Local resident pens community history School officials may link grades, attendance

A langtime Farmington resident has contributed the latest installment in a series of history books that document the making of America. Debra Ann Pawlakis book on the history of Farmington and Farmington IIII like spart of Arreadla Publishings Making of America series, which celebrates individual communities and their unique contributions to the country's character. Pawlak, a free-lance writer and systems analyst for Blue Cross Blue Shield, has specialized in writing history-related works for the past several years.

works for the past several years.

For some reason, I've fallen into a history niche," said the mother of two grown children. I'belong to an online writers group, and a woman in the group told me Arcadia Publishing was looking for history authors.

After Pawlak contacted representatives from Arcadia Publishing, they sent her a guide to help create a book proposal. The guide outlined wint the company was looking for in terms of information.

Like many residents, she Farmington-area history before undertaking the proj-



Debra Ann Pawlak penned the Farmington and Farmington Hills installment of the 'Mcking of America' series.

ect, which she worked on for

about a year.

"The only thing (Areadia) told me was: They were looking for where was the community during national events? nity during national events? ...
The Depression, the Civil War,"
Pawlak said. "It was kind of

Pawlak asid. 'It was kind of interesting.'
She and her husband Michael chose to live in Farmington shortly after the married. They were particularly taken with Twin Valley Court and waited until a hone came up for as do in that area. The Pawlaks raised their children, Rachel, a graduate of the University of Michigan-

Dearborn, and Jonathon, in his second year as a U of M stu-dent, in that house, Both chil-dren attended Farmington schools and are Farmington High graduates

The control and are Farthington High graduates. Over the past 26 years, Iawlak said, she must have driven past the Governor Warner Mansion on Grand River a million times, but never really knew much about its nameaske. I'didn't even know what he looked like, she admitted, diding she was fascinated by many Farmington historical squres, like John Power, son of Farmington founder Arthur Power.

over. Pawlak gives a great deal of Pawlak gives a great deal of credit to a team of people who helped her put the book together. Peggy Brand, who oversees the historical collection at the Farmignton Community Library, provided heavith tons of materials. I would tell her what era I way looking for and she would put the information for me. Pawlak said, Work on the book west on over the summer months, when the main library brahels was closed for reconstruction. Honna Ellis scanned old

struction.

Tonna Ellis scanned old photos, which took on a life of their own.

Often, even the smallest picture.

tures would reveal startling details - like the shot of a

young girl who appeared to be holding a school bag. An enlargement revealed the bag was actually a young boy. Her friends, I land Wells and Therease Kushulr, helped with organization; Wells even documented all the photos on a spreadsheet.

Thearned you have to find people who can do things you can't, and then let them do it, Pawiak said.

can't, and then let them do it," Pawiak said.

As the Tarmington history book took shape, the mountains of material began organizing themselves into a story that has changed the way Pawiak looks at the community in which she lives.

In her acknowledgments, she writes, "Even though I couldn't cover every single person or event in one book, I tried to hit the highlights. As a result, I sincerely hope that you, too, will see things around you a little differently, and maybe some of you will be inspired to do some research of your own."

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A revised student code of conduct policy is under consideration and will be presented at the 5:30 p.m. May 20 Farmington Public Schools committee meeting.

The pre-meeting is scheduled to deal with this and other policy issues. The regular 7:30 p.m. school board meeting follows.

p.m. school board meeting fol-lows.

The revised policy is expect-ed to include a rewritten sec-tion on attendance that could specify adjusted semester grades for unexcused absences. The intent is to recognize and give credit to students who are appropriately not missing school; said Farmington Schools Deputy Superintendent Sue Zurvalec. Both Zurvalec and Harrison Principal Rande Horn men-tioned the upcoming policy

ent information meeting at Harrison.

"Before the grade is reduced, there is a series of notifica-tions," Zuryalec said.

Details were to be worked out this week with legal coun-sel, ahe said.

House there to fur years, the

sel, she said.

"Every three to five years, the district reviews its Student Code of Conduct," Zurvalee

d. We're still finalizing it. The

ever e sun manizing it. The details may change." Further discussion of student attendance is expected. Copies are expected to be provided to PTA representatives for their review.

review.
Harrison parents can give input about the conduct policy at the May 12 Parent Forum, the huilding's secondary level pra

PTA.
Parents with questions can call Zurvalec at (248) 489-3356.

Hills PD receives Governor's award

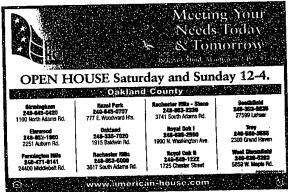
The Farmington Hills Police Department received the Governor's Trafile Safety Advisory Commission's sward for the department's long-term commitment to trafile safety. The award was presented Wednesday at the eighth annual Michigan Trafile Safety Summit held in Grand

Rapids.
The Governor's Commission

indicates the award, named after former Secretary of State Richard Austin, recognizes the outstanding contributions the department has made in work-ing with the community it

ing with the command a serves. Police Chief William Dwyer said, 'I'm extremely proud of this acknowledgment. It rec-ognizes the department's and the community's cooperative

efforts that are crucial to ensuring the highest levels of traffic safety possible. Entiries for the award were judged by representatives of the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission. The Farmington Hills department was chosen from the numerous agencies that were nominated for this year's recognition.



Volunteers helping with Christmas in **April**

This Saturday, more than 100 people in the Farmington area will be rolling up their sleeves to help fix up six homes in coordination with the Oaldand County Christmas in April

event.

Recause of the Easter holiday, the volunteer work day is post-poned to May 3.

Rick Lampi, community development coordinator with the city of Farmington Hills, is organizing the event along with members from Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

Methodist Church in Parmington Hills. The volunteers are teaming up to make improvements to homes owned by disabled and/or senior citteens not able to financially or physically keep up their homes. Farmington Hills a among nine Oakland County commu-nities participating in the event.





