



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BUCKLEY
New look: Plans are underway for remodeling the entrance to the Farmington High athletic field.

Falcon foundation to target fields

BY TOM SMITH
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A number of ambitious Farmington High School parents are embarking on a plan to raise money and support for Falcon teams and other student groups.

To be known as the "Falcon Society," the non-profit organization met last week and is moving forward on a plan to raise more than \$150,000 this year alone. In excess of 4,000 letters were mailed to FHS alumni and another 600 packages were sent to area businesses to help the fund-raising cause.

The society also plans to hold a golf tournament on Saturday, May 19, at Cattails Golf Course in South Lyon, as well as a dinner dance and silent auction, likely in the fall.

According to Farmington High School Principal John Barrett, money collected in the effort will help the group fund renovations to outside facilities used by sports teams and other student squads.

Barrett said those kinds of facilities were not part of the extensive district-wide renovation projects made possible when voters approved a \$97 million

bond issue in 1997.

"We talked to parents about what they perceive the needs to be," Barrett said, adding that architectural firm Grassim-Metz has been retained to look at some of the target areas.

Those include improvements to FHS practice fields and the entrance to the football field, Barrett noted.

"The parents are really enthusiastic to making Farmington High the best possible facility," Barrett said. "This is not a one-time deal. This is going to be an ongoing organization."

Parents represent various special interest support groups.

The Falcon Society is looking for volunteers to join the "team," according to a press release about the fledgling group. Those who are interested should e-mail chairman Bob Washer at consult@FPW@aol.com.

The society's mission is to "provide financial support to school projects that promote the development of healthy individuals and lifelong learners. This fund is an ongoing effort to help create a solid foundation for the future for all of Farmington High School's students and the community."

Citizens to testify on noise

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Livonia Families Near I-275 plan to take their plea for noise relief to Lansing, but several will be catching a bus first.

At 7 a.m. Thursday, a 55-seat bus with nearly as many passengers departs from the former Bentley Center. At least 45 people are expected to make the trip with several more representing neighborhoods in Livonia and Farmington Hills traveling on their own.

Joe Taylor, a former councilman and expected council candidate, is ready to roll.

"Though he lives more than a mile from I-275, Taylor understands concerns of those who reside along the freeway.

The din from passing motorists has been registered at 83 decibels, which is comparable to a running garbage disposal. Some 2,100 homes run along I-275.

In 1999, Michigan Department of Transportation spent \$50 million resurfacing a stretch of I-275 from I-96 to I-696. The concrete was cut with grooves for better traction.

Residents contend the rebuilt road made the noise problem worse. "People who moved there knew there was noise," Taylor said, "but (MDOT) has compounded the problem twice as much."

In December, Taylor joined 100 others during a town hall meeting on the topic at City Hall. He was impressed with Livonia Families Near I-275's organization and determination.

Since the town hall meeting, the former councilman has been sort of a consultant to Livonia Families Near I-275 group to "point them in the right direction," he said.

He shares those residents' impatience, saying they won't go to Lansing to provide solutions for the Michigan Highway Transportation Commissioners. "We don't care how they do it," he said. "Just fix it."

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