

# Mayor gives student officials an 'A plus'

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

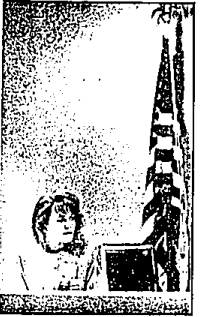
**S**TUDENTS FROM Farmington High got an inside peek into the workings of local government last week, acting as city and court officials for a day.

Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson, a former teacher and the first mayor to spend all day with the students, was impressed with this year's Student Government Day, held May 8.

"I just knew when we had our session in the morning... with all the great discussion, that kind of set the tone for the whole day," she said. "I told them afterwards, I gave them all an A plus."

Twenty-six seniors from Farmington High filled city jobs including mayor, city council members and administrative department heads as part of the annual event, designed to enhance students' knowledge of the system.

They also worked as district judges and clerks in the 47th District Court and handled newer



Regan Kronk played the role of Farmington city manager during Student Government Day at Farmington City Hall last week. She is a senior at Farmington High.

technology in cable television positions with the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

**AFTER LEARNING** about the city firsthand by working with their counterparts in the morning, students had a chance to put their knowledge to work by conducting a mock city council meeting, where council members governed and department heads offered informational reports.

Topics included the police crackdown on selling liquor to minors, information on the upcoming May 22 special sewer system improvement election, a report on the Downtown Development Authority's impact on property values, and discussion of cablecasting future city council meetings and how students might be involved.

"Just the seriousness and the good reports they gave, you can tell they benefitted from the day," Richardson said. "They gave us a few little pointers on things we can pick up on too."

Student G.T. Meili served as a Farmington councilman, and took part in preparing the agenda for the afternoon meeting. He said he "learned a lot. The whole day was really interesting."

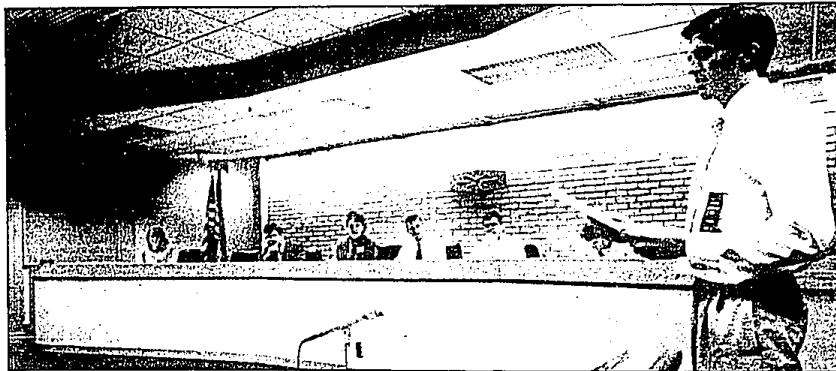
Meili said students decided they would like to see the city take a more active interest in teen activities in the evening, including possibly an area for a dance hall, and add more artistic things to the community, similar to the style in Ann Arbor.

"We also talked about extending hours in the park so people could take a walk," he said. "But then we decided it would be dark and it might be dangerous."

Students came to city hall at 9 a.m. for an orientation meeting with city staff, then worked on the job 9:30-11:45 a.m. with various of officials. A luncheon for officials and their student counterparts was hosted by the Farmington Rotary Club at the Farmington Masonic Temple, then students held their mock council meeting 1-3 p.m.

**THE PROCESS** leading up to the event is as educational as the day itself, explained Farmington High government teacher Michael Hayek.

All seniors in the Farmington



Brent Nelson, acting as administrative assistant to the city manager, briefs the mock city council on the state of grants to be used for improving city parks. In the background are City Manager Regan Kronk, councilman Colin Earles, city clerk Christine Faro, Mayor Dave Winney and council members Michael Karim and G.T. Meili. All are Farmington High students.

Public Schools are required to take one semester of government. Whether they take it the first or second semester, all those at Farmington High are eligible to participate in Student Government Day.

After studying the structure and function of local government, students are given the opportunity to run for office. To be considered for the jobs, they must select what they want to do, take out petitions, have them signed by 30 other government students, then be placed on a ballot.

All seniors at the school vote on who will represent them in the various positions for the day.

"We started doing a lot of advertising ahead of time — getting them excited," Hayek said.

Hayek credits his students' understanding of issues to several things. "I think it's kind of a combination," he said. "What they learn about city government (in class), what they read in the paper, and then Mr. (Robert) Deadman (city manager)... kind of get them moving" during Student Government Day itself.



Seniors from Farmington High are sworn in as members of the Farmington City Council last week, as they participate in the annual Student Government Day. From left, they are Dave Winney (seated) as mayor, and Michael Karim and G.T. Meili as council members.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

### ● BUSINESS BURGLARIES

Two suites at 32300 Northwestern Highway were broken into May 8-9. Two camcorders and related equipment valued at \$3,650 and a computer and a printer valued at \$600 were reported stolen.

### ● KNIFE SEIZED

A 20-year-old Farmington Hills man was arrested on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon when a butterfly knife was found in the unlocked glovebox of a car in which he was passenger.

Officers stopped the car when the driver, a 19-year-old Farmington Hills man, committed a traffic violation at Grand River and Orchard Lake Road Wednesday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### ● ALCOHOL SEIZED

Two Farmington Hills teenagers were ticketed for possessing alcohol

after beer and vodka were found in their car in the parking lot at Taco Bell, 29925 Orchard Lake Road, Thursday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### ● SUSPECTED MARIJUANA

Three Farmington Hills residents face possible drug charges after suspected marijuana and drug paraphernalia were found in their possession in a minicamper in the U-Haul parking lot, 30711 Grand River, Thursday night.

Officer Bob Tiderington noticed suspicious activity around the minicamper at 7:15 p.m. Officers confiscated suspected marijuana, a hand scale, scissors and cash from the minicamper, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### ● SCHOOL VANDALIZED

Damage was estimated at \$3,200 when North Farmington High School, 32900 13 Mile, was broken into early Friday.

Responding to an alarm at 1:35 a.m., officers found the northwest

art room windows broken. The art room was found in disarray, with papers scattered, chairs knocked over and the typewriter damaged. The hallway door windows also were broken as was the glass cover on a hallway fire extinguisher.

The windows to the outside auditorium doors also were broken. No one was seen. Detectives continued to investigate Friday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### ● BEER SEIZED

Farmington police ticketed five teenagers for transporting open intoxicants in a motor vehicle when open beer was found in a car leaving the Farmington High School parking lot after a dance Friday night.

Ticketed were two 16-year-old females from Northville and three 17-year-old males from Farmington Hills. They were stopped at Power and Grand River after the driver committed a traffic violation, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

## Keep pets from letter carriers

With the arrival of warmer weather, Farmington Postmaster Kenneth Harris has asked dog owners to help protect letter carriers, utility workers and other citizens from the dangers of dog bites.

The Postmaster said that, nationally, 3,000 letter carriers were bitten by dogs last year.

"In recent years, the public has responded to our plea to keep their

pets restrained, and we have seen a decline in bites nationally," Harris said. "Nevertheless, much is still to be done to eliminate the hazard to our employees and other citizens who might be bitten."

## Spring Strollers get an Uptown Welcome

New Welcome to Uptown pole banners have been unveiled at the kickoff to the Uptown Farmington Business Association's "Springtime Stroll" promotion.

The blue and white banners mark the business area at Grand River and Orchard Lake Road. The Uptown Farmington Center anchors the nearly 60-business area.

"Springtime Stroll," promoting a "We Want You to Get to Know Us Better" theme, runs through May 28.

As part of it, shoppers visiting participating Uptown Farmington businesses can enter a contest and vie for \$10 to \$100 in Uptown Bucks. Winners can spend the Uptown Bucks at any participating business.

The contest's grand prize is use of a Lincoln Town Car for one week, courtesy of Bob Dusseau Lincoln Mercury, Farmington.

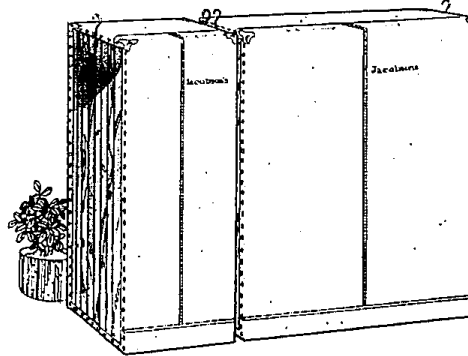
The UFBA has a \$1,930 budget for "Springtime Stroll." The drawing

will be at Framery One. Prize winners will be notified after May 29.

Other 1990 promotions include distribution of 30,000 Uptown Business Directories to local homes and participation in the Farmington-Farmington Hills Hills Founders Festival in July.

"The UFBA is to be commended for their Uptown Farmington promotion to aesthetically improve the appearance and to create a new identity in (their) end. This positive approach will make a difference," Mayor Shirley Richardson of Farmington said.

UFBA officers are: Joan Nusly (Farmery One), president; Chuck Duquet (Duquet Jewelers), vice president; Paul King (King's Garage), treasurer; Dr. John Richardson (Plaza Veterinary Hospital), board member; Linda King, secretary.

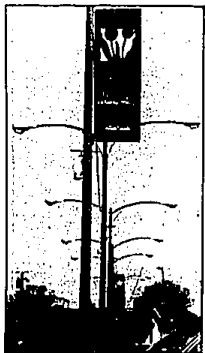


## STORE CLOTHES NATURALLY

Protect your clothes during storage. Quality, solid red cedar panels are natural insect repellents. Natural canvas protects from dust and lint. Closet units can hang or be free standing to create instant closet space. Standard/suit bag, 42x20x15", \$125. Double wide bag, 42x20x30", \$160. Not shown, under bed storage chests. Small, 25x18x7", \$50. Large, 42x20x7", \$80.

## Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard® and VISA®  
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.



New "welcome" banners adorn the parking lot of the Uptown Farmington Center.