



Fore!

Get excited about golf this summer by reading our special section inside this issue.

THE WEEK AHEAD

On Ice: See the Farmington Hills Ice Arena's Fourth Annual Ice Show, co-sponsored by the arena and the Hills Figure Skating Club at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children 6 and older. Children 5 and under are free. Tickets may be purchased at the Ice Arena, 35500 Eight Mile Road.

MONDAY

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

THURSDAY

Musical: Duncel Middle School will perform an instrumental concert at 7:30 p.m. Call 489-3577.

SPECIAL PAGE

Jobs galore: A special Jobs and Careers page in today's issue features information about Jobs 2K, a comprehensive overview highlighting employment opportunities in the restaurant, food and beverage industry. /G1

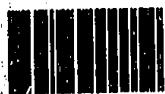
SALUTE

Congrats grads: Your Observer newspaper salutes the Class of 2000 in today's issue. /D6

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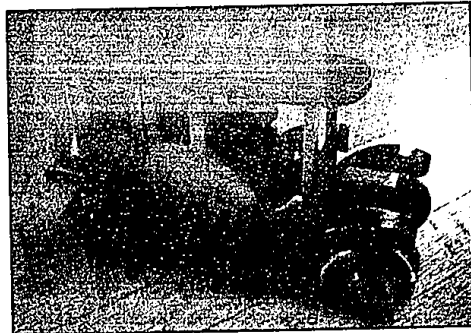


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Flourishing: Jerry Young of Farmington Hills cuts and assembles the handmade toys, while his wife, Lyla, paints the detail. He started with one mail truck about 25 years ago.

All about toys He turned hobby into business



Handmade: This 1909 Buick is the first car Jerry Young crafted.

BY TRACEY BIRKENHAUER
STAFF WRITER

You can't help but think of Santa Claus when you meet Jerry Young.

The jovial, 70-year-old toy maker from Farmington Hills has made wooden toys for about 25 years when his first grandchild was a baby and grandpa thought he needed a wooden mail truck.

That one mail truck has blossomed into a flourishing hobby/business for Young, who sells toys throughout the area at festivals and other weekend events.

With a tube of wood glue, Young assembles a baby buggy in his modest, basement shop. There, he makes hundreds of toys a year in about 30 varieties, from firetrucks to vintage cars to golf carts. The bottom of each toy is stamped

Please see TOYS, A4

Student rolls his talents into one act

BY TIM SMITH
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When it comes to making a production out of it at Farmington High School, there's a good chance senior Matthew Gwynn somehow is involved.

Gwynn recently was one of the lead actors in the school's winter musical "Damn Yankees." Now, he's writing and directing original material to be performed during Wednesday's "A Night of One Acts."

The middle play of the program, scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the FHS auditorium, is Gwynn's romantic comedy titled "Three Little Words." He wrote it. He's directing and producing it. And, if he gets the itch, audience members might not be too surprised to also see him jump back on the stage.

"I still like being an actor the most," Gwynn said, during a rehearsal break last week. "Being on stage is where all the magic is focused. It's pretty cool."

But he is pretty excited about his creation, about how it might be received by the audience.

"It's a little frightening," Gwynn said, about writing a play. "But it's very rewarding, when you see something you worked on being performed and laughed at and cried at."

He isn't the only student who is heavily involved with "A Night of One Acts."

Also on the playbill are the David Ives-penned "Words,

Please see ACT, A7



Production: Farmington High School drama student Matt Gwynn wrote the play "Three Little Words." Fellow students Meghan Osborne, John Sloan III, Devon Leigh and Ashley Marshall helped with the production.

Council: Maintain services

■ A public hearing on the proposed 2000-01 Farmington budget is set for June 5 at which time it is expected to be adopted.

BY JOANNE MALICKIEWSKI
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Maintaining the services the city now offers is the goal for the Farmington City Council with the proposed 2000-2001 budget.

That includes maintaining the tax rate at the same 15.14 mills. The rate includes 10.68 mills for city operations and services with the remainder divided among the road and sidewalk repair programs and debt service.

A resident who owns a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay \$1,514. This does not include rates levied by other taxing jurisdictions, such as the schools or county.

"This budget is pretty straightforward," said City Manager Frank Lauboff. "The direction from the city council is to just maintain our services."

The city council will hold a public hearing on the proposed \$9.8 million budget June 5. The city council is expected to adopt the budget later in that meeting. The city charter requires the council to adopt the budget no later

Please see BUDGET, A3

Rec: Park isn't the cat's meow

BY JONI HUBBARD
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Has the idea of a park that allows pets gone to the dogs in Farmington Hills?

That's the question council members will face Monday night, as they consider whether to allow residents to walk their canine companions in city parks. The "dog park" concept has been bandied about and generally booted from discussion by a majority of council members. But dog lovers just won't be dissuaded from asking that their canine pals have a place in which they can roam free.

Recent letters from constituents led officials to bounce the idea back to the Parks and Recreation Commission

Please see PARK, A7

Apartment plans upset neighbors

BY JONI HUBBARD
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Residents who live near a proposed multi-family development near Eight Mile Road and I-275 couldn't speak when the project was introduced at Thursday night's Farmington Hills Planning Commission meeting.

Still, that didn't stop them from expressing their displeasure with a proposal for 250 apartments in an area where traffic is already snarled during rush hour. When Vice-chair David Haron refused to vote on the issue because of a Village Green mailing he thought inappropriate, his departure drew a round of applause.

A second commissioner left during a discussion about traffic at Eight Mile and I-275. Commissioner Khalil Atasi learned the company's traffic consultant is a firm in which he is a principal partner. He excused himself from further discussion.

Please see APARTMENTS, A7