



Elana Cocke is one of the Village People Readers.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## BOOKS

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competition for sixth- through eighth-graders in the Farmington, Farmington Hills area.

The organizers select 10 books for the students to read and the students make groups of four to six members who challenge other groups in answering questions correctly about the books that were selected.

Area schools' media specialists help with testing the teams in the semi-finals.

Each team has its members dress up in costumes that relate to their team name, Battle said.

"The enthusiasm and excitement



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Jeanette Carlisle, Leah Stillman and Lauren Herly of the Viking Chicks team concentrate on getting another correct answer during the Battle of the Books.

is incredible," Battle said.

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## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS WINNERS

**Grand Champions** - Pixie Chicks, St. Fabian's School - Candice Yono, DJ Heebner, Molly Svec, Michelle Pitt, Alyssa Moskala and Jenny Baker

**Second Place - Tie**  
■ Palm Readers, St. Fabian's School - Wendy Ross, Laila DeSouza, Erin Maly and Sam Rinke

■ Renaissance Readers, Our Lady of Sorrows School - Haley Cavanaugh, Abby Wright, Krista Kulesa, Kevin Burke, Meagan Giovanni and Alyssa Clapala.

**Third Place - Tie**  
■ Book Worms, Our Lady of Sorrows School - Shelby Sawyer, Kelsey Hering, Amanda Popola, Brenelle Sommo, Rachael Kassa and Jenna Zeller.  
■ Storybook Surgeons, Dunckel

**Middle School** - Jeremy Rowe Ravi Pinnamaneni, Inn Manuszak and Sean Pickard

**Costume Champions**

**First Place**  
Itty Bitty Book Committee, St. Fabian's School - Selina Sarmiento, Lilliana Sarmiento, Gabby Gardner, Chrissy Audette and Melania Samona

**Second Place**  
Palm Readers, St. Fabian's School - Wendy Ross, Laila DeSouza, Erin Maly and Sam Rinke

**Third Place**  
Tomb Readers, East Middle School - Kriston Stack, Elise Grinberga, Molly Zecher, Zosia Castorlino, Laura Gaines and Melinda Kshat

## CHANGE

FROM PAGE A1

### TWO DOWNTOWNS

There are two distinct downtowns in Farmington, Ferres said. One is where people live and play, with a beautiful historic residential area. The other is the Downtown Farmington Center at Grand River and Farmington roads. At the shopping center people go to the businesses and then drive away after shopping, never venturing into other parts of the downtown area.

Ferres concluded that the downtown lacks "a heart" and often the intersection of Grand River and Farmington roads is referenced instead.

"You want people to remember the good things," Ferres said.

Parking is an issue for some retailers. "There's a mass of parking on the south end which nobody uses," Ferres said.

In looking at parking in the northwest quadrant downtown, Ferres noted that everyone has their own independent lots. People put garbage cans and dumpsters there to separate the lots as barriers.

"Nobody wants to share their parking," Ferres said. "You need to get everybody together and take those barriers down. You need to move those cars back onto the main road. There's inefficiency with those little, isolated cells."

Ferres advised a reduction in curb cuts to make it a more pedestrian-oriented downtown.

Traffic calming techniques can help, he said.

Ferres called Orchard and Grove "dead streets."

Outdoor seating is advantageous, after businesses have obtained clearance from the city and provided accessibility to the disabled, Ferres said.

The downtown strip mall owned by Kimpo, a landlord, holds that area "hostage," he said. "This is destination point retail, makes money and works for their portfolio. As long as they keep getting their rents, they will continue performing the same way they are."

The advantages to the area is that more than one person has control of property.

No one project will tackle "all the screwy access points," he said. He isolated a specific area which could help access Shawwassee Park from downtown.

Ferres created a new blueprint layover over the present downtown map which included redevelopment opportunities south to Slocum Street.

"This is big picture thinking and not the final solution," Ferres said.

He suggested a residential development to replace the Farmington Training Center on Thomas Street, which Ferres said is utilized for training only from time to time.

The Farmington Public School District promotes the FTC as a conference center and uses it for staff offices.

"Wow, what a site to have residential overlooking that beautiful park down there," Ferres said.

A downtown master plan is something to think about and a facade improvement program can be done on a short-term basis, Ferres said.

He volunteered Brent Morgan's office on Grand River to be the first facade tackled. Morgan is the executive director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

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## MOVERS & SHAKERS

### New shareholder

David Greco of Farmington Hills has been elected to be a shareholder for the law firm of Sommers, Schwartz, Silver & Schwartz, P.C.

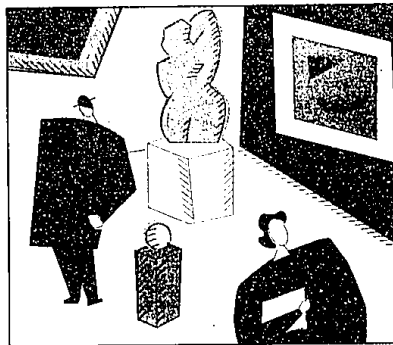
Greco, who joined Sommers Schwartz in 1994, specializes in medical malpractice, personal injury, automobile negligence, premises liability and birth trauma cases.

### New financial manager

Joan Washington has been promoted to financial manager at Hermanoff & Associates in Farmington Hills, a full service strategic communications and marketing firm. Washington was previously office manager and will now oversee the company's financial accounts.

# exhibition BIRMINGHAM

a gallery tour



Volunteer docents will provide directions and information about the galleries and their exhibits.

- Free trolley service will shuttle visitors throughout town.
- Meet artists and learn about their work.
- Many galleries will provide food and refreshments.

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May 9, 2003  
6p.m. - 9:30p.m.

Downtown  
Birmingham

Admission: FREE

- Artspace II
- Avenue Gallery
- Bloomfield Fine Arts
- Bruce White Gallery
- Cowboy Trader
- David Klein Gallery
- Gallery Nikko
- Habatat Galleries Birmingham
- Hill Gallery
- Posner Gallery
- Robert Kidd Gallery
- Yaw Gallery
- Zoom Artistic Photography

For more information and an event map, contact Downtown Birmingham Principal Shopping Center at 248-434-3570 or visit our website at [www.enjoybirmingham.com](http://www.enjoybirmingham.com)