

THE WEEK AHEAD

Block grant hearing: Farmington City Council will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5, to discuss the 2002-2003 Community Development Block Grant, projected by Oakland County to be \$33,529. The preliminary recommendation is that the council consider allocating about \$16,764 for senior services, \$11,735 for code enforcement and \$5,030 for administration. The meeting agenda also includes a video presentation on the sewer ballot issue.

TUESDAY

VOTE: Polls in Farmington and Farmington Hills open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Precinct maps are on page A3.

Farmington School Board: On the 7:30 p.m. agenda is a report from Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, a report on Wood Creek Elementary and presentation of the District's 2000/2001 Annual Report. The board will also be asked to approve the non-unit employee group compensation recommendation and award a bid for district copiers. Held at the Lewis B. Schulmann Administrative Center, 32500 Shiloh Road in Farmington, the meeting is open to the public.

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Kick-2-3-4



Practice kicks: Krystle Richeson (pictured below left and above, second from left) practices in perfect formation with the Rockettes for their holiday show at the Fox Theater in Detroit. The North Farmington High graduate's mother, Sam, was also a Rockette in 1969.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAEGLER

Family tradition

Rockette takes mom's place in line

BY KEVIN BROWN
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In a lavender leotard, blond Krystle Richeson, 19, makes a living perfecting flick kicks and synchronizing her ba-BOMP with 17 other Radio City Rockettes.



The North Farmington High School grad will perform for the second straight Christmas season at the Fox Theater in Detroit, as a member of the famous precision dance troupe.

It means that once again, Krystle will be following in the dance shoes of her mother, Sam Richeson, who was also a Rockette in 1969. When Krystle told her mother she'd become a Rockette, "She was elated, very excited."

The old antique wall clock is stopped at a quarter to two. But it's really 11 a.m. as Krystle Richeson moves across the aged hardwood gym floor of the drill room above the Masonic Auditorium. She and the other Rockettes are taking a break from dancing with colorful four-foot prop candy canes. "They're heavy," Krystle says.

Besides candy canes, other show props are set along one end of the gym - oversized alphabet blocks and a wide staircase. Rehearsals are six hours per day, six days a week. During the show run, there are two to three performances daily.

Krystle started taking dance at age 3, at her mother's urging. "I studied tap, ballet, jazz," she said. The family moved from Virginia to Farmington Hills before she started ninth grade. "In high school, I was dancing 40 to 50 hours a week."

It was around this time when an experience in a New York dance workshop made Richeson realize she had a special talent. "The teacher

Please see ROCKETTE, A2



Missing man sparks mystery

■ Police believe a missing Hills man may have been murdered and his body hauled away in a wooden trunk. They have a suspect, but no body.

BY KEVIN BROWN
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A missing man was likely murdered Oct. 20 in his upscale Farmington Hills home by someone he knew, say police who found blood splattered in the victim's home and minivan.

Farmington Hills police are searching for Gordon Macheck, 55, a retired DaimlerChrysler designer active in local charities.

Police are also searching for a trunk taken from Macheck's cedar shake-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAEGLER

Posted: "Keep out" and "No trespassing" signs are posted on the missing-man's property.

shingled home, set in a wooded lot featuring a metal outdoor sculpture, on 13 Mile between Northwestern and Inkster Road.

Displayed at each end of the circular driveway of the home, facing the groomed fairways of Franklin Hills Golf Club, are signs reading, "Warning: These premises protected by electronic security devices" and "Keep out."

"It's rather shocking," said Woodcreek Farms Civic Association vice president Byron Siegel. The association has more than 300 families. "It's certainly uncharacteristic. Our community is so laid back and so tightly knit, if something of this nature did occur it is highly unusual."

Siegel recalled Macheck participating in some of the association's activities, which include a family fun day, an adult picnic and holiday party in December. "He was a nice guy, very nice - like everybody in our neighborhood."

Macheck was reported missing Oct. 27 by his roommate after he failed to

Please see MISSING, A5

Hills voters will elect mayor, three on council

BY KEVIN BROWN
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Farmington Hills voters won't be bothered with ballot proposals, referendums, or millage questions Nov. 6.

All they'll have to do is select three city council members and a mayor to lead the city the next two years. Voters in 1999 were faced with a slate of candidates and five charter questions.

Running for mayor are incumbent Nancy Bates and challenger Ron Oliverio. Council candidates are: incumbents Jerry Ellis, Jon Grant and Cheryl Oliverio; and challengers Randy Bruce, Jess Elson, Ken Massey and Robert Monroe Webster.

City Clerk Kathy Dorman said she's noticed more enthusiasm about this local election, compared to two years ago.

"There's more interest in the absentee, so I think that means a little more interest at the polls," she said.

Dorman said that in 1999, 18 percent of Hills voters showed at the polls. She predicts another 18 percent turnout of the city's 56,000 registered voters.

Absentee voters are urged to bring in ballots soon as possible, and no later than 8 p.m. Monday. Voters who still seek to vote absentee can seek to do so

up until 4 p.m. Monday at the counter of the clerk's office in city hall, 31555 11 Mile.

Polls are open for regular voting Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Election results will be broadcast on cable TV Channel 8 starting at 8 p.m. Dorman predicts election results will be complete by around 10 p.m.

Sewer issue, incumbents on Farmington ballot

BY SUE BUCK
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City of Farmington voters go to the polls Tuesday to decide a sewer repair issue and elect three council members in an uncontested race.

Voters are asked to authorize borrowing a maximum of \$1.8 million to finance a sewer repair project. If voters approve, current millage costs would be .34 mill or \$34 a year on a home that is valued at or sells for \$200,000.

The cost would be assessed against property and payment is usually federally tax deductible, depending on the

filing status of the property taxpayer, according to city information.

Rejection of the plan means the cost of construction may need to be assessed against sewer rates and payment will not be federally tax deductible.

If the "stitch-in-time adage" is used, Farmington city officials hope residents will approve this plan to rehabilitate and restore the aging Farmington interceptor sewer early, with a cost-saving, cured-in-place plastic liner method. The liner serves to bolster the integrity of the sanitary sewer walls. A smoother wall created by the resin

allows for more efficient flow-through and can possibly add 60 years of sewer life, officials said.

This would be in lieu of complete sewer restoration.

"You can imagine the disruption if we had to open all that up," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauffhoff in early discussions. The city used the cured-in-place method on similar projects.

Engineering studies revealed serious deterioration problems in the linking interceptor, which runs for four miles from Farmington to Detroit. The \$2.5 million total construction cost will be

reduced further with application of \$.5 million from the city's Water and Sewer fund and \$165,000 from the Oakland County Water Infrastructure Fund.

Federal financial assistance is still pending and may further reduce the cost of construction and tax burden.

In April, Lauffhoff made a pitch for federal assistance when both U. S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing) and Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills) visited the council. Money hasn't been forthcoming.

Please see VOTE, A3

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