obvious.'**

George Maier  
—Resident

Farmington's Traffic and Safety Board discussed the issue Thursday night and decided to leave the mailboxes where they are, said Postmaster Marlene Bowers.

"It looks like that will probably be the permanent location," Bowers said Friday. "Now we have to look at the configuration."

Gary Goss, director of Farmington Public Safety, concurred. "We'll keep them where they're at. Everybody knows where they are."

The parking lot location will be carefully scrutinized for impact on traffic patterns and pedestrian safety before final approval is given by the city.

"Safety is the whole issue as far as

Please see MAILBOX, A4



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