

Falcon fund-raiser slated Nov. 16

The Falcon Society of Farmington High School will host "Thru the Years," a gala dinner dance and auction, to raise funds for school improvement projects.

■ When: Friday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m.
 ■ Where: Vladimir's, 28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills
 ■ Cost: \$50, includes dinner, drinks and

entertainment
 ■ Deadline: Oct. 31

Checks made payable to Farmington High School can be mailed to 32000 Shinawassee, Farmington, MI 48336.
 For information, call ticket coordinator Linda Hellebuyck, 478-5048.

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEWILDER
 New venture: Robert and RaeAnn Mooney are the new owners of F-stop Photography Center in Farmington Hills.

Say cheese!

New owners open shop at F-stop

BY KEVIN BROWN
 STAFF WRITER
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Part-time professional photographer Robert Mooney "just loves the business," said wife RaeAnn, and that's why the couple bought the F-stop Photography Center.

The Mooneys bought the shop from long-time owner Wayne Loder on Aug. 31. They opened Sept. 5, and plan a grand opening event in October.

"I just have an interest in the gadgets and the cameras," said Mooney, a long time F-stop customer.

Mooney bought his first camera at age 13, "with my snow-plow money," he said.

He was initially interested in photographing nature scenes and landscapes. "My parents bought me some darkroom stuff when I was 15," Mooney

recalled. By the next year, he was photographing his first wedding.

While he is a full-time engineer with Inter Automotive, an auto industry supplier, Mooney has continued to work part-time photographing weddings and family portraits. He has also been getting into senior photo work.

Mooney said that service sets his shop apart from the big retailers who sell cameras.

"When you go into a Best Buy or a Costco, there's the camera and if you don't know how to operate it, you're out of luck. There's no one to interface with."

Mooney said he'll have the time to show customers camera operations and answer questions, and adds he'll offer classes "a couple of times a month, so they can use the camera to its full ability."

It's typical for those getting serious about photography to be interested in single-lens reflex cameras, in the \$100-\$300 range. Mooney carries all the major brands, including new lighter models made of polycarbonates.

Besides the photo processing, other services F-stop Photography offers include transfer of slide photos to prints and eight millimeter to VHS tape, passport photos, and the transfer of film to computer disc and photo prints to CD.

Other services include enlargements and access to Kodak Custom Photofinishing.

The Mooneys have three children. RaeAnn, who enjoys nature photography, said the couple would like to continue running the shop after Robert retires.

C'ville students fall in with state peers

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
 STAFF WRITER
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Clarenceville students can write, read and solve math problems near or slightly above the ability of those their age statewide.

Like their state peers, they continue to be befuddled by science and social studies, according

to recently released MEAP results.

Students in grades four, five, seven and eight were tested in those subjects on the annual exam, which is administered to gauge the state's \$14 billion investment in public education.

District officials are enthused with the substantial improvement in fourth- and seventh-

grade reading scores from the previous year.

"Some of our improvements have been dramatic," said Barb Church, director of curriculum and instruction. "Other scores are showing small but steady growth in areas where the state averages have declined."

Although students took the tests in January and February, the state didn't release results until last week.

The delay stemmed from an investigation into possible irregularities in 67 districts. Most of those named were later cleared. Clarenceville district, which includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford, was not part of the investigation.

In math, Botsford and Grandview fourth graders finished on par with other districts statewide. Of 150 pupils who took the test, 103 - or 73 percent - scored satisfactory. The state average was 72 percent.

District fourth graders finished ahead of their state peers in reading with 89 of 148 students - or 67 percent - achieving satisfactory. Sixty percent passed the same exam statewide. The performance marked a 12-percentage-point increase over last year's score.

Clarenceville Middle School seventh graders finished slightly below the state average in reading. Seventy-six of 138 students - or 55 percent - passed, which is off the state mark of 60 percent. That marked a 19-point improvement over last year.

Those same students kept pace with others statewide in writing as 91 of 138 showed proficiency. The state passing rate was 68 percent.

Eighth graders also made substantial strides in writing with 107 of 157 - or 68.5 percent - reaching proficiency. Last year, just 47 percent of district eighth graders passed.

Fifth- and eighth-grade science scores were anemic. In fifth grade, 32 percent met the state objective, while 25 percent of eighth graders passed.

Just 13 percent of district fifth graders met the state standard in the controversial MEAP social studies exam, which educators complain is too difficult for elementary students. The state average of fifth graders passing was 19 percent.