

# Mockup: FHS students 'run' city

By TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High School students last week found out for themselves that running a city, even a small one like Farmington, isn't as easy as it might look.

On Tuesday, FHS students took on the roles of city council members and administrators for a "mock council meeting."

With some of their real-life counterparts watching from the audience inside Farmington City Hall's council chambers, they then took on pertinent current issues such as the Oct. 25 "beer bash" in the Chatham Hills Subdivision and why so few voters cast ballots to decide the Nov. 4 council election.

According to Frank Lauhoff, whose role as Farmington city manager was ably portrayed by student Blake Heraghty, the students—in the American government classes taught by Renee Lossie and Richard Roy—did a good job portraying the roles and running the mock meeting.

"For young people with a few minutes of coaching, they did a very good job," Lauhoff said. He added that the program, part of Student Government Day, hopefully showed the students "how complicated dealing with some of these issues can be" and how directly local government impacts the lives of citizens.

"Everyone should know about local government," he added. "If your garbage isn't picked up, you don't call Washington ... I know it's a microcosm of what goes on, but it gives them some idea about responsibility."

Concurring was Lossie. "I felt the mock hearing was a great experience and a way to give students a small taste of what our elected officials have to deal with."

**"For young people with a few minutes of coaching, they did a very good job."**

**Frank Lauhoff**

—Farmington city manager

Lossie said she talked to some of the students afterward and noted how some said they were "surprised" about the depth and variety of issues officials face while running smaller city governments such as Farmington.

Besides Heraghty as Lauhoff, the mock council cast was as follows: Mayor JoAnne McShane (Matt Wayne); Mayor pro tem Mary Bush (Monique Bush, no relation); Councilman William Hartsock (Derek Willis); Councilman James Mitchell (Karen Ludko); Assistant City Manager Bill Richards (Ann McHenry); City Clerk/Treasurer Patsy Cantrell (Amber Bytner); Director of Public Safety Gary Goss (Cory Perry); Deputy Director of Public Safety Mike Wiggins (Holger Hornsiech); code enforcement officer John Konesel (Jennifer Keesel); City Assessor John Sailer (Beth Raymond); Director of Public Services Kevin Gushman (Ray Rudzki); public services assistant Paul Smith (Autumn Mikkola); video production specialists Todd Whitman and Russ Lunn (Brad Cox, Claudia Bass, respectively); Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Judy Downey (Dean Gozowsky).

Following is how the students handled some of the agenda items:

**Low voter turnout:** Clerk/treasurer Bytner reported to the council that 8 percent voted, mostly because it was an uncon-

tested race.

Mayor Wayne asked what her concerns were about the "rather anemic" turnout.

"Only three people were running for three positions," Bytner replied. "I really don't have much more information than that."

Before moving on to the next topic, Wayne said "in the future, please try to find a more exact reason ... It would please the council."

**Beer bash:** Public safety director Perry reported about the Oct. 25 party. He said four tickets were issued, two to adult hosts of the party for contributing to the delinquency of minors and two to teens for consuming alcohol.

An audience member came up to the microphone to address the issue, asking about enforcement of Farmington's "zero tolerance" policy concerning drugs and alcohol.

"That's up to the Department of Public Safety to enforce," said Mayor Wayne. "As far as parents who want to serve alcohol, ignorance of the law is no excuse."

Perry then assured that parameters have been established where the parents can be fined (up to \$500) and spend up to 90 days in jail. "We want to stop this."

Later in the meeting, the council heard an update about the M-5 bridge construction project and a report about 1997 assessments.

Before the mock council session, the students attended an orientation meeting at city hall, spent the morning being "coached" about their roles by the actual officials and employees and had lunch at the Farmington Masonic Temple.

The lunch was served to the students courtesy of the Farmington Rotary Club.

## Tying one on



**Demo:** Joe Mondro shows the fine art of fly tying to George Simmons, left, at The Benchmark Outfitters on Grand River. There's a beginner class every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. For details, call 477-8116.

## Capitol idea

In Lansing: Kenbrook Elementary School fourth-graders and parent chaperones recently visited the State Capitol and met Gov. John Engler, pictured here in the back row. Engler shook hands and gave autographs to some of the students.



## OBITUARIES

### PHILIP S. COHEN

Philip S. Cohen, 41, died Nov. 11 at Harper Hospital in Detroit. Born in Manchester, England, Mr. Cohen worked as a loan officer for NBD. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Leeds, a master's degree at the University of Newcastle and a doctorate and master's from the University of Iowa. He was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills.

He is survived by wife, Julie; son, Peter; daughter, Beth; mother, Ada; sister, Candy Atherton; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Nov. 15 at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington with the Rev. Dr. Brewster Gere officiating. Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Karmanos Cancer Institute, 41935 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills 48336.

### ALLIE H. HODGES

Allie H. Hodges, 97, died Oct. 11 at Marycrest Nursing Home in Livonia.

Mrs. Hodges was a member of the Polish Aid Society and a 50-year member of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Dearborn. She enjoyed gardening, cooking and giving dinner parties.

She is survived by son, Dr. Donald (Joyce) Hodges of Farmington Hills; daughters, Janet (Edward) McGrath of Columbus, Ohio and Carol (Dr. James) Mackin of Potomac, Md.; 10 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Nov. 8 at St. Fabian Catholic

Church in Farmington Hills with the Rev. Brian Chabola officiating. Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Capuchin Community Center Soup Kitchen, 1760 Mt. Elliott Ave., Detroit 48207.

### RICHARD H. BECKERLEG

Richard H. Beckerleg, 73, died Nov. 14 at Botsford General Hospital.

He is survived by sons, Richard and Greg; daughter, Pam; and three grandchildren.

Visitation is scheduled from 12 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, and funeral services will be held 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 17, at McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

Memorial contributions can be made to a charity of choice.

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