## Spirit, Mind, Body enrichment offered at seminar in Birmingham

Spirit, Body & Mind, an evening of enrichment, will be presented Thursday, May 31 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Community House of Birmingham, 380 South Bates Street.

"Life is a Joke and God Wrote It," a new book by local author Jerry Stanecki, will provide the guidebook to his "Spirit" presentation. The book shows how to gain an exciting new way of thinking and be in control of your life, Michael Angelo Caruso, who

will challenge the mind with this lessons in reducing stress, identifying things people can and cannot centrol and learning the art of appeal. Caruso is the author of "Hamm...Little Ideas with BIG Results."

The cost for the evening is \$69; however, Observer readers are entitled to a discounted \$59 rate. For information, contact Denise at (248)478-9600.

## Mercy High names graduation honorees

Farming-ton Hills will hold its 2001 gradua-tion cere-m o n y



Meadowbrook Theater on Oak-iand University campus in Rochester.

Kathleen Lentz, daughter of Larry and Maureen Lentz of Farmington Hills has been named Valedictorian. Salutatori-an is Margaret Wright, daughter of Daniel and Rosalie Wright of Brighton.

Lentz will be attending the University of Michigan this fall,



majoring majoring
in premed d.
Wright
will also
move to U
of M, to
pursue an
anthropology
major.



## Hills council supports June 11 millage

Several Farmington Hills City Council members publicly expressed support during a recent meeting for the upcoming Farmington Public Schools mil-

Farmington Public Schools mil-lage renewal.

And, according to schools
Superintendent Bob Maxfield,
such support hasn't always been
automatic in the past.

"This is the first time I can

renewal for excellence."
Council members who have or will have children in school, such as Vicki Barnett or Chris McRae, and those on the other end of the cycle, like Jerry Ellis and Barry Brickner, all wished the district well with the ballet renewal. proposal.
"Good schools do make for a

And, according to schools
Superintendent Bob Maxifeld
such support hasn't always been
automatic in the past.

"This is the first time I can
remember getting such a positive response' from the council,
Maxifeld said. "It hasn't always
been this way."

Maxifeld solid the council that
the Monday, June 11 millage
renewal is just that — and not a
millage increase. (Voters also
will elect two school board candidates to four-year terms.)

"The important message is
this is not an increase, it's a
renewal," Maxifeld said. "A

ten good value for the money."
The district maintains that, if the millage renewal is not approved, it will lose about 40 percent of its operating budget.
Those funds are crucial, school officials emphasize, because of the leveling off of enrollment (which directly impacts perpupil revenue) and with state underfunding off mandated programs such as special education an issue for all Michigan public school districts.
Meanwhile Hills Clerk Kathryn Dornan reminded voters to carefully check their voter registration cards before going out to the polls between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on June 11.
Dornan – who can be reached t(248) 473-9560 – said there are separate sets of precincts for city elections and school elections. "Make sure you know where you are supposed to go."

## Farmington drivers ride in bus rodeo

At rodeos, you're sure to find lariats, cowboy hats, bucking horses and bulls. But that want the case at the one at Northville High School Saturday, It was orange comes and burrels and 65-passenger school buses as driver from school districts in Wayne and Oakland counties competed for regional honors in the 2001 Michigan School Bus Championship.

regional honors in the 2001 Michigan School Bus Championship.

Two Farmington Schools drivers, Suc Near and sub Kelly Jasinski, didn't win any awards, but both said they had a great time enjoyed participating.

Tit's a lot of fun and it's really something they do on a daily basis, said Mike Schuster, director of transportation for the Garden City Public Schools. Tits a way to show people what they do and give them more confidence in our drivers by seeing what they do.

"A lot of people don't have an idea of what these people go through to be acknool bus drivers. They're screened even more than teachers."

The regional School Bus Roadee was open to bus drivers in 28 comes of the control of the school bus Radeeven open to bus drivers in 28 comes of the control of the drivers in 28 comes of the drivers in 28 comes

eo was open to bus drivers in 28 Oakland County and 31 Wayne County school districts as well as consultants and private com-

were provided by the Birming-ham and Bloomfield Hills school districts.

After a pre-trip check of the buses to make sure they were safe, the drivers tested the skills they've developed in transport-ing students everyday.

"It's quite an involved driving test," said Dennis Gregory, Van Buren transportation supervi-sor. There's a wide variety of events that are pretty involved. They're set up on a driving course. It's a low-speed event. Planning for the readee began last October and involved trans-portation representatives from

portation representatives from throughout the two counties. Gregory was among those work-

panies that provide student transportation.

Pragging rights this year went to Alysia Smith of the Van Buren School District who anaged first-place. Second-place went to Kathy Helfrich of the Livonia Public Schools, while third was Rilla Wright of Trinity Transportation.

The trio will represent the region at the state competition in Midland on June 20.

Eighty-three drivers took the written test, but of that group only 76 decided to continue on with the driving competition. Their buses - all 1995 65-passenger Freightline/Thomas buses culpped with air brakes-were provided by the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school districts.

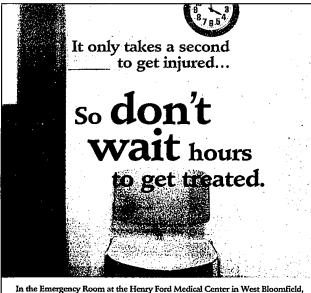
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their awareness to their sur-roundings.
"A transportation director's biggest fear is that the drivers get tunnel vision. With this, we see how different things come into play while driving a school bus."



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