



STAFF PHOTO BY STEVE CANTRELL

Sign up: Beth Rajkovich at Hillside Elementary School registers next year's crop of kindergartners, such as Sorley MacDonald, who is assisted by his mom, Vicky.

Vicky then went over some of the particulars, such as an upcoming orientation for kindergartners on April 23, described by Rajkovich as a mini-kindergarten session where parents and children will get a taste of Hillside.

"This is a big milestone," said Vicky, adding that the emotional impact of seeing her last child leave the room won't hit her until Sorley gets on the bus. "I'm

committed now. Obviously, I waited until the last minute."

Sorley, who turned 4 on Dec. 1, will attend half-day morning classes in 1999-2000, but he won't know until around the start of the school year who his teacher will be.

The boy already knows some of the other students, though. His 7-year-old brother, Angus, now attends first grade at Hillside,

while 11-year-old sister Bridie attends fifth grade. She'll be at Dunckel Middle School when Sorley starts, however.

And it's a good bet that Vicky MacDonald will spend a good deal of time at the Farmington district school, too. She's almost been an honorary teacher over the past 11 or 12 years anyway, as a PTA volunteer and classroom helper.

That dates back to when her second oldest child (son Bill, now 16 and a student at North High School) went to Hillside. In the ensuing years, the family watched as twins Ian and Alec (now 19, and attending Dunckel), Bridie and Angus marched into Hillside.

"They are all good Scottish names," said Vicky. She explained that Hillside

was built after the family's oldest child, Mary, now 19, went to elementary school.

"A teacher told me that when he (Sorley) leaves, I will have been in the elementary school for 17 years," said Vicky with a smile.

With no more children at home during the day, Vicky said she'll "probably be here even more."

According to Vicky, her youngest is ready for school, already adept at working on the computer and benefiting from having six older siblings to watch and learn from. "I think kids are far more intelligent than they've ever been."

But it was one of those siblings who provided Sorley with rare anxiety about the prospects of soon going to school.

"He was having his doubts a little bit last week," Vicky said. "Angus said, 'Sorley, you'll be in school with me.' And he (Sorley) said, 'That's it, I don't want to go.'"

Judging from Sorley's smile and enthusiasm during enrollment, that nervousness quickly faded away.

The transition probably will be tougher on Vicky, who never sent her kids to nursery schools or preschools, instead teaching them at home until the time

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Vicky MacDonald  
-Parent

came for them to go to kindergarten. "It'll be me who's going to be the wreck."

Vicky insisted she has nothing against such educational institutions. It's just a matter of personal choice.

"The teachings they get from a parent before they enter school is important," said Vicky, who lamented just how fast early childhood speeds by. "The time a parent has before kindergarten is so precious."

With that time running out, she'll do the next best thing—spend her days at Hillside, not far from Sorley and Angus. That sounds like a plan worth signing up for.

## ALS from page A1

Reimbursements for ambulance runs are set by the Health Care Finance Administration. A bulk of what's reimbursed goes for transport, not for treatment like ALS.

"We're going to ask for an increase," Bershe said. "What we have to do our homework and look at other areas in the industry."

"We'd have to transport cases if we'd want to make money out of it, but I don't know if that is our real purpose. We went into ALS to provide a rapid response time for advanced level care."

On most runs, CEMS transports patients while department paramedics ride along.

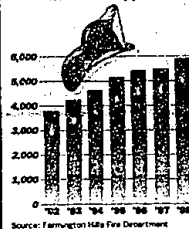
Hills fire department has six ALS units in operation. The department uses a combination of career, paid on call personnel and staff people who are trained paramedics.

An increase in medical runs mirrors a 7.7 percent rise in overall responses. Firefighters made 5,901 runs last year.

While there were no deaths, structure fires increased by 10 or 13.3 percent from 1997.

### Emergency activity

Total incidents by year



Source: Farmington Hills Fire Department

Fire damages totaled \$4.5 million, which Marinucci attributes to high property values. A blaze on Trillium Drive was contained to the garage but still resulted in \$835,000 damage.

With the Station No. 5 operating 24 hours, response times continue to improve. The average response time is 4 minutes and 40 seconds.

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## AGENDA

Farmington City Council  
City Hall  
23800 Liberty  
8 p.m. Monday, March 1  
(248) 474-5500

Agenda items include the following:

- Presentation on library improvements by Farmington Community Library Director Bev Pappi.

- Downtown Development Authority quarterly report.

- Consideration of appointments to beautification commission.

- Request by Museum Development Committee and Historical Commission, regarding Warner Mansion name and sign change.

- Letter from City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department about water and sewer rates and charges for fiscal year 1999-2000.

- Consideration of Telecommunications Permit Agreement for the Farmington Public Schools fiber optic network.

- Consideration to establish public hearing for Shiawassee Park grant application.

- Public Safety Department annual operations report, for December 1998.

- Consideration to adopt ordinances on fences and prohibited parking.

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