



THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Meet: The Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. The Exchange Club, represented by Paula Boedner and Frank Grady, will be the featured civic organization.

SATURDAY

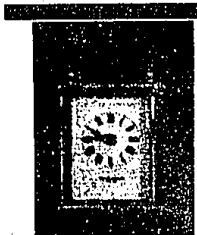
Gone fishin': Farmington's annual Trout Derby will take place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 29 at Shiawassee Park. Children 14 and under can preregister in person. Registration is limited to the first 500 children.

Gala: The third annual Festival of the Arts Gala with silent and live auctions presented is slated for April 29 at the William Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Cost is \$20 per person, or \$35 per couple and includes a gourmet dinner buffet. For additional information, call 478-3256. Black tie optional.

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Northwestern solutions expensive

■ Consultants presented alternatives under consideration for resolving traffic and safety problems at a number of intersections along Northwestern Highway. The total package of solutions could cost tens of millions of dollars.

BY JONI HUBBED
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No one has any trouble identifying the traffic problems in the stretch between M-5 and Northwestern Highway in north Farmington Hills.

A study of the area found major rush-hour delays where Haggerty, Drake, Farmington and Orchard Lake roads intersect with 14 Mile and West Maple roads. Crash rates at those locations are also higher than normal, according to reports filed with the

Michigan State Police.

Solutions aren't quite as easy to find and could cost in excess of \$50 million. A committee consisting of officials from the city of Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield Township, the Road Commission of Oakland County and Michigan Department of Transportation have been working for more than a year to identify a construction plan.

"It will likely be a combination of alternatives," principal planner Jeff Purdy of the Royal Oak-based Lang-

worthy, Strader, Le Blanc & Associates told a handful of interested citizens at a meeting Wednesday night.

Officials in both affected communities are building on a 1995 feasibility study regarding traffic congestion and safety in the project area. Their aim, Purdy said, is to assess social, economic and environmental impacts, ensure residents in both communities are satisfied with the ultimate proposals and identify sources of funding.

Please see ROAD, A4

tattoos

STORIES BY JONI HUBBED
PHOTOS BY GILL BRESLER



Anticipation: Heather Brown looks stoic as artist Jesse Walker adds to a design in the small of her back.

Body art shop owners make mark

Business partners Ken Rekiel and Todd Davis would like to have settled quietly into the mall at the southeast corner of Orchard Lake and Twelve Mile roads in Farmington Hills.

"They're about to open a business that will cater to an upscale clientele. Both are family men who have lived and worked in this area most of their lives.

Still, they understand the talk among parents and concerned officials, the articles and letters in local and daily newspapers. It's not everyday a community gets its first

Please see OWNER, A5

County proposes new tattoo rules

Regulating businesses that offer body art and piercing is pretty much like regulating any other business - good operators welcome health and safety standards, bad ones don't.

The problem in Oakland County is that regulations simply don't exist. Nor is there any state law governing tattoo and piercing artists, save restrictions about serving children under age 18, or 16 and 17 year olds with parental consent.

Enter County Commissioner Eric Coleman, a Democrat from Southfield.

Please see RULES, A5



Illustrated man: Red Crown Body Art co-owner Ken Rekiel says his business will offer artful tattoos.

Tattooing business strives for quality, artistry

The first thing you notice when you walk in the door of Eternal Tattoos in Livonia is the smell of antiseptic.

Wait. That may be the second thing. The first would be the sign on the wall that says, "Caution: Tattoos may be addicting."

Addicting? How can that be? Tattoos mean needles, and needles may cause pain when applied to human skin.

Allow veteran artist and business owner Terry Tramp to explain. "Once you get a nice looking tattoo, you start to think about what else you can do."

"What else" includes a seemingly endless array of sizes, styles, colors and designs, some pre-drawn and applied with a tracer sheet, some sketched freehand. While the body art business once offered staples like military insignias and sinking

Please see QUALITY, A6

A newer TV-10 unveiled

BY TIM SMITH
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Balloons, banter and lots of popcorn were highlights of Tuesday's Grand Re-Opening of Farmington Public Schools' TV-10 Studio at North Farmington High School.

Under a plethora of Mole-Richardson spotlights, which are standard for the industry, guests watched with interest as students and special guests marched up to the podium to publicly beam about the finished studio, which cost \$800,000 to complete - much of the money came from the successful September 1997 bond issue.

"This is a learning laboratory for our students to be effective visual communicators," said Peggy Schmidt, director

Please see TV, A5

Festival of the Arts 2000



Writers share their own stories

BY JONI HUBBED
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One of the more literary offerings at this year's Festival of the Arts in Farmington Hills kicks off at 12:30 p.m. on May 1 at the William B. Costick Center, with a blend of humor, drama, poetry and prose.

Members of the Ridgewriters will read selections from their own works - novels in progress, poetry, non-fiction and short stories. Club spokeswoman Betty Monson said listeners will hear a little bit of everything.

"We will also have a cozy corner, which is a place to sit down and read some of the group's work," she said. "We'll have photographs from the different activities."

Members get together on the first Wednesday of the month at the Spicer House Welcoming Center in Heritage Park. They share their works in progress, as well as their experiences. For Brian Murphy, the encourage-

Please see WRITERS, A4

At long last, Kosovar family receives asylum

BY TIM SMITH
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It hasn't been easy for Sevdije Vilasliu and her family since they immigrated to America from Kosovo in 1995.

Not only did the family need to face getting bilked in this country from people they trusted, they worried about what might happen to the safety and welfare of family members left behind in their homeland.

But finally, with crucial help from attorney Doug Dadiaman of the Archdiocese of Detroit Legal Services, community members, local newspapers and legislators, the Vilasliu - co-owners of Grand One Hour Cleaners in Farmington - are safe both here and abroad. Monday night it was announced at the Farmington City Council meeting that asylum had been granted to the Farmington Hills family, which includes Sevdije and her husband, Selim, 9-year-old daughter Mirka and

4-year-old son Art. It was granted during a March 29 hearing in Chicago. "I'm very happy because we have freedom, nobody can bother you," Sevdije, nicknamed Dia, said following a presentation at the beginning of the meeting.



Dia Vilasliu

Dadiaman was present at the meeting, as was U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg (11th District), who presented Dia with the American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol "on your behalf. It was flown to signify your success."

Knollenberg also congratulated Dia for displaying great patience in overcoming her family's plight and reaching the first step toward U.S. citizenship. "Welcome to America," he said.

"Thank you everybody," Dia said to

Please see DIA, A7