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OUR TOWNS

# Family: Teen's sentence 'a joke'

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

A 17-year-old Farmington Hills boy, who pleaded guilty to two counts of vehicular manslaughter of two Farmington Hills residents last year, was sentenced to probation by an Oakland County Circuit Court judge.

Family members still grieving their loss are calling the sentence "a joke." Killed in the April accident were Barbara Gorzek, 68, and her husband, Gerald Gorzek, 76. They were returning to their condominium from Detroit, where they were volunteer ushers at the Fox Theatre. Police estimated the speed of the

Camaro in excess of 80 mph at the time of impact. The boy was 16 at the time of the accident and a student at North Farmington High School. Police say he was drag racing his Chevrolet Camaro against another Camaro driver south of 14 Mile on Orchard Lake when he crashed into an elderly couple's car, who were turning

left into their condominium entrance. The driver of the other Camaro, an 18-year-old West Bloomfield man, is awaiting a jury trial on two counts of vehicular manslaughter in Oakland County Circuit Court. His car was not involved in the impact.

PLEASE SEE SENTENCE, A5

## Tree leaves

The owners of a five-acre farm site at Drake and 13 1/2 Mile roads will be moving a 36-inch black locust tree within the next few days. The tree, which is on the east edge of Drake, has been designated an historic tree by Farmington Hills, but it is in the way of a new subdivision that will be built on the farm site. Rather than cut the tree,



the properly owner has committed to have it moved, at great expense, said landscape architect James Ludwig of Farmington Hills-based Ludwig and Associates. The tree's new home will be in the cul-de-sac of the new, five-lot community.

## Cheer for HFHS

Congratulations are in order for the North Farmington JV cheerleaders, who received an at-large bid to the UCA National Cheerleading Competition at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

They will leave Feb. 6 for a competition to be held Feb. 9 against JV teams from across the country.

## Open auditions

The Orchard Ridge Theater Company of Oakland Community College will hold open auditions for the classical comedy *A Company of Wayward Saints* by George Herman. Auditions begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, in the Smith Theater of the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

Performance dates are April 9-12 in the Smith Theater. All shows begin at 8 p.m.

For more information, call (248) 522-3595.

## OLS fund-raiser

The Our Lady of Sorrows Parent-Teacher Guild will host its annual auction fund-raiser at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. This year's theme, The Snowed Inn Auction, is the only fund-raiser the OLS Parent-Teacher Guild sponsors each year.

More than 200 guests are expected to arrive at Our Lady of Sorrows' Family Center for the school's auction. This year's winter social will benefit the second annual OLS Eighth-Grade Scholarship Program and the Technology Enhancement Fund.

For information, call Pam Pudat, auction chairwoman, at (248) 661-4708 or log onto the Our Lady of Sorrows Web site: www.olsorrows.com

## Hills firm picked for pita diet

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Losing weight can actually be fun, especially if there's a little competition involved.

Just ask the 10 folks in the sales department at the Johnson & Johnson sales office in Farmington Hills.

They volunteered to enter the Mr. Pita's restaurant contest. Six metro area offices are competing to see who collectively loses the most weight after a month of munching Mr. Pita's low-fat sandwiches.

The chain will provide lunch during the work week for the participants.

The six companies were selected from among nearly 100 entries.

Keith Woodhouse, director of the customer development team at



Bill Bessler | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The staff at Johnson & Johnson in Farmington Hills digs into a low-fat lunch with Mr. Pita.

PLEASE SEE PITA, A5

## Council may shed light on time issue

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

A policy regarding how long citizens have to address the Farmington Hills City Council has been put on hold while administrators investigate involving a little technology.

Officials have had ongoing discussions about the length of time allowed during the "public comment" portion of their meetings. At a goal-setting meeting the council held last month, Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said the policy should be approved by the council and not just the mayor.

She said as soon as the policy was enacted by the mayor last year, a person was allowed to exceed the limit of three minutes for non-agenda items. Mayor Nancy Bates said she thought it was her job to control the

PLEASE SEE TIME, A5

## Planners seek Main Street volunteers

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Finding more volunteers is important to the success of the Main Street program, a recently awarded technical assistance grant for the City of Farmington and its Downtown Development Authority District.

"The DDA does not have a track

record for involving volunteers in projects and should take advantage of this valuable resource," said Oakland County planners who worked on a recently released needs assessment report. They included:

■ Nick Kalogeresta, National Main Street Center program associate

■ Bob Donohue, principal planner with the Oakland County Planning and

Economic Development Services Division and the program coordinator for Main Street Oakland County

■ Russ Lewis, a registered architect and principal planner with the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services Division who is primarily responsible for overseeing the

PLEASE SEE VOLUNTEERS, A5



Bill Bessler | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kenneth Edward Semak of Redford Township was arraigned Friday on charges related to a fatal traffic accident in Farmington Hills.

## Attorney says driver in fatal accident 'did not do it'

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Scott Johncox said his brother Mark was a loving husband and father who lived life to the fullest and cared for others.

"He will be sorely missed," he said.

Mark Johncox, 39, of Wayne was killed Jan. 21 in a single vehicle accident on Inkster Road, just north of Eight Mile.

His twin brother James of Farmington Hills and younger brother Daniel, 29, from Romulus, suffered serious injuries, police said. They were

passengers in the back seat of the Chevrolet Camaro. Mark Johncox was a passenger in the front seat of the vehicle.

Scott Johncox and two other brothers not involved in the accident attended the arraignment Friday of the man charged with causing their brother's death.

The driver of the Camaro, Kenneth Edward Semak, 33, of Redford Township, was charged with six counts related to the accident. Semak appeared in Farmington's 47th District

PLEASE SEE FATAL, A5

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