

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Planning commission: The Farmington Planning Commission meets at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

School board: The Farmington Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center on Shiloh Road. Among the topics is an update on block scheduling.

FRIDAY

FPS Telethon: The first-ever Farmington Public Schools telethon starts at 3 p.m. at North Farmington High School. It will continue until 3 p.m. Saturday.

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History of civil rights topic of talk

BY TRACEY BIRKENHAUER
STAFF WRITER

If you had been raised a different color, would your life be vastly different? Justin Ravitz asked about 60 school administrators, students, dignitaries and community members to ponder that question Thursday morning during "Civil Rights: Then & Now," an interactive talk sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council.

The Southfield attorney and former Detroit Recorder's Court judge asked attendees to question their dedication to America's civil rights struggle.

Please see CIVIL, A4



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Cable shut-off angers SWOCC



BY TRACEY BIRKENHAUER
STAFF WRITER

St. Fabian Elementary School's cable television was turned off for about a week after Time Warner cut off the juice on March 1.

Time Warner conducted a routine audit and found that parochial schools were erroneously receiving free cable, according to Time Warner general manager Bob McCann. The company's interpretation of the 1982 contract

Time Warner cuts power at St. Fabian for a week, drawing the wrath of SWOCC officials.

with the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission, a group representing Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, doesn't allow for free cable to parochial schools, only public schools.

"That's awfully peculiar because they've been receiving this service for 18 years," said SWOCC member and

Farmington Mayor William Hartsock. "The contract talks about education in general, and this has included, until last week, all schools."

SWOCC is a regulatory body that oversees the contract with the cable company and handles other regulatory matters pertaining to cable television. A group of six volunteers sit on the council, including a city manager and city council member from each of the three cities.

Mercy High School's service wasn't affected, because on March 1 associate

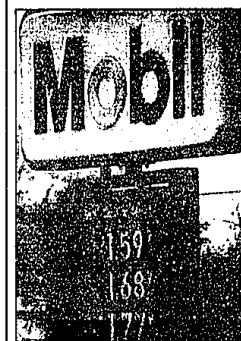
principal Will Cervais agreed to sign a work order stating the parochial school would pay about \$43 a month for the service.

St. Fabian administrators refused to sign a similar work order, resulting in their shut-off.

Mercy first had cable installed about eight years ago. Cervais said this was the first time he's heard from the company since then.

"They said the policy has changed

Please see CABLE, A2



Staying home: High gas prices could keep some folks closer to home this summer.

School bus fuel bill soars

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
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People who don't like the major increase in gasoline prices at least can scale back on how much they drive. But school districts, which must transport children every day for nine months, really don't have that luxury.

"We can't say we'll transport kids until we've run out of that budget," said Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for business and operational services in Farmington Public Schools. "That would take us up to April."

According to Cannon, the cost of

diesel fuel - used by the district's fleet of 96 buses - has escalated from 55 cents per gallon to 90 cents per gallon since the beginning of the school year.

That represents a 38 percent increase, which by the time the 1999-2000 school year concludes will result in an additional \$45,600 in district-wide diesel costs, over and above the \$120,000 budget for diesel. Cannon said diesel fuel takes up about 75 percent of the total budget (\$160,000) for gas, oil and grease.

"We do purchase some gasoline for

Please see BUSES, A2

to develop as a g...lf course.

City manager Steve Brock said an executive summary of the official, tabbed report will be presented at a council study session scheduled at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, at the

Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile Road. It's the first of a series of meetings that will give residents a chance to comment on plans to develop the property at Halsted and 11 Mile Roads.

A 23-acre portion of the 92-acre project is a covered landfill, about which authorities and the state's Department of Environmental Quality have differing opinions.

"I want to get information

out there that's accurate," Brock said. "This is just another step in the process."

In addition to the nine-hole expansion of San Marino Golf

Please see TEST, A4

WOMEN IN



Editor's note: In the next few weeks we will highlight area women elected officials in anticipation of a campaign workshop to help newcomers to the political field learn how to run

for office. The workshop is 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at the William Costick Activities Center. Call the League of Women Voters for more information, 248-647-1350.



Bobbie Feldman

For Bobbie Feldman, politics was something she grew into. It was a gradual process. The Farmington Board of Education secretary started getting involved in her children's education through the Parent Teacher Association.

Previous to running for the board, she co-chaired a millage campaign for the district. "So I had a really good, solid background behind me

Please see FELDMAN, A3



Jan Dolan

Jan Dolan has some fairly simple advice for women who have an interest in politics: Get involved in your community. Dolan said she never intended to have a political career, much less one that spanned 22 years, with 14 spent on Farmington Hills City Council and eight as a state legislator.

"There was a (council) vacancy created when Margaret Schaefer

Please see DOLAN, A5



Priscilla Brouillette

Farmington Board of Education president Priscilla Brouillette was always interested in politics. "When I was in junior high and high school, I always ran for the office of vice president instead of president. That was a part of my background and thinking."

When her children went to school, she recognized how important it was to have leaders with no hidden agendas in the education business.

Please see BROUILLETTE, A4



Cathy Webb

The PTA at Gill Elementary School was the springboard for Cathy Webb's political career.

"That's where I got my real start," said the veteran school board trustee. "Then I was selected to be on a district-wide boundary committee. From that, I got acquainted with various school board members. Board members Janice Rolnick and Helen Prutow approached me. They encouraged me to run. I gave it a

Please see WEBB, A5

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