

# Buses from page 1A

## Complicated business

Farmington Hills police traffic specialist Sgt. Ray Cranston said changing bus stops and routes is a complicated business. The state has specific rules for what constitutes a safe stop, including 400 feet of road visibility to the front and rear of a bus.

Factors such as obstructions to lateral vision, including trees and foliage; traffic volume; whether there is a flare lane or shoulder; and the grade of the road are considered in choosing a stop.

Cranston said police will try to improve safety, monitor a potential problem stop or area and enforce weight restrictions, but determining the stops or routes is the territory of the school district.

"By state statute the ultimate decision about bus stops is the province of the superintendent of schools," Cranston said.

McKendrick said she was pleased that the city was addressing the issue before the district determines next year's bus routes.

"I think the whole idea to have volunteers do this (study routes) will save the city staff lots of hours of work and money," she said.

## A diverse committee

Cranston proposed that the subcommittee that looks at the half-dozen routes in question include a high school student who rides the bus, an educator who deals with students who ride and

a senior citizen, who would be very conscious of the economic impact of route changes.

"The idea is to get objective people," Cranston said.

McKendrick and council members said that safety had to be the top priority. She said the city had been very helpful, as opposed to the school administration.

"The school administration is placing a dollar-and-cents value on the lives of our children."

Cowan said the schools had taken great pains to make the routes safe.

"We have re-evaluated and re-evaluated the routes," he said. "We feel very, very comfortable with the routes we have now."

McKendrick said she was dis-

appointed that no representative from the schools attended Monday's city council meeting.

Councilman Ben Marks suggested that bus routes could be discussed when the council and school board meet.

Cranston said police will recommend changes for any unsafe situation, but that people sometimes apply a double standard to safety for middle school and high school students.

# Bird expert to speak

Attracting and feeding hummingbirds to the local garden will be the subject of Farmington Garden Club next meeting.

The club will meet at noon Monday, May 3, at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

Margo Ferguson, a self-taught naturalist and bird specialist and owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Farmington Hills, will speak on how to attract hummingbirds by providing proper habitat and ap-

propriate feeders. "The small effort put forth will often result in a summer of enjoyment," said Ferguson.

"Magical Waters" flower designs in low-bowls of water, reflecting the arrangement, will be shown by Betty Bock, Julia Chen, Evelyn Kennedy and Adrienne Goldbaum.

Garden hints for May, "The Garden Month," will be discussed.

Guests are welcome to attend. For more information, call Gerry Tobin at 478-9710.

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