

THE WEEK AHEAD

Crime-free Housing: On Tuesday, April 3, Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer will present the Muirwood Apartment Community with its "Crime Free Multi-Housing" sign. Landlords and property owners cooperate with police in crime prevention training to earn this honor. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

Hills Planning: The commission will hold a study session beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level conference room at City Hall. On the agenda: Zoning issues and a report about applying the compatibility ordinance.

FRIDAY

Healthy Living: The Farmington Area Commission on Aging and Botsford General Hospital are co-sponsoring Healthy Living (formerly known as Health-O-Rama) from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 6 at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. For further information call the Project Healthy Living hotline at 424-8600.

ARTS & LEISURE

Art watch: Two new galleries in Birmingham focus on art as an experience to be shared.

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Cities gain in 2000 census

■ While officials in Farmington didn't expect to see their city's 2.9 percent growth, no one in Farmington Hills was surprised to see it has become Oakland County's largest city.

By TIM SMITH
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The 2000 census numbers are in, and they look good for the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. But officials will have to wait a little while to get a handle on just how good.

In Farmington, the 2000 population was at 10,423, a 2.9-percent increase over the 1990 census (10,132).

The population growth during the 1990s in

Farmington Hills was even more dramatic, according to the census. Numbers jumped 10 percent, from 74,652 in 1990 to 82,111 in 2000.

"We're very pleased," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauffoff, about the modest increase. "It's interesting, because the formula used had shown Farmington dropping 2 percent, but we actually gained 3 percent."

"A lot of what you're seeing in Farmington are a lot more families, more children in the neighborhoods. It's cyclical."

Lauffoff said Farmington Hills city officials were projecting the kind of growth shown in the census, because of the new subdivisions built since 1990. But Farmington's population increase was a surprise, he added.

Meanwhile, Lauffoff said the increase probably will result in "a few more dollars" in revenue.

Please see CENSUS, A3

U.S. CENSUS 2000					Totals for Observable Newspapers Communities	
Community	1980	1990	2000	% Change		
Canton	48,616	57,040	76,366	33.9		
Farmington	11,022	10,132	10,423	2.9		
Farmington Hills	58,056	74,652	82,111	10.0		
Garden City	35,640	31,846	30,047	-5.6		
Livonia	104,814	100,850	100,545	-0.3		
Plymouth	9,986	9,560	9,022	-5.6		
Plymouth Twp.	23,028	23,648	27,798	17.8		
Redford	58,441	54,387	51,622	-5.1		
Westland	84,603	84,724	86,602	2.2		

Three file for school board

■ Incumbent Frank Reid, Pamela Christian and John Goshorn have already filed for the June 11 School Board election. Anyone else wishing to run must file petitions by April 9.

By TIM SMITH
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School board President Frank Reid so far has two newcomers joining him on the June 11 election ballot.

On election day, voters in Farmington Public Schools will elect two candidates to four-year terms, as well as decide tax-renewal proposals for the district and Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus.

Reid recently took out nominating petitions to seek re-election to the board. On Thursday, it was announced that challengers Pamela Christian and John Goshorn, both of Farmington Hills, have done the same.

With Trustee Bobbie Feldman's decision to not seek re-election, at least one new board member will win a full term.

The deadline to file the petitions is 4 p.m. Monday, April 9; those deciding to drop out can do so no later than 4 p.m. Thursday, April 12, said Judy Steinhebel of the district's election office. Candidate packages with the petitions are available at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shiawassee.

For more information about filing, call Steinhebel at (248) 489-3341. Nominating petitions must have at least 20 signatures of registered voters.

Tax renewal

As expected, the school board Tuesday approved a resolution to include a property tax renewal proposal on the June 11 ballot.

By including the five-year tax renewal in the regular June election rather than holding a special election, the district will save money and also

Please see BOARD, A4

Rites of spring



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DANKLER

Just hangin' around: It's a sure sign winter's over — the sun comes out, the winter coats come off and kids head for the nearest jungle gym. Alison Robinson, a 4th grader at Kenbrook Elementary found a way to celebrate this rite of spring during recess last week.

Petitions signal Hills bids

■ Though it doesn't mean they will run, Mayor Nancy Bates and council members Cheryl Oliverio, Jon Grant and Jerry Ellis have all pulled election petitions.

By JONI HUBBED
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It may be a little early in the game, but Farmington Hills city officials whose terms expire this year have telegraphed interest in re-upping.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates, city council members Cheryl Oliverio, Jon Grant and Jerry Ellis have all picked up petitions to run for re-election. Petitions aren't due until August 28, 4 p.m.

Officials gathered each other's signatures before Monday night's City Council meeting, cementing a level of support for what they all feel has been a good working relationship.

While Ellis admits there are aggravations and a great deal of time involved, he feels the current board is worth trying to hold together.

"We have a great council. While we don't agree on all the issues all the time, we work real hard to build a consensus among us," he said. "I think we have accomplished quite a bit with as little rancor as possible."

Ellis, like Oliverio and Grant, feel they still have some unfinished business with the 11 Pines project, which will involve capping an abandoned landfill, expanding San Marino Golf Course and developing the balance of the 92-acre, city-owned property. In addition, they want to see through

Please see COUNCIL, A4

Election petitions may be picked up at Farmington Hills City Hall. They must be returned by 4 p.m. Aug. 28.

Her shoes made for walkin'

Fernandes will walk 60 miles to raise cancer awareness, in her mother's memory

By TIM SMITH
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Every day, Mindy Fernandes pulls the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day T-shirt over her head. She does sweats and walking shoes. Then, she sets out to walk anywhere from seven-to-14 miles around nearby Walled Lake.

Fernandes undoubtedly pauses to think about the reason for such vigorous and exorcising training: Her mom, Jayne Bowen, died last Oct. 29 after a long battle with breast cancer.

What? Spaghetti dinner at North Congregational Church, hosted by the Farmington Area Jaycees.

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, April 6.

Why: To help sponsor Mindy Fernandes participate in the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day 2001 walk.

Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children ages 4-12; children ages 3 and under eat free.

Where: North Congregational Church, 36520 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 477-1005 or (248) 223-8046.

Not just food: Members of the Detroit Shock professional women's basketball team will do giveaways and a juggler is scheduled to perform.

"She battled it for 12 years," said Mindy, taking an unexpected break from training due to the particularly cold late March morning. "I was very proud of her."

Soon after Bowen's death, Mindy began training for the June 16-17 Avon Products Foundation-sponsored walk — a 60-mile trek from Kenosha, Wis., to Chicago. A subsequent bout with heel spurs slowed her progress until January. But now she is building up her body and resolve in anticipation of the big weekend. She's up to a walking pace of 3.5 miles per hour.

Please see WALK, A3



Mindy Fernandes