

Wow! At immediate right, Chelsea Carter, a third grader, looks through a microscope at rocks, one in particular she says she has in her back yard. Twenty five faculty and staff members volunteered time for the Ann Arbor Hand-On Science Museum program, as well as 10 National Honor Society students from Farmington High School. At far right, Kim and Heather Stulock (left to right), a second and fifth grader, respectively, and Evan Mamo and Drake Harphun soak peat pellets before placing a seed of a green bean inside. In photo below, Shreya Patel, a kindergartner at Gill, measures water in a lesson that teaches the importance of maintaining clean, drinkable water. Her mom, Shveta Patel, and dad, Naredra Patel, lend a hand. Shreya's sister, Priya Patel, is in the fifth grade at Gill.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMLEY



What on earth ... Kids explore wonders of science

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GILL STUDENTS

Sorting trash usually isn't a very exciting task. But Gill Elementary School families found there is an exception to the rule. Tuesday's "Earth Science Night" enabled exploration of a wide array of scientific wonders. Gill Principal Gayle Zimmerman said more than 300 family members who attend Gill Elementary (or the Year-Round program) sampled 21 stations featuring everything from the "Tricky Trash" to determining how to maintain clean, drinkable water. "Tricky Trash was a high-

light," Zimmerman said. "Children assorted trash to see if it was magnetic, floats, or goes into the 'other' category." The program, sponsored by the Gill PTA, was put on by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Gill parent Mike Thomas spearheaded the event, Zimmerman said. "What it really reinforces," Zimmerman said, "is ... how to predict, analyze and make a conclusion. One parent's reaction was,

"What a neat way to explain science." Another parent, Kyan Weaver, whose daughter Jozlyn attends second grade at Gill, commented that the program was "really fun" and that she wished she was "still a kid ... to learn about things this way." Zimmerman said the museum provided the experiment stations, and trained Gill staff and family members and Farmington High School National Honor Society students to work the booths. "It was absolutely wonderful," the principal added.



AGENDAS

**City of Farmington Hills
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, March 27
7:30 p.m.**

- Presentation of Beautification Annual Report by Jeff Stewart, Chair
- Public hearing to receive input on a grant application to Michigan Department of Natural Resources for funding of the development of the Nature Center addition to the Day Camp Building at Heritage Park and approval of submission of grant application.
- Consideration of amendment to towing contract with Hadley's Towing.
- Consideration of adoption of economic development plan for the city of Farmington Hills.
- Consideration of City's dust control program and options for 2000.

**Farmington Public Schools
Regular Meeting
of the Board of Education
at the Lewis Schulman Administrative
Center
32500 Shilawasee
Tuesday, March 28
7:30 p.m.**

- Instructional report: Secondary study - Harrison High School Block Plan.
- Review of resolution to hold annual school board election.
- Approval for resolution regarding school hours.
- Approval for auditor appointment.
- Approval for elementary curriculum revisions/textbook recommendations.

CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

State Legislation
A piece of state legislation that concerns Farmington Hills City Council members has moved a step closer to becoming law. Tori Arbenowski, assistant to the city manager, told council members Monday House Bills 4927-4932, which would redirect fines from motor vehicle carriers from city coffers to the county library fund, have left committee but haven't yet been scheduled for a vote of the full Senate. Hills officials adamantly oppose the bill because fines collected offset the cost of the city's motor vehicle carrier program. The police department maintains a specially-equipped vehi-

cle with axle scales and tools an officer uses to check large trucks that appear to be overweight or in violation of other laws. The Senate Transportation Committee, chaired by Sen. Bill Bullard, passed the bills by a 3-2 vote on March 7. Arbenowski said, Bullard represents the Farmington Hills area.

Federal legislation
Hills officials just returned from the National League of Cities annual gathering in Washington D. C., where they discussed a number of hot-button issues with Congressional representatives from this area. Foremost on their agenda were

laws or proposed laws that would pre-empt local ordinances, such as telecommunications law, the taxing of sales over the internet or authority in setting cable franchise agreements. Arbenowski said officials are closely watching the issue of equity with Internet sales. While brick and mortar mainstreet businesses pay state and local taxes, a moratorium on collection of Internet sales taxes is in place until October, 2001. It will be important for cities to oppose any move in Congress that would adversely affect local governments' authority to collect and use taxes, she added.



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MILITARY NEWS

Army Staff Sgt. Jeffery T. Stitzel has been named noncommissioned officer of the year. Selection was based on the individual's exemplary duty performance, job knowledge, leadership qualities, significant self-

improvement and other accomplishments. Stitzel is a squad leader assigned to the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment at Fort Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska. The sergeant is the son of

Lawrence A. and Barbara J. Stitzel of Farmington. His wife, Maria, is the daughter of Robert R. and Maria C. Powell of Herndon, Va. He is a 1987 graduate of Farmington High School.