

THE WEEK AHEAD

State of the Cities: City officials from Farmington and Farmington Hills will address important issues facing both communities at the annual "State of the Cities" breakfast, held Tuesday morning at Vladimir's.

MONDAY

Hills City Council: Farmington City Council members will hold their regular meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads. On their agenda: the Economic Development Commission's Annual Report and a public hearing on the 14 Mile / Orchard Lake shopping center PUD, which the developer has asked to be withdrawn.

Clarification: In the map accompanying last Sunday's article on the Olympia site condos, the location of the property to be developed was incorrectly shown. The units would be on the second lot north of Patricia and Alycekey.

ARTS & LEISURE

Ralsin' the rent: Food historian and chef Howard Paige demonstrates African-American cooking at Henry Ford Museum on weekends throughout February.

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Parents spar over boundaries

BY TIM SMITH
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Letters for and against a proposal to re-draw elementary school boundaries have filled up the mailbox at school board trustee Priscilla Brouillette's home in recent weeks.

"The board has received a lot of letters," Brouillette said last week, about the proposal, introduced at the board's Feb. 6 meeting. "I'd say the majority

are in favor of the change."

The impact of those letters, as well as a post-meeting survey of all households in the impacted area (Section 8, west of Drake between 12-13 Mile roads) will be discussed during Tuesday's meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center. A board decision on the matter isn't likely until the March 13 meeting.

On Feb. 6, Brouillette and other officials heard the Limited Elementary

Boundary Study Committee's recommendation to change school boundaries in Section 8.

They also heard concerns from nearly 20 parents, speaking out for and against the recommendation - which if approved would result in youngsters attending schools several miles closer to home than their current school, Wood Creek Elementary.

"We sent (survey letters) to all homeowners," Brouillette continued. "So,

we'll be anticipating hearing some results from that and I anticipate there will be a conversation about the actual division of Section 8 between Forest and Hillside."

Those two schools are located in the vicinity of Section 8 households. Currently, families send children four miles east on congested 12 Mile Road to Wood Creek, or enroll them into pri-

Please see BOUNDARY, A2



Taking a stand: A large group of residents from Farmington Hills and Livonia descend on Lansing to talk about I-275 noise.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Bring on da noise

Residents take I-275 concerns to Lansing

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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One resident had a sound idea.

As Families Near I-275 members filed into Thursday's State Transportation Commission in Lansing meeting, Jim Bachelor handed out ear

plugs. An accompanying note urged recipients to use the plugs until something

is done to cut freeway noise.

"Kind of clever, huh?" asked Bachelor, who lives in Livonia and made sure everyone in line received the small package.

His group likely did not give earplugs to transportation commissioners, though. Homeowners near I-275 wanted them to hear everything they had to say.

For more than two hours, several

Livonia and Farmington Hills residents testified about how their quality of life has suffered under the freeway thunder, especially since I-275 was rebuilt in 1999. Officials from both cities and area lawmakers joined them in support.

The overflow crowd spilled out into the hallway of the Aeronautics Building in Lansing.

"In the Upper Peninsula, you can't

do this," said Commissioner Jack Kinggrass, who is from Ironwood. "There are not enough cars to bring this many people."

Though polite, few homeowners minced words describing their plight. One Farmington Hills resident termed it "a living hell."

An otherwise tranquil walk in near-

Please see I-275, A5

Hills loses longtime volunteer, activist

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
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A quiet, kind, unassuming man in life, Farmington Hills resident Milton Rose touched the lives of so many others that his funeral was standing-room only last Wednesday at the Dorfman Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

"I could not look in people's eyes," said son Jonathan Rose. "I looked at a spot over people's heads so I could get through my eulogy."

Mr. Rose, 87, and his wife, Zelda, were best known

for tutoring elementary school students since he retired from the jewelry business about 19 years ago.

In 1982 the Roses' granddaughter, Jennifer, was a second-grader in Huntington Woods, and they volunteered to help the teacher in any way they could. The teacher put them to work tutoring the kids in reading, and they didn't stop until Mr. Rose was hospitalized Feb. 1 with internal bleeding. He died Monday, Feb. 19.

They found the tutoring immensely rewarding and soon added other elementary schools to their reper-

Please see ROSE, A2



Activist: Milton Rose was a family activist at Farmington Hills council meetings.

Nun recalls marching with King

"We shall overcome, Black and white together. We are not afraid. God is on our side. We shall overcome some day." - Civil rights march anthem

BY JONI HUBERD
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When the civil rights movement began its bloody history in the southern United States, Sister Mary Charlene Cusi was working at Mt. Carmel Hospital in Detroit.

Busy with her life of service and the 72-bed maternity ward, Sr. Charlene admits she had no real grasp of what was happening around the country. On March 12, 1966, her

Superior asked whether she'd like to go to Selma, Ala.

"I said, 'Sure, where is it?'" recalled Sr. Charlene, now a resident at the Sisters of Mercy's McAuley Retirement Center in Farmington Hills.

Only five days had passed since "Bloody Sunday," when Black marchers protesting the killing of a voting rights demonstrator were beaten, whipped and tear gassed by law officers while enroute to see Gov. George Wallace in Montgomery, Ala. Dozens were hospitalized.

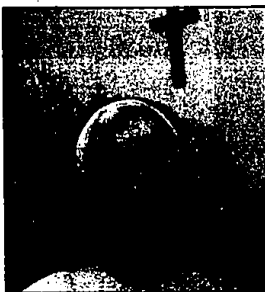
The Catholic church's Commission on Human Relations asked that Sisters of Mercy, who were nurses, be sent, to care for demonstrators if vio-

lence occurred again. Sr. Charlene and Sr. M. Aloysius Warnock, who has since passed away, were among hundreds from the religious community who participated in the subsequent demonstrations.

"We didn't know what we were getting into," Sr. Charlene said. "But we weren't afraid. There was such a feeling of protection and security. We were helping the poor."

Having packed only a few necessities, they flew to Montgomery, where they were met by a driver who took them to Selma, down the infamous U.S. Highway 80, where a woman from Detroit died a few weeks later.

Please see MARCH, A6



Sr. Mary Charlene Cusi

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BUCKNER

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