



It's almost showtime

The cast of Farmington Mercy's "Babes in Arms," including (front row, from left) Stephanie David, Abbe Mangrulkar, Mary Gormley, Broo Sutton and Patrick Campton whoop it up during a rehearsal for the Friday-Sunday, March 27-29, production. The comedy is filled with classic Rodgers and Hart tunes. Curtain times are 8 p.m. March 27-28 and 3 p.m. March 29. For ticket information or reservations, call 476-3270.

around Farmington

All announcements for this column must be mailed to Around Farmington, Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48436.

Deadline for Around Farmington is noon Monday for the Thursday publication and noon-Thursday for the Monday publication. Requests for announcements will not be taken over the telephone.

TAX-AIDE PROGRAM

Monday, March 23: AARP tax-aide program for Senior Citizens 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Farmington Hills Senior Center, Mercy Center, 28500 W. 11 Mile Road, Gate 4, for people 60 and older sponsored by American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

TAX-AIDE PROGRAM

Friday, March 27: AARP sponsors a tax-aide program for senior citizens Fridays in Farmington Community Library, 23350 Liberty St., corner of Liberty and State Streets from Noon to 4 p.m.

ART SHOW

Through April 30: Dorothy Lawson brings to the Farmington Hills Branch Library, on 12 Mile Road, her painting on silk, collage on canvas, acrylic and watercolor monolith.

BABY BEAUTIFUL CONTEST

Farmington Area Community Women sponsors a baby beautiful contest. Proceeds go to S.I.D.S. (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). All entries must be received by April 17. For more information, call Maryann Ellis at 626-9571.



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More educational options in works

Continued from Page 1

• No transportation will be provided for elementary level students selecting a different school, except those attending the already established choice programs at Highmeadow Common Campus, year-round school at Gill Elementary and center kindergarten programs at Fairview and Alameda Early Childhood Centers.

• A lottery system will be used, if necessary, to handle transfer requests and will continue to be used at Highmeadow, Alameda and Fairview will continue to handle enrollment on a first-come, first-served basis and will use a lottery if necessary.

• Students will be given preference for enrollment if they have siblings attending any middle school or elementary school. At high schools, siblings will not be guaranteed admission but will be given two chances in the lottery.

• Students will only be allowed to file for one transfer per year, and are expected to stay at the school to which they transfer throughout that educational level. However, Cowan said the district would be flexible in handling individual cases or problems.

• The high school and middle schools have had open enrollment policies, depending on enrollment levels, for several years. Cowan said about 38 high school students have requested transfers under that program during the current school year, compared to 58 last year. Only a

PARENT PEGGY Price asked the board and administrators to take care in changing the school program. "I would hope, as the board, you would make sure... any program is going to improve the educational product for the student," she said.

This is not the first time the Farmington district has implemented choice programs. The high school and middle schools have had open enrollment policies, depending on enrollment levels, for several years. Cowan said about 38 high school students have requested transfers under that program during the current school year, compared to 58 last year. Only a

handful of middle school students have transferred.

Also, center kindergarten programs and the Highmeadow Common Campus elementary program have been in place for several years. A year-round "school-within-a-school" program will be piloted at Gill Elementary this fall.

The current choice policy was adopted because the state is requiring such a policy be adopted by all districts by April 1. Flanagan said the Farmington district is in good shape because of the previous choice programs.

"We're virtually the only district that has choice out there," he added.

Major crime up, but chief sees positives

Continued from Page 1

thefts of vehicle parts which went up 86 percent and reported shoplifting which jumped 79 percent.

"Ten years ago, there wasn't a lot past Farmington — there wasn't a choice for the criminal," Lauffoff explained. "Today, there's more of a sense of community too, which helps" keep crime down.

LAUFFOFF SAID he would have been surprised had the downward trend from 1980 continued, and added that he prefers to look at crime trends over several years and not just annual ups and downs. "You can't look at each year," he said. "You have to look at it in a series of years."

Some highlights of major crime as

detailed in the 1991 end-of-year public safety report include:

• Four cases of criminal sexual conduct in 1991 compared with two in 1990. Three of the cases last year involved assault between family members. In the fourth case, the victim would not cooperate with investigators.

• Nine robberies were reported compared with three in 1990.

• A total of 365 larcenies were reported compared with 317 the previous year.

• Auto thefts went up 28 percent, increasing from 18 in 1990 to 23 in 1991.

• Decreasing were aggravated assaults from five to two, arson fires which dropped from five to three and burglaries which decreased from 56 to 47 — the lowest number

in the last 10 years.

IN OTHER parts of the report, non-criminal complaints stayed about even in 1991, while calls for service decreased from 6,405 to 5,729.

Lauffoff also reported alcohol use by minors "decreased markedly" from 1990 to 1991, and that overall reported drug and alcohol abuse does not appear to have increased. There were no reported incidents of drugs being sold or suspicious relat-

ed activities in any Farmington neighborhoods during 1991, he said.

The public safety department in Farmington also responds to fires. In 1991, the department handled 41 fires compared with 30 the previous year and did 61 other fire runs which included false alarms, aiding neighboring departments and smoke investigations.

Damage done to structures and contents totaled about \$41,325 — down from half of the damage done in 1990.

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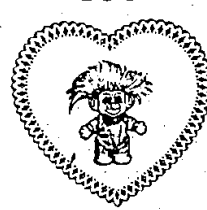
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