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Hills names
25th year
committee

In 1988 Farmington Hills will celebrate 25 years of incorporation as a city. The Farmington Hills City Council has named a group of people to work with the Historical Commission to plan the celebration of the city's quarter century anniversary. Members of the 25th Anniversary of Farmington Hills Committee are: Councilwoman Nancy Bates, Assistant City Manager Steve Brock, Special Services Director Dan Potter, City Naturalist Joe Derek, David Litogot, Jeff Stewart of the Beautification Commission, Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jody Soronen, and a representative from the Farmington Public Schools.

Talented students



In step: Four students from Steppingstone Center for the Potentially Gifted in Farmington Hills were recognized in Northwestern University's Midwest Talent Search. Director Kiyo Morse, left, congratulates Steven Balke, Nina Reyes, and Victor Drenfeld. Not pictured is Trevor Merkl. Reyes, Merkl and Balke qualified while Drenfeld was recognized for academic achievement in the math and verbal areas of a normed achievement test. More than 26,000 middle-school aged students participate in the annual search.

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Chaldean-American students honored

BY SALLY TATO
STAFF WRITER

They arrived for recognition. They left blessed. Hundreds of Chaldean-American college and high school graduates congregated in Mother of God Church, Southfield, on June 11 to receive recognition for their academic achievements, as well as attend a mass held in their honor. "The purpose of the ceremony is to encourage the students to study more and go in the right

direction, which is education," said the Rev. Manual Boji, rector of the church. "The number of graduates is always growing and that is always encouraging," he continued. "Most of them will use this education in their lives." Keynote speaker Virgil Carr, president and CEO of United Way Community Services of metro Detroit, had a similar message. During his address to the graduates and their families, Carr encouraged students to find ways to apply what they have learned to better their communities and their lives.

He advocated the importance of education and pledged with families to continue to support students as they strive for an education. Chaldean Federation of America president Jacob Mansour, felt Carr's meaning was clear. "He brought value to those students about getting an education early," Mansour said. "I think he was a very good speaker." Mansour explained that the importance of attaining an education is being highlighted more now than in previous years because of a change in priorities among the Chaldean community. He said that when the majority of Chaldeans migrated to the country, an importance was placed on earning money quickly to help support a family.

Now, however, he said that the younger generation of Chaldean-Americans realize that the high-paying jobs can wait for a few years, at least long enough to get an education. To help enforce that mentality, the federation began the Metropolitan Detroit Area College and High School Chaldean Commencement ceremony in 1982. Top students are recognized annually and scholarships are granted to students with high grades, as well as financial need. This year, ten high school graduates were recognized as top achievers. They included: Michael Shalal, Detroit Catholic Central; Jaclyn Lossio, North Farmington; Ars Atisha, Brother Rice; Rhonda Kado, Ferndale; Kalven Bitti, Kimball; Rafah Odish, Southfield-Lathrup; Tala Ella, Lahser High School; Jamie Lossio, North Farmington; Eva Zaya, Harrison; and Sandra Boji, Mercy. The Chaldean Federation of America was formed in 1980 to: • Help Chaldean youth pursue academic accomplishments and to remain in school. • Promote racial harmony and improve the quality of community life for all people. • Assist Chaldeans to assimilate into American society, while maintaining and cherishing the Chaldean language, heritage and tradition.

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