

## Coalition looks ahead

BY TIM SMITH  
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During the 1999-2000 school year, the Call to Action coalition successfully linked different segments of the Farmington and Farmington Hills communities, to promote awareness and education about drug and violence prevention.

But several members of the coalition's board of directors aren't spending much time patting each other on the back about past accomplishments. During Tuesday's wrap-up session at Farmington Training Center, board members talked about accelerating and expanding Call to Action initiatives.

For example, there will be four community-wide educational events during 2000-2001. Those will include sessions on: exposing designer drugs; danger signs about student depression; business and faith community action planning. There will be a youth summit on tobacco use among teens and Farmington Families in Action's successful "Sober October" programming will be incorporated into a "GRIP October" initiative.

Deacon Mark Springer, of The Church of St. Alexander, said there are many places of worship in the community to be tapped for future

Please see CALL, A4

## Happy Mother's Day



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Honored: Mom, Top Grandma, too. Chloe Ann Kelly enjoys time spent with granddaughters Madison and Kamryn Welling.

## Top mom

### Hills woman honored

BY M.B. DILLON  
SPECIAL WRITER

After learning just a little about Chloe Ann Kelly of Farmington Hills, it's easy to see why she was named Michigan Mother of the Year by American Mothers Inc.

The mother of five adult children, it seems Kelly has done it all — serving her children and others in capacities ranging from room mother and den mother to PTO officer and playwright. She's taken her public speaking and dramatic talents to China, Ukraine, Israel, Romania and Hawaii to reach out to youths — troubled youths in particular.

Official sponsor of Mother's Day, American Mothers is a non-political, inter-racial, interfaith, non-profit association whose purpose is to strengthen the moral and spiritual foundation of the home and family. "It was founded in 1933 by a group of New York women to focus attention on the contributions of mothers in the home, the community, the nation and the world. Sara Delano Roosevelt presented the first Mother of the Year honor in 1935.

Kelly — along with Laurie Johnson of Shelby Township, Michigan Merit Mother of the Year — was

Please see MOM, A5

## Parents, school leaders prepare for voucher battle

■ The first wave of a battle against a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow vouchers is under way with the Farmington Area PTA leading the charge. Parents who have attended any one of a number of informational meetings are asked to spread the word.

BY TIM SMITH  
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The voucher debate could become like David vs. Goliath. But parents such as those who attended a recent informational meeting at Longacre Elementary School likely are ready to start loading up their slingshots.

They'll need all the help they can get to battle an expected \$5 million advertising campaign expected to this fall hit the airwaves in support of a state constitutional amendment proposal. That proposal, if approved, would open the door to a voucher system for parents who might want to switch from public schools to private or parochial institutions.

It would mandate vouchers (\$3,611 per pupil) in districts that fail to graduate more than two-thirds of high school

students. There currently are 12 eligible districts, but Detroit Public Schools apparently would not qualify. Farmington Public Schools also would not qualify because more than 90 percent of its students graduate. Voters could petition to put the issue on a local ballot.

On May 4, at Longacre, Farmington school board President Priscilla Brouillette and Vice President Frank Reid discussed the voucher issue and answered questions from members of the Longacre PTA. The parents also viewed a videotape which further dissected the controversial, complex and confusing subject.

Just a few of the points expected to be debated over the next several months are the following:

■ Whether a voucher system would

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## Same moniker welcomes new era

BY TIM SMITH  
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It's a new era for downtown Farmington businesses, but they're sticking with their old name.

Carloigh Flaherty, president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, said Wednesday's first meeting of downtown businesses as a chamber sub-committee was full of positive energy.

Both co-owners of the Farmington Bakery, Becky Burns and Jeff Pavlik, said the initial meeting was a good start.

One of the first orders of business

## DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES

was to decide whether the recently reformed Downtown Farmington Business Association would keep that moniker despite becoming a sub-committee of the chamber.

"We have decided to identify the group as the Downtown Farmington Business Association," said Flaherty. "... We brainstormed some options. But

Please see BUSINESS, A4

## THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Meet: The Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

Agenda: The Farmington City Council will meet at 8 p.m. in council chambers, 23600 Liberty.

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## HomeTown Classifieds WORK!

"We were very pleased with the results we got from our Observer classified ad. We sold all the household goods we advertised."

—Lori J. Canton

## Sitting pretty

BY TIM SMITH  
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This time the sequel is worth seeing. Farmington High School art students in the Painting II class taught by Nina Weiss are taking old wooden chairs and turning them into creative masterpieces.

The chairs feature classical through contemporary styles of art, with students basing their paintings on the works of everyone from Monet to Salvador Dali.

Weiss said a different group of students completed the art chair project in the first semester. When kids signed up for the second semester, one of the first things they asked the teacher was whether they would have an opportunity to paint chairs, too.

"Student enthusiasm for this is so high," said Weiss, noting that families and staff members donated chairs to the cause.

But she said the biggest contributor was Borders Books and Music, on Orchard Lake Road between 13 and 14

Please see CHAIRS, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Artist: Danielle Miller paints fine details on the rungs of her chair at Farmington High School.

## Forum generates diverse ideas for MCMR

BY JOHN HUBERD  
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Forty minds met at the Farmington Training Center early Thursday morning, with one goal in mind: to improve cultural diversity in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

The Open Forum on Diversity, sponsored by the Multicultural/Multiracial

Community Council, produced long lists of suggestions, ideas and proposed activities the council will consider as members plan activities for the coming year.

"This is a critical point for us," said moderator Dr. George Keith, president of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus. "Your opinions are really important to us."

For the next 15 or 20 minutes, the meeting room buzzed with conversation as participants discussed the answers to three questions:

■ What are we doing well that we need to sustain?

■ What can we focus on in the next year?

■ What new ideas have we not addressed as a council or a community?

In table discussions, people shared personal experiences and talked about how language and cultural issues affected their home and work lives.

Farmington Hills Zoning Coordinator Lee Blizman said her department deals with cases in which homeowners aren't familiar with how to care for a lawn, because they've never had one. She'd

Please see COUNCIL, A4

