

# Farmington Observer

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### MONDAY

**Lunchtime skate:** The Farmington Hills Ice Arena offers open public skating Monday-Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m. The arena is located on Eight Mile Road near Halsted.

**Holiday camp:** The Holiday Break Camp continues through Friday, Dec. 31, at Heritage Park Day Camp Building.

### WEDNESDAY

**Optimists:** The service organization meets at 7:30 p.m. at San Marino's on the Tee. Call 474-9680 or 442-9796.

**Business chat:** Business Network International's Farmington Hills chapter will meet 7-8:30 p.m. at the Grand Cafe in downtown Farmington.

### THURSDAY

**Youth night:** Farmington First United Methodist Church hosts Logos Youth Night. The church is located at 33112 Grand River. For more information, call 474-6573.

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## Motivational program wins them over



**Winning embrace:** Top winner Lindsey Misch (left) gives a hug to Winning Futures facilitator Kathy Tosioian.

BY TIM SMITH  
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The year 2000 is drawing close. But many Farmington High School students are looking forward to 2005.

Those students, such as senior Lindsey Misch, just completed the Winning Futures goal-setting and motivational program and celebrated the achievement during an assembly last week.

"I put all my goals into perspective," said Misch about the program. "I really do know where I want to be in five years. I put my heart into it (the program)."

Misch was judged the number one finalist during the assembly, for performance on written and oral versions of her long-term planning report. She expects to attend Michigan State University and go into a career in advertising. For being named the top finalist, she earned a \$1,000 check from master sponsor Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC and the keys to a Corvette from Holiday Chevrolet. She'll have the car for a week.

Other finalists and their cash prizes (all donated by Sellers) were: top runner-up Kate Bouschet, \$500; second runner-up Alex Duncan, \$250; and \$125 winners Raj Bedi, Fallon James and Suchita Shah.

The finalists were among 130 stu-



**Finalists:** Winning Futures finalists are (from left) Kate Bouschet, Alex Duncan, Fallon James, Suchita Shah, Raj Bedi and Lindsey Misch.

dents who participated in the second annual program, coordinated by FHS teacher Mayna Schumacher and facilitated by Kathy Tosioian. There also were 10 students winning awards of excellence and another 86 earning honorable mention.

Among the latter group was senior Jacob Dillard, who addressed the audience (as did senior Lindsey Venetis). Dillard is looking to the future, after recovering from critical injuries suffered in a 1998 stabbing incident in Farmington. He was stabbed in what police called a case of mistaken identity; his attacker was convicted.

"I figured I could just be open-minded coming into this and try to learn from it," Dillard said. "If you have that attitude in life, success will come to you."

Positive attitude indeed is a staple of Winning Futures, designed to enable adult mentors the opportunity to share their secrets of success with

**"I really do know where I want to be in five years. I put my heart into it (the program)."**

**Lindsey Misch**  
—Top finalist

students. A banner above the stage during the assembly fairly described what the program is all about: "Success - It's Your Decision."

Teachers who led the sessions, held during Farmington High's extended SMART time, were Linda Siggins, Tom Allen, Kathy Steudle and Hershey Card.

According to Schumacher, there was a "lot of enthusiasm" displayed by the participating students and 25 adult mentors. Those numbers were up significantly over last year, the Winning Futures debut at FHS.

Both Farmington High Principal John Barrett and schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield also lauded the program during the assembly.

"I firmly believe Winning Futures has a positive influence on students," Barrett said. "But that's exactly what we need at this time."

Barrett said the program helps students improve their chances of success in the world of work, where they will need sharp communications skills, self-confidence, computer proficiency and the ability to function as part of a team.

"This (program) connects us with key people in business," Maxfield said. "Partnerships are important." The participation from local sponsors underscored that statement. Besides Bob Sellers Pontiac - GMC and Holiday Chevrolet, other sponsors were Focal Point Studio and Distinct Limousine.

Please see **WINNING**, A3

## New law requires full tax disclosure



**Local municipalities would have to provide full disclosure for tax increases and bond issues if a proposed measure is signed into law by Gov. John Engler.**

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State lawmakers want local governments to make full disclosure of tax increases and bond issues put before voters.

House Bill 4177, sponsored by Rep.

Robert Gosselin, R-Troy, has won the approval of both the House and Senate - by 107-0 and 36-0 votes respectively - and now awaits the governor's signature.

Specifiers of tax proposals are often left out of the language, according to legislative analysts. Local officials, for instance, often do not include in the

ballot language the tax rate they are seeking when they ask for voter approval of bond issues on the grounds that fluctuations in the community's state equalized valuation can cause the tax rate to fluctuate, too. As a general obligation bond issue, municipalities are required to set whatever rate is needed to meet the payments on the bond.

HB 4177 requires that an estimated tax rate be included for bond issues, but states that the general obligation bonds will not be affected if the tax rate is calculated in error.

Specifically, the bill requires that

### STATE NEWS

municipalities seeking property tax increases include:

- The rate to be authorized.
- Estimated revenue from the increase in the first year.
- Duration of the tax increase in years.
- A statement of purpose for the tax increase.
- A clear statement as to whether the proposal is a renewal or new tax.

Please see **TAX**, A2

## Promoted Hills officers credit dedication, families

BY JONI HUBBED  
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"It's a fantastic feeling once you come through it. You know the people you're working with are among the best in the state and in the country."

Lt. Craig Summers makes no secret of his enthusiasm when he talks about working for the Farmington Hills Police Department. The 18-year veteran was among three officers promoted during a ceremony held Wednesday at City Hall.

It was the second time in a week Summers got chance to celebrate an accomplishment.

He was among 40 officers who graduated last Friday from Northwestern University Traffic Institute's prestigious School of Police Staff and Command.

He credited his family - wife, Nancy, and children, Justin and Kelsey - with easing the burdens at home.

"It was a lot of long days, because Staff and Command went March through December, and I started studying for promotion in February," he said. "Luckily, my wife handled a lot of the things I normally do, so I could have the time to study."

Summers, 42, said he put in 20 to 25

hours a week studying for a written test and oral boards, because the caliber of the officers who apply is so high.

Having served in the Patrol Division, the Detective Section, the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team and the plainclothes Crime Suppression Unit, Summers will take over command of the Patrol Division's afternoon shift.

One of the department's most decorated officers, John Markey, 39, began his career in 1984 and served in the Patrol Division, Traffic and plainclothes Crime Suppression Unit. As a newly promoted sergeant, he will also serve in the Patrol Division.

The more than 15 years he's spent in Farmington Hills have been good ones, and he started with the idea of moving up in rank.

"I hoped this day would come," he said. "There were times when I wondered if it ever would. I think you always hope things work out so that you can take on new challenges and enhance the services you provide."

Markey said he prepared for the written and oral testing by spending three months locked in his room studying, in addition to the hours he spent at work.

**Family support**



**Now presenting:** Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Tom Connor, at right, presents the officers receiving promotions, Patrolman Kent Schooley, Sgt. John Markey and Lt. Craig Summers.

He, too, credited the people who love him most when it came time to say "thanks."

"It requires a lot of patience and sacrifice from your family," Markey said, accepting a hug from his son, Thomas.

He and his wife, Beth, have three other children, Elizabeth, Matthew and Mary Claire.

Markey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Michi-

Please see **OFFICERS**, A10



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