

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### TUESDAY

**Homeowners group:** The Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners Associations will meet on Jan. 16 at the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. A social time begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. The topic for discussion will be the Northwestern connector and the Kmart development at 14 Mile / Orchard Lake / Northwestern.

### WEDNESDAY

**Dems meet:** How Farmington Hills conducts its elections in contrast to the recent trouble in Florida will be the topic of discussion at the next meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Pipefitters Hall, 30100 Northwestern Highway (one block west of Inkster on the north side of the street). Club chair Gerald Goldberg announced that the speaker will be Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathy Dornan, who has a statewide reputation in promoting effective election laws. The meeting is open to all.

### TODAY'S PAPER

**Calendar:** The community calendar will return next Sunday. The space was used today for letters to the editor.

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**Silent Scream:** Mime "Buddha" quietly holds the attention of the students. Above right, First-grader Gabrielle McDaniel enjoys the performance.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER



## Students get the silent treatment

BY TIM SMITH  
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Talented Indiana mime Josh White wowed youngsters during a day-long visit Tuesday to St. Paul's Lutheran School in Farmington Hills. White, who goes by the stage name "Buddha the Mime," performed several of his own stories, giving them the silent treatment. He then randomly talked to classes to encourage them to brainstorm their own stories, which he performed after lunch.

It was part of Young Author's Day at the private school on Eight Mile at Middlebelt roads. Students learned about what White called a

Please see MIM, A3

## Dangerous work



**Chipping away:** Glen Swift and Bob Thompson, employees of the Construction Zone, chip ice from gutters at The Enclave apartments, located on Grand River Avenue west of Drake Road. Experts suggest homeowners contract roof companies to do this work, which can be very dangerous. In the spring consider installing electric heat tapes along the roof edge.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

## District increases teacher subs' pay

BY TIM SMITH  
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Wanting to make sure substitute teachers continue to consider Farmington Public Schools in what is a competitive market for their services, the school board last week approved a 2-percent pay rate increase.

"We need this to remain competitive with other districts and with the private sector," Larry Lobert, the district's executive director of human resources, said to the school board Tuesday night.

Although Lobert stressed that there are about 225 active substitute teachers in the district's pool, on par with last year, "Folks are getting more selective" about where they sub.

Until the board approved the increase for sub teachers, for example, Farmington's beginning rate was below that of the Southfield, Walled Lake and West Bloomfield districts. With the increase, effective Feb. 17, someone subbing in Farmington for up to 25 days now will earn anywhere between \$78-\$89 per day, depending on experi-

ence. That is an increase from the current rate of between \$76-\$87.

The top salary of \$106 a day will go to any retired Michigan teacher who has worked more than 50 days this year in Farmington schools.

School board Trustee Bobbie Feldman said it is imperative that the district "remain competitive in a shrinking labor market. We need to remain out there and be first in attracting the best and the brightest."

Feldman added that substitute teachers earn their money.

"Sub teachers have a difficult job," Feldman said. "And they come in every day and do for us."

Because Trustee Gary Sharp has a family member who subs in the district, he abstained from the otherwise unanimous vote.

The board also approved a 25-cent per-hour increase for non-teaching substitutes. Those would include secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians, food service workers, and noon supervisors, and a 21-cent increase for hall

Please see SUBS, A3

## Hills city Web site debuts

BY JONI HUBBED  
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It's been a long time coming, but the City of Farmington Hills' Web site finally debuted last week, at [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us).

"Most ISPs have 'cached' the Web site," said Director of Central Services Mike Lasey, explaining the process of connecting with Internet providers like America Online and Compuserve.

The city contracted with Sequoia, a design firm in Rochester Hills, to create the site, which includes information on everything from absentee ballots to zoning regulations. Sequoia's

Please see WEB SITE, A4



**In-house business:** The house in question (foreground) would house Baker Street Draperies. A master plan shows the property could be residential or commercial.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

## Council set to act on Baker Street

The Baker Street Draperies rezoning issue will come before the Farmington City Council Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m. during their regular meeting.

The property in question is an older red brick home at 33432 Oakland Street just off of Grand

River in downtown Farmington. The city's planning commission approved proponent Shelley Raymond's site plan and rezoning request at a meeting last Tuesday. In December the city's zoning board had granted her a parking variance so customers can park at the nearby Masonic Temple.

At last Tuesday's meeting several residents in the area voiced disapproval with the plan. Among those disapproving were representatives from the church next door to the proposed site.

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