

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Tree House: The Farmington Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. at Farmington City Hall. On the agenda is the Tree House on Mooney Street.

Utilities: The Farmington Hills City Council will hear reports from Ameritech and Detroit Edison at their 7:30 p.m. meeting, held at City Hall.

TUESDAY

Joint meeting: The Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils and Farmington Board of Education will hold their annual joint meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street.

Store still waiting for lottery winner

The folks at the Orchard 10 Market, in Farmington Hills are still waiting to congratulate a customer who won \$150,000 on a Big Game lottery ticket purchased there Dec. 1.

The customer hasn't called the Michigan Lottery Commission to claim the prize, leading Orchard 10 Market co-owner Danny Lossia to suspect the ticket was lost.

Orchard 10 clerks have been telling lottery ticket buyers about the unclaimed winnings in hope that one of them has the ticket.

"They're already looking in drawers and pockets," Lossia said. Whoever had it "probably threw it away. I don't think it will be found."

The winning numbers are 15, 25, 28, 38, 47 and 5. If you have the ticket, call (617) 373-1237. If the winnings aren't claimed by Dec. 1, the state will keep the money.

INDEX

- Apartments/EB
- Arts/C2
- Automotive/H4
- Classified/E,O,H
- Index/E3
- Crossword
- Puzzles/E4
- Jobs/D1
- Mails/C4
- Movies/C5
- New Homes/E1
- Obituaries/AB
- Real Estate/E1
- Service Guide/H4
- Sports/B1
- Taste/D1
- Travel/C8

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Exchange students say 'adios'



■ A group of South American girls have returned to their homeland a little richer and wiser, having spent the past three weeks making friends at Mercy High School.

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
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Six South American girls who stayed in Farmington for the last three weeks will return home Monday having made dozens of new friends, had many new experiences and learned several American slang expressions.

The exchange students from the Santa Ethnea school in Buenos Aires, Argentina, have been attending Mercy High School when they weren't practically besieged by any number of people who sought to make their experience as enjoyable as possible.

Arriving on Jan. 19, the girls were taken to see the North American International Auto Show, the Plymouth International Ice Spectacular, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Channel 4 studios, radio station WDRQ, Metro Airport, the African American Museum and Frankenmuth. Most of these trips were arranged by the host parents.

Mercy High School and the Santa Ethnea school have been exchanging exchange students for four years. The Argentines come here in January. The Americans go there in July.

The degree of familiarity between students has reached a point where most of today's participants already knew someone when they arrived at the unfamiliar school.

For example, Mercy student Katie Pawelski and her family in Plymouth hosted Maria Sofia "Sofi" Julian over the last three weeks. Katie will go to Argentina in July and stay with Sofi's family. Last year, Sofi's sister was an

Please see EXCHANGE, A1

Exchange club: "Majo" Fliess, "Maita" Torreguitar, "Belu" Viard, "Mery" Bernabo, "Sofi" Julian and "Jose" Martin said goodbye to their new friends last week at Mercy High School. The girls participated in an on-going exchange program.

DDA, Chamber join forces to apply for Main Street grant

BY JONI HUBRED
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As talk of a recession looms on the national horizon, business leaders in Farmington have begun to look more closely at a program designed to enhance and improve the downtown area.

Downtown Development Authority Board members have authorized application for the National Main Street program. The Board looked at the program last year, according to Downtown Development Authority Director Judy Downey. One stumbling block, a 40-hour commitment of staff time, has been resolved, she said.

"I will have the cooperation and support of some staffing assistance

through Carlough Flaherty at the (Farmington/Farmington Hills Area) Chamber," Downey said. "She and I will be working together on the application and probably throughout the three years of the program."

Downey said a workshop in late May or early June will provide information about the application, which is submitted in July. The awards are made in September.

Main Street communities receive three years of technical assistance with revitalization efforts, including planning and ordinance review, staffs and volunteer training and development, economic development, building, landscape and district design, real estate development, tourism, marketing and market analysis.

"Yes, it is going to be a major com-

mitment, but there's still going to be the potential for major benefit," Mayor Bill Hartscock said at a study session Monday that included city council, DDA and Downtown Farmington Business Association members.

The conversation covered a variety of issues, including preparation for a downturn in the economy, retail vacancies, communication and how both business organizations can work together.

The DDA has begun holding informal meetings on a regular basis for DFBA members who can't attend the DDA's regular meetings.

"It's well attended," said Roger Ratkowski, who owns The Pasta Stop on Farmington Road. "We get four or

Please see MAIN STREET, A3

Lilley to drop FAFF duties

BY TIM SMITH
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Bruce Lilley's stint as administrator for the Farmington Founders Festival is turning out to be a short-lived one.

Farmington Area Family Festival, Inc. President Jim Stark said Lilley approached him in recent weeks about a "business opportunity" that emerged since October, when Lilley was appointed to head festival management efforts.

Bruce Lilley

"There is really nothing to announce yet, there is a problem with Bruce's (time) commitment to the festival," Stark said. "A business opportunity came up that's changed his planning and availability."

Please see LILLEY, A2

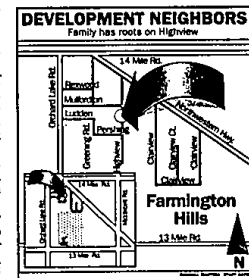
Family wants to stay, not make way

BY JONI HUBRED
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Time and again at public hearings about the proposed shopping center in the Northwestown/14 Mile/Orchard Lake area in Farmington Hills, the same word has been used to describe the Highview neighborhood where the Rescoe family lives.

"They say our homes are eyesores, but that's because we've been sitting here so long," Blanche Rescoe said.

Please see FAMILY, A3



Elevator completes final phase for Civic Theatre

BY TIM SMITH
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Wednesday morning's unveiling of a handicapped-access elevator at the Civic Theatre successfully concluded the final phase of renovations at one of downtown Farmington's landmarks.

Farmington city officials and representatives from Civic management company MKA, Inc. were on hand for the christening of the hydraulic chamber — and for a tour of the completed upper auditorium and photo exhibit.

"This is more than we ever envisioned," said Mayor Bill Hartscock, who along with council colleagues voted in summer 1989 to purchase the Grand

River movie house from longtime owner Greg Hohler. "It turned out great."

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff lauded Bill Clark and Ed Szurek of Wisconsin-based MKA for their efforts in renovating the Civic. Phase 2 of the extensive project came in under budget, at about \$259,000, Lauhoff said.

"It's just nice that the whole project's done," Lauhoff said. "The city council was anxious to see it completed. Now we can move forward to more and more patrons coming here, enjoying themselves and coming downtown."

The city took over ownership of the

Please see CIVIC, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGES

Civic pride: Mayor Bill Hartscock (at right) discusses phase 2 Civic Theatre improvements with Books Abound owner Skip Rosenthal, city manager Frank Lauhoff, Ed Szurek and Bill Clark both of MKA and local history guy Dick Carvell.