

Many helped plan all-night parties

BY TRACY BURKHHAUER
STAFF WRITER

After today's graduation ceremonies, hundreds of seniors will party all night. Farmington's three public high schools each will host all-night parties, made possible by hundreds of parent volunteers and area businesses donating food and prizes. Once students enter, they can't leave without parental consent.



Attire: Above is what they'll be wearing at the Farmington High all-nighter.

See related story page A3

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THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Rev 'em up: The third year of Classic Car Cruises in downtown Farmington begins, from 5-9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Field day: Pen pals from Cloverdale Developmental Center and a Fraser special ed facility meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

THURSDAY

Another graduation: Farmington Alternative Academy and Farmington Community School graduate their students, 7:15 p.m. at the Farmington High School auditorium.

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Oh, Mercy!



Graduation day: Two members of Mercy High School's Class of 2000, Abby Miller (left) and Liz Cash, are happy graduates following Thursday night's commencements at Meadow Brook in Rochester Hills. For the story and more pictures, please turn to page A8.

STAFF PHOTO BY DILL BRESLER

Police put new law to the test

■ A Detroit man was arrested in Farmington for drunk driving and child endangerment. The driver's 13-year-old daughter was in the back seat at the time he was pulled over.

BY TRACY BURKHHAUER
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, the Farmington Department of Public Safety enforced a new drunk driving law for the first time.

The child endangerment law went into effect Oct. 1, 1999, along with a slew of other new repeat offender drunk driving laws. A person convicted of driving drunk with passengers under 16 in the vehicle is now also guilty of endangerment. The crime is punishable by up to one year in jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine.

"I'm so glad to hear that Farmington is enforcing this law," said Diane Page, Michigan's Mothers Against Drunk Driving interim executive director. "We can't stop what happened, but thankfully we had a good outcome."

According to police reports, at about 10:20 p.m. on Wednesday, a 34-year-old Detroit man was stopped at a red light on eastbound Nine Mile at Farmington Road when an officer pulled him over. The officer noted that the passen-

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Hills officer's heroics help him nab Optimist award

BY JONI HUBBARD
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The morning of April 15, 1999 was a good one for Farmington Hills resident Helen Rebh.

Had it not been for the efforts of Officer Matthew Parsons and a team of emergency personnel, however, it might have been her last. Parsons' life-saving efforts earned him the Farmington Optimist Club's "Police Officer of the Year" award.

The incident marked the second time Parsons was faced with a life or death situation that required him to use CPR. The first involved a drug overdose, and the patient died.

"It came out a lot better this time," he said simply.

Rebh, a 75-year-old retiree, had been going over her finances with an accountant, finally preparing for a future without work. Triple bypass surgery had convinced her to end a 34-year career with Farmington Public Schools, which began in food service while her children were growing up.

"I don't remember any of it," Rebh said Thursday as she sat on the back porch in her home on 11 Mile Road. "She told me all of a sudden, I just

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

stopped talking."

She was still sitting in the chair when her accountant called 9-1-1. An emergency dispatcher, who was in training, directed the woman to perform cardio-pulmonary resuscitation until emergency personnel arrived.

The first one on the scene was Parsons.

"Mrs. Rebh was laying on the floor, partially under the dining room table," he recalled. "I checked her for a pulse, and she had none."

After notifying the dispatcher to send additional help, Parsons took over CPR. To his surprise, Rebh began breathing on her own. In his training, he learned the chest compressions and breaths he was administering were simply supposed to keep a victim going until more advanced measures could be taken.

"You're not supposed to bring 'em back with CPR," Parsons said. "When

Please see RESCUE, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY DILL BRESLER

Thankful: Helen Rebh doesn't have a clear memory of her brush with death but she is sure glad that Hills police Officer Matthew Parsons and the team of EMTs were available.

Brouillette, Sharp await challenges of next term

Board incumbent advocates for kids in fast-changing world

BY TIM SMITH
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Priscilla Brouillette is eight days away from being elected to a second term on the Farmington Board of Education.

But the untested incumbent is more eager to look forward than reflect back on her first four years on the board.

One reason is the way the world continues to change and become more challenging for young people — both students and teachers.

"A top goal is preparing students to work in a world that none of us can even imagine," Brouillette, concluding her year as school board president, said during a recent interview at the office of the Farmington Observer. "We were



Priscilla Brouillette

talking about what life was like when we graduated (in the 1970s). Just think at how different it is now.

"Probably the most impressive thing our teachers do is teach students to be able to learn and relearn and relearn throughout their lives, to continually

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Fighting voucher plan is just one of his objectives

BY TIM SMITH
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It could be expected that Gary Sharp sometimes suffers nightmares about vouchers, bond issue construction, state underfunding of special education and teachers under fire.

But, more often than not, the 42-year-old Sharp enjoys an almost dream-like experience serving on the Farmington Board of Education, which he was appointed to in 1998 after the resignation of Joseph Svoke.

It is one of the main reasons he sought re-election — Sharp was subsequently elected in June 1999 to serve the final year of Svoke's unexpired term. On Monday, June 12, Sharp and incumbent Priscilla Brouillette are guaranteed victory in the uncontested race for two, four-year terms.

"One of my favorite things is just



Gary Sharp

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION 2000

being able to spend time going to the buildings on our (board) visits," said

Please see SHARP, A5

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