

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Teen hoops:** Costick Activities Center offers teen basketball 1-3 p.m. Cost is \$2 for residents 17 and under.

### MONDAY

**Council meets:** Farmington City Council gathers at 8 p.m. in city hall.

### TUESDAY

**Business briefs:** Business Network International Farmington Hills Chapter meets 7-8:30 a.m. at the Grand Cafe in downtown Farmington.

### WEDNESDAY

**Spikers:** Harrison High's girls volleyball team travels to Walled Lake Central while North visits Northville. Both contests start at 7 p.m.

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## Drugstore heist leads to charges against worker

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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A drugstore employee has been charged with providing more than just customer service during a reported robbery.

Authorities believe the woman conspired with the bandit to steal \$8,000 from Rite Aid on 12 Mile and Farmington roads Nov. 29. Police arrested a 34-year-old man with the cash shortly after the robbery.

The Farmington Hills woman, 28, who initially phoned police after the robbery, has been charged with embezzlement for more than \$100 and filing a false report. She was arraigned in 47th District Court Tuesday.

Prosecutors have subsequently dropped an unrelated robbery charge against the 34-year-old man, who now also faces embezzlement over \$100 and filing a false police report charges.

Both have preliminary exams 8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11.

"After he was arrested, we had discovered that he had dated her," Hills police Sgt. Tim Swanson said. "It's not terribly uncommon for these types to be set up occasionally. We've had it happen before."

The woman admitted her role to detectives during questioning, Swanson said.

On the night of the heist, Hills police stopped a blue Ford Escort occupied by two men on southbound Orchard Lake and I-695. Officers found three banks deposit bags with the cash and 40 personal checks inside the car.

Police also found the woman's purse, which she said the robber had also taken. The driver was wearing a key ring that included keys to the woman's car.

## Library set for major changes

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
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Rome wasn't built in a day. And neither will the expanded Farmington Hills library branch.

But no one is sitting still in the aftermath of the successful August, 1998, library property tax election. "We are beginning to look at a schedule by which everything will be done," said Beverly Papai, library director. "We anticipate that the first visible sign of construction will be the parking lot at the Hills branch. That's necessary before we can start construction because construction will actually start in the parking lot."

There is plenty that needs to be coordinated, such as a new entrance onto 12 Mile from a new parking lot just west of the library. The effort will have to go to the Farmington Hills Planning Commission for approval and likely Oakland County because 12 Mile is a county road, said Ernie Sauter, library board trustee, who also sits on the board's building committee.

"We are trying to push up the schedule a bit. I would like to see the new lot get under construction this spring," Sauter said. "If we had our druthers I would look skyward, wave a wand and it would all be there (expanded library)."

Meanwhile, \$12 million in general obligation bonds have been set. The bonds will be repaid over 15 years with 3-mill of the 6-mill requested of voters in August.

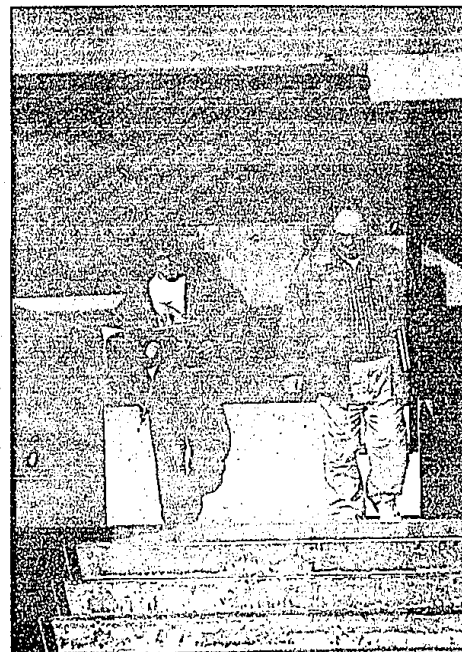
The 3-mill translates to a property tax of 30 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value, about half of market value, or \$150 on a \$100,000 house.

The remaining 3-mill will help finance operations.

The Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees also selected Barton-Malow as the construction management firm that will handle the expansion at the Hills branch that is being designed by architects Luckenbach-Zieglerman.

Library officials decided to go with a construction manager instead of a general contractor because they are confronted with two existing facilities that need upgrading.

### Booked for the future



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRISLER

**Step at a time:** Brandon and Joshua Leopold leave Farmington Hills Public Library. Both libraries will see renovations as part of the voter-approved millage.

"There is an opportunity for a construction manager to work with the architects," Papai said. "A general contractor simply takes all the specifications and bids them and makes sure the work gets done."

"We hope what this will do is lead to a process with the project coming in on time and/or under budget," Papai continued.

While sights are on the proposed expansion of the Hills branch, the millage issue also will pay for a number of improvements, such as extended hours, more books and increased AV materials.

"What's paid for by this bond issue is bricks, mortar, electrical, upgrades, some repupholstering of existing furniture, some replacement and incorporation of a higher level of technology," Papai said.

The Farmington Hills branch will

Please see CHANGES, A3

## Money to bolster book collection

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
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While bricks and mortar are important to the expansion of the Farmington Hills library branch, other money generated from the August property tax vote will be used to improve the collections and materials at both branches.

"It will primarily improve the materials collection initially," said Beverly Papai, Farmington Community Library director. "We made campaign promises and it is our intent to honor them as quickly as possible."

Despite all the improved technology available at the Farmington and Farmington Hills branches, patrons still demand books. And that is what they will get.

"There is still a connectivity with books," Papai said. "Our circulation is increasing and continues to increase."

In November this year, circulation - books and audio visual materials - at the downtown Farmington branch topped 28,369, while in Farmington Hills it reached 47,784, for a year-to-date total of 374,321 compared to

Please see BOOKS, A3

### Library changes

Promises were made. And promises will be kept. That's what has been keeping Farmington Community Library officials busy since the August bond election. While preparations are under way for the expansion of the Farmington Hills library branch, a number of changes - the result of the millage election - are under way at the Hills and downtown Farmington branches.

#### At the Farmington branch:

- Extended hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday.
- Double the number of new books purchased each year.
- Triple the number of best sellers purchased each year.
- More books for youth.
- More materials for homework.
- Increased dial-in lines for remote access.
- Double adult and youth AV collection.

#### At the Farmington Hills branch:

- Longer hours of operation: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday.
- Double the number of new books purchased each year.
- Triple the number of best sellers purchased each year.
- Double adult and youth AV collection.
- More books for youth.
- More materials for homework.
- More computers for youth.

## Liquor sting nabs 3

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Three Farmington Hills businesses will face fines or jail after selling alcohol to underage decoys during a police liquor sting.

Though the number of offenders is down, Hills police officials are dismayed even three establishments would sell to young women ages 16 and 18. The two decoys visited 65 places that sell liquor during a two-day period.

The pair ordered and were served wine at Hakata Japanese Restaurant on Northwestern Highway and Benihana restaurant on Haggerty. At Brass Pointe Food & Spirits, the 16-year-old girl asked for and received a Bud Light.

"None of them asked us questions or anything," said the 18-year-old woman, who police asked not be named. "They just served us."

After the young women received their drinks, they notified police officers waiting in the parking lot. Those who sold were ticked.

In addition to state liquor control penalties, selling alcohol to minors carries up to a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail.

Please see LIQUOR, A2

## North takes turn on block

BY TIM SMITH  
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Some teachers and parents at North Farmington High School have qualms about the probable implementation of block scheduling in 1999-2000.

But enough are convinced it's the best way to teach and learn, despite a mixed bag of research and opinion. On Tuesday, North teachers will probably agree to go to some form of block for the following school year.

"We've had colloquies with reservations (about it)," said North Farmington High English teacher Mark Wilson, who currently instructs a two-hour class there. "But it usually has to do with teaching styles. Foreign language teachers are worried about (losing) daily contact."

Still, "a lot of us truly believe it's the best option," Wilson added.

Moreover, school district officials want it.

According to a memorandum attached to the recently approved Farmington Education Association contract, block scheduling at the district's three high schools will be in place

Please see BLOCK, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRISLER

**Time to tutor:** Kay DeLuca offers advice on how to properly hold a violin to student Jason Craft.

## She teaches with precision, care

BY BARE PERT TEMPLETON  
STAFF WRITER

When Farmington teacher Kay DeLuca performed a violin solo, "The Christmas Concerto" by Corelli, during a recent Rochester Symphony Orchestra show, she loved being front and center.

Having all the attention focused on herself was a new experience for DeLuca of Davisburg. She generally limits her one-on-one musical expertise to her students in the Farmington Public Schools. DeLuca is marking her 33rd year of teaching in Farmington and currently travels to six elementary schools to teach nearly 100 students how to read and perform music.

An accomplished musician in her own right, DeLuca is the principal second violinist with the Rochester Symphony Orchestra and is a sub-

stitute for both the Midland and Saginaw symphonies. She has also formed her own string quartet, Pentacle, which recently added a fifth chair for a clarinet player.

"I guess we're not exactly a quartet anymore and not only strings either," said DeLuca.

The cello, viola and string bass are all instruments DeLuca enjoys introducing to her fifth-grade students. For those who aren't as enthralled with the strings, she offers lessons on some percussion instruments, too.

The Farmington students who enjoy DeLuca's courses have specifically signed up for the privilege as instrumental music is an elective course in the district. She is proud to note that 93 percent of the student population is currently active in the class.

"I only get to have the students

for their first year so it's hard just getting them used to the instrument and coordinated in using it," DeLuca said. "And every year when they begin it's like, 'Oh, no, now I remember what this was like.'"

### Pluck those strings

String instruments often bring lots of complaints from students early on. DeLuca has them pluck the strings for the first month rather than use a bow until they get used to it.

"They'll say 'Oh, this hurts our fingers' or 'You're so mean you put lutes on our fingers,'" said DeLuca with a laugh.

Students are also introduced to the reading of music, but DeLuca is careful not to overwhelm them at first.

"Just how involved that gets

Please see STRINGS, A2

