

By any other name

BY JONI HUBBED
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Would a creek by any other name smell as sweet?
That's one of the questions the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission answered last year, with a plan to rename 11 brooks, creeks and streams whose names currently end with the word "drain."

They have launched the effort by seeking historical or cultural information about the Caddell Drain, which runs through southwest Farmington Hills or the Pebble Creek Drain to the northeast.

Marie Donigan, who works with the city's planning office, said letters will also be sent to neighboring communities to solicit opinions and suggestions. While there is no deadline, the commission hopes to have the changes done and signs

Please see NAMES, A11



Remembering: Above, a portrait of Kenny Williams and a rubbing from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial hang on the wall. At right, Helen Robertson and Roy Williams Sr. look at memorabilia about their son, Kenny, a Farmington High School graduate who was killed in Vietnam in 1969. His parents want not only their son, but all Vietnam vets honored.



Vietnam

Parents want son, vets honored.

BY TIM SMITH
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Helen Robertson knows what she's up against. She knows she'll simply have to wait her turn to experience something she's been hoping to see for decades — some respect and recognition for her son Kenny, a Farmington High School graduate and Vietnam War veteran who was killed in action in 1969.

Although the Commerce Township

woman and former husband Roy Williams Sr. are willing to wait, they are understandably growing impatient. That's because Robertson, in particular, is leading a crusade to include Vietnam War veterans during upcoming Memorial Day proceedings in Farmington.

"Can't they do something?" asked Robertson, who last week rummaged through scrapbooks about her late son, Roy Kenneth Williams Jr., a 1967 Farmington High grad. "Should it be another year of nothing?" It appears that official recognition

for their late son and other Vietnam vets will have to wait until 2001. But Helen was hoping that this year's events — rightfully focusing on the 60th anniversary of the Korean War — could share some of the spotlight with probably the most controversial and unpopular military conflict involving Americans.

That might persuade reluctant soldiers to finally step out of the shadows and take a bow. But a former classmate of Kenny's wonders if a lot

Please see KENNY, A5

Student killed in crash

■ An 18-year-old Farmington Community School student was killed early Sunday morning in a one-car accident in Southfield.

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Another day, another tragedy in Farmington Public Schools.
Early Friday, Harrison High School sophomore Daniel Lee, 16, was killed when the car his older brother was driving was broadsided on 12 Mile Road near the school.

About 2 a.m. Sunday, 18-year George Sinishtaj died in a one-car accident in Southfield. Sinishtaj's death saddened staff and students at Farmington Community School, where he attended classes in spring 1999 and at the beginning of the current year before dropping out for personal reasons.

"He was a very, very nice young man," said Farmington Community School Principal Terry Leland. "He always had a lot of respect for his teachers, and he was very well liked by teachers and students. Our students are very upset about his death."

Leland Tuesday said grief counselors were at the school Monday to help students deal with the tragedy.

"There was a lot of talking and remembering yesterday," said Leland, adding that students were compiling a memory book to give to Sinishtaj's family.

According to Leland, he had to drop out of school because he was helping support his family and his work load increased to the point where it made it difficult to both attend school and hold down a job. He worked as a server at J. Alexander's Restaurant at 14 Mile and



George Sinishtaj

Please see CRASH, A5

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Update: A brother and sister who were involved in an accident in front of Harrison High School almost a week ago are reported doing well. /A7

At the top: The head of Papa Romano's celebrates the pizza chain's 30th anniversary. /A9

OPINION

Tragedy: It's time to take another look at 12 Mile Road in front of Harrison High School where three children in one family were involved in a car accident. One of the sons lost his life in the crash. /A12

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Serious crimes decreasing in Hills

BY JONI HUBBED
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For the first two months of this year, Farmington Hills police scrambled hard just to keep up with a flurry of sensational crimes.

But while officers were pulling the makings of an assault rifle from a home in Wyandotte, finding evidence that a Southfield man molested two Hills boys and tracking down armed robbery suspects, something amazing was happening in Farmington Hills. The overall crime rate dropped; by more than 10 percent.

In fact, Chief Bill Dwyer said, "We

have not had one armed or unarmed robbery in the city this year. Last year, we had nine."

While the number of commercial and residential burglaries are up slightly, a number of crimes not previously reported in that category have been added.

"As far as actual forced entries, we've had very few," Dwyer said.

This year's numbers reflect a downward trend he will outline in his annual report to city council members April 24. The presentation will include information about the department's 1999 activities in the areas of crime prevention and community policing, as well as

statistics.

Without stealing much of the report's thunder, Dwyer said "Group A" crimes, the most serious, have dropped by nearly 20 percent, from 5,769 in 1995 to 4,697 in 1999. Over the last year, double digit reductions were recorded in larceny, auto theft, robbery, burglary and vandalism.

To a homeowner, Dwyer said, robbery is a primary concern. Finding a door pried open and all of one's belongings scattered, not to mention the loss of cash, jewelry or other belongings, may have devastating

Please see CRIME, A6

Crime statistics

Farmington Hills

CRIME TYPE	Year 1999
Homicide	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct 1 & 3	8
(Armed/Unarmed) Robbery	0
Assault	229
(Commercial) Breaking and Entering	33
(Residential) Breaking and Entering	38
Larceny	279
(Auto Theft) UDA	27
Arson	7
TOTALS	630

Source: Farmington Hills Police Dept.

Liquor sting nets five Farmington businesses

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Five of 19 Farmington businesses were caught selling alcoholic beverages to a minor, during last week's two-day liquor sting operation.

Those businesses sold to the decoy, a 17-year-old Farmington High School student, without asking for his identification, said Mike Wiggins, deputy director for the Farmington Public Safety Department.

There was ample warning given to the businesses with a letter mailed in late February or early March, Wiggins said. The letter stated that an underage decoy was to — at some point soon — visit Farmington businesses that sell alcohol.

"He represents the high school population who actually is going to try and go in and buy that kind of thing," Wiggins explained.

The five businesses who sold to the decoy include the following: Kmart, 37175 Grand River; Old Village Inn, 33308 Grand River; Rite Aid Pharmacy, 24089 Orchard Lake; Cigar Emporium, 33185 Grand River; and CVS Pharmacy, 23391 Farmington Road.

Wiggins said the businesses are not ticketed, but citations are issued to the employees who made the transactions. Four cashiers and one bartender were cited under a local ordinance that prohibits the selling or furnishing of alcohol to anyone under age 21. They will make appearances in 47th District Court, and could receive up to 90 days in jail and a \$600 fine.

Businesses, however, will have a permanent mark on their record. According to Wiggins, a complaint will be filed with the state Liquor Control Commission, which regulates liquor permit

Please see STING, A10



On tour

Welcome: After a lecture on Farmington City government, French exchange student Gaetan Colson couldn't be happier trying out a real police car. For more information about their trip and tour of the city, please turn to page A14.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BARBER



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