

# Hills FD looking for a few good people

By PAUL R. PACE  
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The Farmington Hills Fire Department is looking for a few good people interested in becoming paid, on-call firefighters.

A 7 p.m. Feb. 11 information recruitment meeting is taking place at the Fire Department Headquarters at Orchard Lake Road, just south of 11 Mile. Candidates must be at least 18 years old.

"It's a good, part-time job," said Fire Chief Rich Marinucci.

"It's a chance to give back to the community, maybe even save someone's life."

Paid, on-call firefighters are vital to the community, the chief said. "Without them we can't provide the protection we can."

"We will interview candidates," Marinucci said. "We provide all the training up to paramedic level."

There are about five paid, on-call firefighters at each station. "We'd like to get that number up considering it takes time for training and they need to get in

a good year's experience before they can function," Marinucci said.

The department pays for all training and offers other benefits such as worker's compensation and supplemental insurance. The starting pay rate is \$12.66 per hour and step increases tops the hourly pay to \$18.18.

Willing participants must pass an agility test.

The chief noted most fire calls are for medical emergencies and injury accidents.

## Train to listen for frogs, toads

Help monitor the health of the Rouge River by listening for frogs and toads in your neighborhood. It's easy, fun and important to the future of our environment.

Training sessions are being conducted by the Friends of the Rouge. Registration is required. Call (313) 792-9621 or e-mail pcoordinator@therouge.org.

At the training, folks will get the information they need to know to recognize the calls of

frogs and toads and record their presence or absence.

The sessions are:  
■ 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.

■ 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Southfield Center for the Arts, 24360 Southfield Rd. Southfield.

■ 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 Main

Street, Plymouth.

■ 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation, 4640 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

■ 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Park, Canton.

■ 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 9, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

## Challenge features creative teams

Farmington Public Schools will host the 19th annual Destination Imagination Local Showcase 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 19 at Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee.

This is an opportunity to watch the Destination Imagination

teams present creative solutions to challenges.

Teams from the following schools will be presenting: Eagle, Gill, Hillside, Kenbrook, Longacre and Wooddale Elementary Schools, Highmeadow Common Campus, Our Lady of Sor-

rows, St. Fabian and East/Dunckel Middle Schools.

For more information call the DELTA Department at Farmington High School, (248)489-3399.

—Sue Buck

## Libraries from page A1

an, who challenges his 7th graders to think of an idea that would change the world.

Trevor's plan: Instead of "paying back" a favor, pay it forward. Do something for three people they couldn't do for themselves, asking them each to do the same for three others.

In two weeks, Trevor figured 4,782,959 people would have paid it forward.

Though it comes from a work of fiction, the idea has caught on nation-wide. The Pay It Forward Foundation ([www.payitforward-foundation.org](http://www.payitforward-foundation.org)) promotes classroom projects, with information provided to educators about potential activities.

While the idea is appropriate for younger students, even the author says the book is not. She publicly urges parents to get involved in any "Pay It Forward" projects.

Weiss said the on-line chat will likely be through a message board, where readers can post their impressions about the book and the thoughts and ideas it engenders.

"It's really to encourage people to read," she said. "We chose a book that would appeal to young adults on up. We're hoping families will participate."

For more information, call 248-553-0300 or visit the library.



**Voice-activated:**  
Pictured are (left to right): Mary Jane Wolfe, John Shalhoub, Farmington Elks Exalted Ruler and the Wells daughters, Jo Jo, Vanessa, and Nicholle. Vanessa received a voice-activated computer that will help her with school work.

## Elks donate computer to local student

There will be a brighter future for Vanessa Wells, a student at Harrison High School thanks to the Farmington Elks and the Michigan Elks Major Projects.

Wells has a neurological form of Multiple Sclerosis that has her wheelchair-bound with limited use of her hands. Unfortunately, the computer she was using for her school work crashed, and she needed a replacement that was voice activated.

Wells' mother, Mary, is a single mother with three daughters. She contacted Mary Jane Wolfe, the Farmington Elks chaplain and chairperson for major projects and got immediate action.

Wells received a new voice activated Hewlett Packard computer thanks to the Farmington Elks and the Michigan Elks Major Projects.

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**ROBY MITCHELL, MD, PhD**

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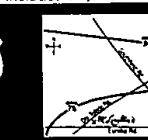
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