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THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Remember: Don't forget today, June 14, is Flag Day.

Vote: And don't forget to vote in today's Farmington Public Schools election.

Agenda: A public hearing is scheduled on the proposed 1999-00 city budget. The city council also will consider adoption of an ordinance requiring kids under 16 years of age to wear helmets when bicycling, skateboarding or inline skating. The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers in city hall, 31555 11 Mile.

TUESDAY

Meet: The Farmington Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shiawassee. A district-wide computer bid will be considered.

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Wanted: Your opinions on cultural arts

Be ready to be asked questions about cultural arts in Farmington Hills. A committee that is drafting a cultural arts master plan wants to know what you want or expect in programs and activities.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

Farmington area arts devotees want to make sure culture is not just a club but a community-wide expression. That is why Farmington and Farmington Hills residents are being asked to fill out and return a mail survey. The one-page, 22-question questionnaire is hitting mailboxes this week. A committee drafting a cultural arts master plan is seeking to include what residents expect or want to see in terms of programs and events. The survey is being mailed to 6,300 households in Farmington. At least 31,000 Farmington Hills homes will

got the Q&A as part of the city's June/July Focus newsletter. People are asked to answer and mail back the survey within two weeks. Return postage is provided. At the very least, organizers need a 20-30 percent return on the survey to accurately gauge opinion. "We'd love to get a hundred percent return," said Sally LePla-Ferry, who is helping with cultural arts planning. "It's very important for them to return the surveys." "The people on the committee want to make sure the cultural arts master plan reflects the needs and desires of the entire community."

Please see ARTS, A5

Tax rate holds steady

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oe.homecomm.net

For nearly 20 years, Farmington city officials have performed a municipal magic trick of sorts. They've kept the property tax rate steady while maintaining a top level of services. This year, that trick continues, with the just-approved \$9.4 million budget for 1999-2000. It's something Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff is proud of. "We're happy we're able to maintain the same millage rate this year," said Lauhoff, referring to the total of 15.16 mills, including 10.66 mills for operations. The latter is for essential services such as police and fire protection

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and trash pickup. At the same time, "nothing has been reduced" in the way of those services, he added. Lauhoff pointed to a bar graph in the summary budget, which illustrated that the operating tax rate has hardly moved since 1980, when it was 10.66 mills. Since then, it has wavered - but only slightly - between 10.05 (in 1990-1993) and 10.76 (1984-1985; 1998, 1999). The total tax rate has increased from 11.26 mills in 1980 to 15.16 mills this

Please see BUDGET, A6



Good luck: Ricky Bryant has a handshake and a hug for Principal Rande Horn.

Grads say goodbye

Editor's note: We continue our graduation coverage today with Harrison High School, followed by North Farmington on Thursday, June 17. Please turn to page D8 for more photographs and a list of graduates.

What could be better than having Bob Dylan's "Forever Young" classic as a class song. Harrison High School's 1999 graduating class definitely was full of optimism as they accepted their diplomas Sunday, June 6, at Com-

puware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township. The afternoon program began with a procession to the "Crown Imperial March" performed by the high school's symphony band and orchestra, directed by Mark Phillips. Greetings and introduction was offered by Superintendent Bob Maxfield, followed by vocal selections by the combined school choirs. Amy Lindgren, class president,

Please see GRADS, A5



Remembering: Lois Deacon stands next to the sign that designates M-5 as the Keith Deacon Memorial Highway.

Deacon honored in highway dedication

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

What Keith Deacon carried in stature at 6-foot-4 and 240 pounds, he matched with the ability to get his point across. His endless work is symbolized by the dedication of the Keith Deacon Memorial Highway, which is the

recently refurbished M-5 interchange from Grand River to 10 Mile. On Wednesday, city and state road officials joined Deacon's family members during an official ribbon-cutting ceremony. The dedication took place at the corner of Grand River and the M-5 off ramp, the site

Please see DEACON, A5

PlayScape: Food for help

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oe.homecomm.net

As the "Kids World" PlayScape grows, so will volunteers - to be fed morning, noon and night by Farmington restaurants and bakeries. The meals will be provided, free of charge, to the volunteers during the "Community Build Weekend," Saturday-Sunday, June 19-20, said playscape committee member Nancy Tashman. On that weekend, three groups of 15 individuals, with construction skills, are needed to assemble and install equipment. "It gives volunteers a nice perk while they give their time to the playscape," said Tashman, adding that more volunteers are sorely needed. (Call 248-474-5500) And the donating eateries also stand to gain some public relations points, "because they're helping with a tremendous community project," she added.

Following is the meal donation schedule for "Community Build Weekend":
■ Breakfast, both June 19 and June 20, by Panera Bread and Starbucks Coffee.
■ Lunch, June 19, Dagwood's Deli; June 20, Big Apple Bagel.
■ Dinner, June 19, cookout at Shiawassee Park; June 20, Marco's restaurant.
The Farmington Bakery will supply cookies for both days, while Kroger is



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREZLER

Clap if you love playscapes: Bridget, Colleen and Kevin Coleman, David and Driscoll Lilley, Brenna and Jennifer Barron, Rhyann Wengorovius, and Carly Tashman and mom Nancy Tashman are looking for volunteers to help build the PlayScape.

donating gift certificates for the Saturday night cookout. Meanwhile, there won't be free meals for volunteers helping put up pickets or complete landscaping, on Sunday-Monday, June 27-28. But the Farmington Bakery again will donate cookies, and other snacks will be available. "We're real supportive of any (project) ... that helps benefit the children," said Farmington Bakery co-owner Jeff

Please see HELP, A6

Voters head to polls to elect two school trustees

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oe.homecomm.net

Tomorrow, voters will re-elect Linda Enberg to a four-year stint on the Farmington Board of Education and decide between incumbent Gary Sharp and challenger Melody Jasko for a one-year term. Enberg, first elected in 1995, is a nurse who also holds a master's degree in business. Her wide-rang-

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ing civic career includes a variety of duties with Farmington Families in Action. Both Sharp and Jasko are vying for the final year of the term vacated last year by Joe Svoke. Shortly after Svoke's resignation, Sharp was

appointed. The attorney's two children attend the Highmeadow Common Campus. It's the second school board bid for Jasko, parent of a Flinders Elementary School student and active in groups such as Farmington Area PTA Council and the Farmington-Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

Please see VOTE, A7

Arena floor damaged with cracks

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

Farmington Hills Ice Arena is showing cracks but not the kind a Zamboni can smooth over. Concrete has split and heaved in an area housing the ice resurfacing machine. An uninsulated pipe elbow that feeds coolant to one of the arena's two rinks has also resulted in floor damage. Neither of the two rinks' cold floors have been affected. During the past two years, the arena floor has sustained cracks and ripples that have caused safety concerns and affected operations, city officials said. City officials are checking to see if the original contractors are to blame. If so, they want them to pick up repair costs. The 72,000-square-foot ice facility opened in 1995. On May 24, Farmington Hills City Council authorized \$15,982 to be spent on concrete repairs. Work has already started. "It's coming along right on schedule," said Al Strasser, Farmington Hills Ice Arena manager. "We expect to have both

Please see ARENA, A6

