

FARMINGTON NOTES

Lapides to speak

Lisa Lapides, owner of Lapides Publicity Group which she started seven years ago, will be speaking on "Turning Your Business Into A News Story" at a meeting of the Metro Detroit chapter of The National Association of Career Women at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Steak and Ale restaurant, 12 Mills and Orchard Lake roads, Farmington Hills. The public is invited. Cost is \$12 for members and \$16 for non-members. Call Monica Gurney at 360-2035 for reservations.

Mix 'n mingle

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce joins several other area chambers in sponsoring an "After-hours" business mixer 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, at the new Infiniti of Farmington Hills auto dealership, 24335 Haggerty Road, south of Grand River. Cost is \$10 per person. For reservations, call the Farmington Chamber at 474-3440.

Festival of the Bands

Six community bands — including one from Farmington — will provide a variety of music at the 13th-annual Festival of Bands beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at the Twelve Oaks Mall, I-96 and Novi Road. The Farmington Community Band, directed by R. Paul Barber, will perform at 7:30 p.m.

Mensa scholarship

The Southeast Michigan Mensa Scholarship Committee announces the annual open essay competition for students enrolled in post-secondary education.

The scholarship is awarded without regard to need, and contestants do not have to be Mensa members. Essays should be no longer than 550 words. The topic is a statement of the individual's goals. Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 31.

To receive an application package, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Southeast Michigan Mensa Scholarship Committee, 28505 Evergreen Road, Southfield 48076-5431. No phone calls, please. Deadline for applications is Jan. 10.

Mensa is an international society whose only membership qualification is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of several standardized IQ tests.

Local girls to cheer at inaugural

A group of Farmington-area pompon girls will be on hand to provide a little cheer at the Presidential Inaugural Parade Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER



Give 'em a C... er, never mind. The Mid American Pompon All Star Team probably figures President Bill Clinton can spell his own name. But the Farmington-based collection of high school pompon members will cheer on the Little Rock, Ark., native Jan. 20 when he becomes the next president of the United States.

The All Star Team is one of only two groups from Michigan who have been selected to march in the 1993 Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C. The other group is the Double 60 Riders.

"I think they're a motorcycle group or something," said Karen Blazaltis, who is president of the Mid American Pompon All Star Team.

Nonetheless, Blazaltis and the 120 members are beaming with pride at the selection, which came as quite a surprise.

With no guidelines as how to enter an inaugural parade, Blazaltis tracked down the committee herself and sent a fact sheet, video and team picture of the group. A few weeks later, a letter arrived from inviting them to the 52nd Inaugural Parade.

The pompon team has performed at the Citrus Bowl, Sea World and at the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit. The Inaugural Parade is the biggest event the group's ever attended.

"We've never applied for anything quite like this before," Blazaltis said. "I heard you had to have a recommendation from a senator or someone."

"By the time we contacted Senator (Carl) Levin's office, he had already recommended (the limit of) five groups."

There's a catch, however. The group has to pay its own way, which Blazaltis figures will cost each mem-

See POMPON, 13A



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lots of pep: The Mid-American All-Star Pompon Team is made up of (top row, from left) Jill Harper, Shannon Anderson, Lisa Deering, Krista Surowiec, Michele Deering, Laura Westberg and Tara Radcliffe; (middle, from left) Lisa Tomle, Nicole Abdelnour, Kristi Cornwell and Amber O'Connell; (bottom, three upside down, from left) Tracy Winter, Sarah Ringstrom and Kristen Seed.

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