



**IN THE PAPER TODAY**

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER  
**Crooner: Tony Camilletti sings "Lily's Eyes" from The Secret Garden in a duet with Eric Bufferbarger. The Farmington Community Chorus holds their 22nd annual spring concert, 8 p.m. May 11-12 at Farmington High School's auditorium. Call 248-788-5322 for ticket information.**

**OPINION**

**Service groups: The dwindling membership or demise of our local service organizations is a sad reflection on today's society. /A10**

**HOME TOWN LIFE**

**Show time: Broadway is the theme for this year's Miss Farmington scholarship pageant. Ten contestants are vying for the title. See HomeTown Life. /C7**

**SPORTS**

**Baseball: Farmington High defeated North Farmington, 4-3, Monday to remain in first place in the WLAA Lakes Division. /D1**

**Track: Farmington Harrison finished third in the 31st Annual Observerland Relays. /D1**

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## Urban garden plan irks city officials



**Farmington city officials are concerned that a local business is not following planning procedures for establishing an urban garden. The business faces a court date.**

BY SUE BUCK  
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An urban gardens issue has both The Tree House for Earth Children and City of Farmington at odds.

Christine Meinke, owner of the Farmington business, wants to retain the outdoor garden planters which

extend in a parallel row from the door into the parking lot. A flowered arch is also under construction.

The city wants her to remove the raised beds and has ordered her to appear in 47th District Court on May 22.

"I don't think it should have ever gotten this far," she said. "I don't know

why they won't work with us. Someone is prejudiced."

On Feb. 12, the Farmington Planning Commission reviewed the proposal for creating an urban garden at the store location at 22906 Mooney (near Grand River and Orchard Lakes).

Several options were discussed, but no official position was taken by the commission, said John Konecni, building inspector for the City of Farmington in a Feb. 20 letter to Meinke.

"You may submit revised plans for future review, but because the materials and construction of the planters has not been approved, they have become

an ordinance violation," he said. "Therefore, you have until March 22 to remove the plantings and masonry block from the premises. Failure to do so will be cause for this office to issue a court appearance ticket."

Plans for the outdoor gardens are incomplete and the issue must again go before the planning commission.

"They have sketchy plans," said Kevin Gushman, Farmington's building official. "They have ignored everything. There's a cinder block with no foundation. They were told to either

Please see TREE, A4

### Glad to meet you



Let's roll: Oakland County Sheriff deputy Eugene Carter watches Ross Lindblom, take a pretend ride on a police motorcycle.



Here you go: Little Sophie Wilson and her parents Brian and Mary get a balloon from Farmington Hills Police Officer Dave Lee.

Ready for fun: Kids line up for the Moon Jump.



## Open house combines learning, fun

BY TIM SMITH  
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Something for everyone awaited thousands of people who stopped by Sunday's Farmington Hills Police Department Open House, an annual event designed to introduce people of all ages to the men and women in blue in a fun-filled atmosphere.

Near the front entrance of police headquarters, Pam Shelly of Farmington Hills watched her 6-year-

### HILLS POLICE

old daughter, Miranda, and 5-year-old step-grandson, Brandon, climb aboard bonafide FHPD motorcycles. Of course, they first had to strap on helmets for safety.

"I think it's wonderful," Pam Shelly said. "This is my third year coming here with my daughter, and Brandon is my step-grandson and I wanted him to

Please see OPEN, A3

## Dwyer: Robbery of pizzeria could have been worse

BY SUE BUCK  
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Farmington Hills Police are investigating the armed robbery of the Hungry Howie's at Nine Mile and Middlebelt about 11 a.m. Sunday.

Two men entered the store immediately after a 19-year-old male employee left to deliver a pizza.

The clerk, a 18-year-old girl and a Farmington Mercy High School sophomore, was the only employee working

and was forced at gunpoint to open the cash register for one of two holdup men who removed money from the register.

Neither of the men wore a mask. When the holdup men entered the store, they were followed in by a customer who placed an order for a sub and left.

Hills Police Chief William Dwyer was relieved that the girl wasn't harmed, unlike the tragedy and death recently at a New Baltimore pizzeria.

"We could have had her death or a

CSC (criminal sexual assault) here," Dwyer said.

He expressed his personal outrage that at an unsupervised minor was left alone in the pizzeria.

The department is pursuing criminal charges against the owner who was not identified by police.

"We are confident we can pull this together," Dwyer said.

According to Dwyer, the state Youth Employment Standards Act (Act 90 of 1978) requires that minors employed in

an occupation that involves cash transactions after sunset or 8 p.m., which ever is the earlier, must be under the supervision of the owner or other employee 18 years of age or older.

Both Dwyer and Farmington Hills Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus said the supervision need not be by a person specifically designated a supervisor by the employer.

In the May 6 robbery, the suspects

Please see ROBBERY, A3

## Harrison dance students ready to step into spotlight

Following is another installment of Today's Lesson, which chronicles classroom activities in Farmington Public Schools.

BY TIM SMITH  
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"Reach for something," implored Harrison High School dance instructor Toi Banks to students in one of her Dance 2 classes. "Bend that front leg. Square your shoulders and hips."

Her instructions rose above the rhythmic world music that reverberated throughout the Farmington district school's dance studio.

Soon, appropriate movements came freely and relatively easily to the small group of students in the elective class — one of five taught by Banks, who, like the program she teaches, is in her inaugural year at Harrison.

"Reaching in so many directions really helps you balance," said Banks, who also is director of the Harrison High School Dance Company, which Saturday will perform during the prestigious Michigan Youth Arts Festival,



held at Western Michigan University.

A former Banks completed her demonstration for the class, she picked up a notebook and watched with great focus while sophomore Danielle Liebman, junior Jessica Edwards and junior Erika Hehman proceeded on with the morning lesson.

Sitting against the wall mirror and watching their classmates work on choreography for the school's Spring Dance Extravaganza were senior Kristen Neza, junior Michelle Sjronok and junior Danielle Grimsley. The spring program begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at the Harrison auditorium.

The Extravaganza will feature dancers from the district's three high schools, directed by Banks (Harrison) and Melissa Poli (Farmington and North Farmington).

### Stripping away pressures

The three students worked on a post-modern thematic dance, about women ridding themselves of early 20th-century oppression.

During a short water break, Banks reminded them about knowing "what you're dancing about." She then pointed out photos of corset-wearing females who — under pressure to look thin — appeared far too uncomfortable to breathe.

"When you're doing your rhythms, it's like taking off your corset," said Banks, formerly a dance director in Detroit Public Schools. "It's reaching for freedom from all of that kind of thing there. ... Take some of those things and put them into your faces, into your bodies."

Exercises followed on how to fall to the floor with grace and bounce to your feet with the athleticism and body control of a gymnast. Banks called out the instructions and stayed on the case.

Her focus on detail and discipline probably would make Hawks football

Please see LESSON, A7



In step: Harrison High School dance student Erika Hehman hones her artistic skills.

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