

## School from page A1

caught the eye of Jeannette Penny, a mother of three, who, after driving past it, called the Farmington Observer. Penny, a 1978 graduate of North Farmington High School, still lives in Farmington Hills with her husband, Mark, and their three sons.

Two attend preschool at Fairview Early Childhood Center in Farmington Hills; one is a Wooddale second grader.

"It moved me to tears," Penny said. "It's just a beautiful thing. Just looking at it brought it all home for me. It's a beautiful expression of how we feel today. My boys are always admiring the rock. It's never inappropriate."

Likewise, Penny never sees anybody in the process of paint-

ing it and that's sparked her curiosity. "It's like what my Grandma said about Jack Frost," she said, referring to an imaginary character credited with leaving behind wintry designs on frost-covered windows.

On the return trip home Wednesday, Penny noticed the numbers 9-11 on the rock which gave her start. Then she saw the date in its entirety, 9-11-01 and realized its symbolism. "It's kind of freaky," she said, adding the numbers refer to an emergency.

These highschoolers are "next in charge," Penny said. "They are most vulnerable for a draft (into the armed services). I feel so bad for all of us. It's so dog-gone sad. We'll get through all this."

## FHS students organize ribbon fund-raiser

By SUE BUCK  
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Farmington High School students are redefining "community service" in light of the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

They wasted no time in approaching Kim Dwyer, a social studies teacher, about setting up a fund for donations to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. She was deeply touched by their outpouring of compassion.

"I was in tears," Dwyer said. The Leadership in Student Groups class, new this year, showed their determination from the start. By the end of the school day Wednesday, they put together red, white and blue ribbons pinned to a card that read, "Wear this ribbon to show your support as an American for the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedies."

The fundraiser was ready to go by the start of the school open house that evening. The result: \$1,500. By Friday, that figure had climbed to \$3,000.

"One parent donated \$200," Dwyer said. "A student reached into his pocket and pulled out everything he had — 50 cents."

Linzi Roberts, a senior, and Danny Preston, a junior, carried cans for donations Thursday after an hour-long segment of SMART (Student Managed Academic Resource Time).

"We feel kind of helpless,"

Roberts said. "You have to be 17 to give blood. Half the student body can't give blood."

Preston agreed. "This makes you feel better that you did the day it (the attacks) happened."

Farmington High School Principal John Barrett was surprised at the level of turnout for the impromptu gathering. Students from CARE (Caring And Reaching Everyone), a volunteer group committed to doing fund-raisers, were also present.

"We thought a few do-gooder kids would show up," Barrett said. "Instead, 200 did."

CARE wants to launch a new community service program that would allow students to wear an honor chord at commencement if they complete a total 50 hours of community service during their high school career, according to Lisa Sievert, a social studies teacher.

A study hall period was canceled to give students an opportunity to think of caring ways and fundraising opportunities to further help the relief effort.

Both Sievert and Dwyer led the brainstorming sessions. They needed an applause meter to rank the myriad ideas.

Marisa Palanca, a sophomore, favored a local band concert.

Students supported that idea, a karaoke night, T-shirt sale, "renting" an under or upper classroom, food sales, glow stick sales, a pet wash and a dunk tank. They were less enthused about a silent auction and lawn work suggestions.



Split: North Farmington students gather around a rock that was painted to commemorate Tuesday's tragedy.

## Hills approves brownfield

By KEVIN BROWN  
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Efforts to upgrade the so-called "triangle project" area bordered by Northwestern Highway, Fourteen Mile and Orchard Lake roads got a boost from the Farmington Hills City Council Sept. 10.

At that regular meeting, council approved the first of three phases of a plan to develop the area, conceived by retail developer Grand Sakwa Properties. Council approved establishment of a brownfield redevelopment zone and the adoption of a brownfield plan.

This Phase I project area is centered in the Clairview Street area, along the east portion of the triangle.

Council approved creation of a brownfield redevelopment zone for phase 1 of the project. This allows Grand Sakwa to seek single business tax credits in the area to offset cleanup costs, as provided for under state law.

The state defines a brownfield as an area where ground contamination has occurred, or is suspected. The purpose of the law is to encourage development of brownfields by making tax breaks available to developers who seek to clean up these areas.

Before 1949, the 89.2 acre parcel, which includes all three project phases, was primarily used for agriculture. Between 1949

and 1967, brake and collision shops and gas stations located along Northwestern Highway, and houses were built south of the highway.

Underground gas storage tanks have been removed from the commercial area. One or more residential properties likely used storage tanks for heating oil, according to an overview of the property condition prepared by city attorneys Dean & Fulkerson.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has conducted tests and documented the presence of hazardous substances in soil and groundwater — benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes among them.

The likely next step in the development process would be the presentation of a site plan to the city planning commission. The property is zoned to allow retail, office, residential and hotels. City officials say they expect the project to center on retail development.

While state law provides brownfield developers the ability to seek tax increment financing to develop these properties, the city's brownfield authority chose not to offer it. That's because the land, while contaminated, is still a prime development area and attractive to developers, city officials say.

A Grand Sakwa project manager could not be reached for comment.

## BUSINESS NEWS

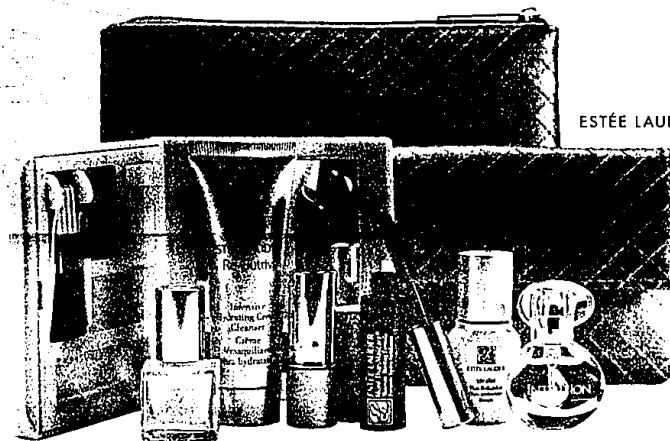
Healthy Touch Massage is celebrating the Grand Opening of its new office at 32595 Grand River, between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads.

The new massage facility has four treatment rooms and specializes in relaxation, deep tissue, trigger point, hot stone and Belavi Face Lift massage. Healthy Touch Massage also provides out-call therapeutic

massage for guests of hotels such as the Ritz Carlton.

According to Melanie Parker, owner and a certified massage therapist, "Healthy Touch massage concentrates on attending to each client's specific needs."

The hours of operation will be Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are preferred.



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