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stopped because he thought that was a signal they needed help," Nebus said.

When officers talked to the bus driver, they learned children will often make the same gesture when a driver goes past them to turn around in a cul-de-sac, he said. While the boys were absolutely right to report the incident, it's nothing to worry about, police said.

"Any parents who were con-

cerned about it don't have to be," Nebus said.

He had high praise for parents and school officials, who make no apologies for reacting cautiously. Several parents accompanied their kids to the bus stop and even confronted the undercover officer who stalked it out.

Farmington Schools Director of Business Services Dr. Jim Meyer said while officials didn't know whether the boys had actu-

ally been accosted, they felt it was important to let parents know what was going on.

"What I really liked about what happened is the kids have really learned when a stranger talks to them, they should report it," he said. "I worry some parents might think we're overreacting, but we're going to keep doing it. I think parents want to know."

Sam's Club donates books to school

The Farmington Hills Sam's Club announced that it is donating 70 new children's books to William Grace Elementary School Farmington Hills to help encourage reading among youngsters.

The book donation is part of a larger corporate-wide program,

"Get Caught Reading," in which Sam's Club is donating more than 32,000 new children's books in literacy programs throughout the country. Each of the 463 Sam's Clubs will deliver 70 new children's books and hundreds of used books to literacy organizations.

The new books, valued at more than \$250,000, are earmarked for children 12 years and younger and include dozens of popular children's authors, most notably Dr. Seuss, J.R.R. Tolkien, James Gurney and David Kirk.

Parade

Just don't change it

BY TIM SMITH
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LEGATO co-owner Mike Nowak, a "third-generation" Farmington resident and businessman, laid it on the line to festival organizers during Wednesday night's town hall meeting.

Go ahead, change the time of year the parade takes place. Change the name of the thing. Change the look and feel of the event by removing the obtrusive yellow circus tent from the Downtown Farmington Center parking lot.

Just don't change the parade.

"I've been sitting on that curb since I was a child," said Nowak, who also is a member of the recently acti-

I tell people it's the second longest-running parade next to the Thanksgiving Day Parade in downtown Detroit.'

Mike Watts
—Watts-Up!

motor Mike Watts, of Watts-Up!, Inc.

During the meeting, Watts stressed that "We'll keep the tradition. The founders parade will stay."

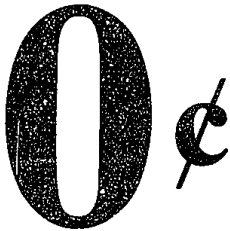
Watts said the Saturday parade might be tweaked a bit, but that people won't have to worry that organizers will rock the boat of long-time success.

"I tell people it's the second longest-running parade next to the Thanksgiving Day Parade in downtown Detroit," Watts said. "It's that hometown feeling, we're not making any changes there. We're going to keep the basics. But we'd like to get more community involvement, more floats."

ated Downtown Farmington Merchants Association. "That parade is just a jewel of this community. The festival can go through this genesis of change, but I'd be very careful about messing with this parade."

Nowak's words were well-heeded by Farmington Area Founders Festival President Jim Stark and festival pro-

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