

THE WEEK AHEAD

Beautification: The future of the Farmington Beautification Commission will be studied by the city council at 7 p.m., prior to the regular 8 p.m. meeting. At the latter, the council will present a proclamation honoring Detroit on its 300th birthday and approve a six-year capital improvement plan.

MONDAY

Hills Council: Officials will consider two controversial issues at their meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in Chambers at City Hall. On their agenda is consideration of a Special Assessment District for dust control, as well as the Planned Unit Development proposed in the 14 Mile/Orchard Lake/Northwestern area.

WEDNESDAY

It's a kick: Members of the Detroit Rockers soccer team will have lunch and play ball with William Grace Elementary School students from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

THURSDAY

Hills Planning: Members will consider two proposals for site condos, as well as the 2001-2007 Capital Improvement Plan at their 7:30 p.m. meeting.

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PLYMOUTH - ranch on Waldon Pond, 2 beds, 2 bath, living room w/fireplace, newer furnace, air and windows. \$204,900

313-571-SELL

The ad worked fantastic. I never thought it would sell in one week. - D.F. Plymouth



Honored: Mayor Nancy Bates reacts to receiving the Romney Award at Thursday's ceremony.

Surprise!

Mayor stunned by Romney award

BY JONI HUBRED
STAFF WRITER
jhubred@oc.hometown.net

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates prides herself on knowing most of what's happening in her city, but on Thursday night, she got a very large, very welcome surprise.

For weeks, members of the Farmington Hills/Farmington Commission on Children, Youth and Families managed to conceal the fact that Bates had been selected as their Governor George W. Romney Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. Farmington Community Library Director Bev Papai made the presentation.

"Nancy Bates and her work mirrors those attributes esteemed by the late George Romney," Papai said. "How fitting to honor her with the George Romney Award for Volunteer of the Year."

Bates was touched to have received the award, particularly since Rom-

ney, a strong advocate of volunteerism, has been one of her life's heroes. The two met in 1993, after the city completed a task force study on unmet needs within the community. The study found organizations, while active and busy, were "tired," Bates said.

Wanting to find a way to recruit more volunteers, she thought of "Someone in Lansing gave me his

number," she explained. "So I took a chance. He answered the phone himself."

Over the years, the two met a number of times, and Bates still carries with her the wisdom he shared about volunteerism.

"He walked the walk and he talked the talk," she said.

Lynne Romney Keenan and her husband, Loren, of Bloomfield Township have been attending the volunteer recognition for the last five years. Lynne said they have long been aware of the emphasis on volunteerism in the two communities.

The Keenans' 30-year-old son attended special education programs at the Farmington Training Center, through Vision Unlimited and was active with Special Olympics. Loren is familiar with the community through his work at Michigan

Please see AWARD, A3

Feldman won't seek third term

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oc.hometown.net

One of the three remaining Farmington school board members who hired Bob Maxfield to lead the district into the future will not seek another term.

Bobbie Feldman, toward the end of Tuesday's meeting, announced her decision to not run in the upcoming



Bobbie Feldman

school board election. Voters will go to the polls on Monday, June 11, to choose two board members and - probably - decide whether to approve a five-year millage renewal question.

The challenge of an "exciting new career" as a social worker in Livingston County, along with family responsibilities, were the main reasons Feldman decided to step down from the board after her second four-year term expires June 30.

Feldman, who earned a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University in April 2000, recently accepted a position with Livingston County's 4C (Community Coordinated Child Care) Council. She will work with low-income families and help

them with issues pertaining to early childhood.

"When one door closes another one opens," said an obviously emotional Feldman to the rest of the board and others in attendance at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center.

Her board colleagues went around the table toasting Feldman for her efforts since being elected in June 1993.

"I can't imagine a better advocate for children," said Trustee Linda Enberg. "We will have a hard time replacing that passion."

After the meeting, Maxfield wished Feldman well in her new career.

Please see FELDMAN, A3

Steppingstone auction will benefit from celeb items

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oc.hometown.net

Two of Elizabeth Schetzle's favorite things - Steppingstone, a private Farmington Hills school for gifted children, and vintage baseball - are teaming up to help make the school's eighth annual auction even better than hoped for.

Through baseball, the Steppingstone school board president almost stumbled onto the opportunity to meet actor Billy Crystal, who last summer used the old ballpark as his stage for the filming of the HBO feature movie 61*, scheduled to

premiere on Saturday, April 28.

"I was invited through my fiancé to come down to the making of the 61* feature movie, and there I met with Mr. (Phil) McCann and (Crystal's chauffeur) Lee Nicholson," explained Schetzle. "They said I could tour the facility and see the production" as it unfolded.

Like many other baseball lovers who donated period clothing and trekked out to The Corner for one unexpected last look, the Garden City resident saw something that was breathtaking as

Please see AUCTION, A4



On the ball: Steppingstone's Elizabeth Schetzle and Phil McCann display an autographed baseball from Billy Crystal.

Section 8 lines drawn

■ Boundary lines have been drawn that will send some children to different schools, but officials have done what they can to cushion the blow.

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oc.hometown.net

For some families who live in a portion of Farmington Hills known on the city map as Section 8, breaking up their part of the world was like breaking their hearts. For others, it was the only way to ensure their kids' would go to classes much closer to home instead of four miles away at Wood Creek Elementary School.

Farmington Board of Education members Tuesday voted to redistrict Section 8, a square mile located between 12-13 Mile roads west of Drake Road, but tacked on some extras to the original recommendation that are expected to take out some of the sting.

Students may still go to Wood Creek if they want, rather than to either Forest or Hillside elementaries - the two school attendance areas now sharing Section 8, which since 1990 have funneled youngsters east on 12 Mile Road

Please see BOUNDARIES, A2

Rolling with the raves

BY JONI HUBRED
STAFF WRITER
jhubred@oc.hometown.net

Dr. Jerry Cattellane, a resident at Botsford Hospital, has a message for local parents who think club and "rave" drugs aren't a problem in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"Do not ask yourself 'Can it happen here?' he said at a Call to Action presentation Tuesday night. "I can tell you it is happening here."

A relatively new phenomenon, the "rave" scene is a part of life for a small, but growing segment of local youth who pack into cars and drive to remote



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREXLER

Forewarned: Parents picked up brochures about club drugs at Thursday's meeting.

Please see DRUGS, A3