

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**14 Mile PUD agreement:** The Farmington Hills City Council will meet Monday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. at City Hall to consider an agreement for a shopping center in the 14 Mile/ Orchard Lake/ Northwestern area.

## MONDAY

**Farmington City Council:** Officials will consider the second reading of a plan to lower the educational standards for police officer recruits and hear an update from County Commissioner Terry Sever. The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. at City Hall.

## TUESDAY

**Downtown Development Authority:** On the DDA agenda is an application for the National Mainstreet Program, administered through Oakland County. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m., in Farmington City Hall.

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**Honored: Hills officer Bonnie Unruh is an award winner.** Page A7

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**CAIRN TERRIER Puppies**  
AKC, West Highland white terrier pups, AKC, 8 weeks, terrier pups, AKC, 8 weeks, shots, vet checked.

**SHAMTOWN**  
FRIES

# Board delays boundary decision

**BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER**  
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When the dust settles after the Farmington school board concludes wrestling over what to do with Section 8, parents at Longacre Elementary School hope their concerns about potential overcrowding are not lost in the shuffle.

Longacre PTA president Kim Heath was one of a handful of residents to comment Tuesday night about a limited boundary redistricting plan still being considered by board members.

Meanwhile, with many questions still to be answered, and with district administrators and board members waiting ample time to review the issues, a decision won't take place until the next school board meeting at the earliest.

"With the complexity of the issues raised," said schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield during the session, "the final recommendation is being delayed until March 13."

Maxfield said "we'll be wrestling with alternatives, looking where the streets fall."

The superintendent is also planning on meeting with the Longacre PTA as well as principals for the other impacted elementary schools, Forest, Hillside and Wood Creek. The latter is where Section 8 students currently attend, unless they go to private schools or schools of choice.

According to the original proposal by the Limited Elementary Boundary Study Committee, if Section 8 (located between 12-13 Mile roads west of Drake Road) is redrawn, the plan would send some students to Forest or Hillside elementary schools, rather

than to their current "home" school, Wood Creek - located four miles away.

**Better sooner**

The committee, however, originally decided to delay the redistricting of apartments on the north side of Grand River (which now are in the Longacre attendance area) until later, when a comprehensive study of the Longacre situation could be completed.

School officials now are leaning toward addressing that situation soon-

Please see BOUNDARY, A2

## Join after-school celebration

Farmington Hills Youth and Family Services will mark the fifth anniversary of the After-School Youth Center program with a big public bash on Thursday, March 15, at the Costick Activities Center.

All past and present members, their families and friends are invited to a free program that will include a pizza dinner and birthday cake, and a salute to the volunteers who have helped make the program a success.

"We've received proclamations from both cities and we expect a good turnout that night," said Todd Lipa, program director.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for socializing, and dinner will be served between 6:30-8:30 p.m. That will be followed by an hour-long program to honor volunteers, youth members and partners. The Costick Center is at 28900 W. 11 Mile Road.

The after-school program is available to all middle school students in the district and operates at four sites. Over 3,200 kids have participated since March of 1996. It offers a wide array of recreational activities and homework tutoring available at some sites and provides working parents with an alternative to sending their student home to an empty house after school.

Those planning on attending are asked to RSVP by Wednesday, March 14, by calling 473-1841.

## Hills student's art travels to NYC

**BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER**  
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Being creative with his art is fun for Highmeadow Common Campus fifth-grader Erik Harbert. And hopefully soon it will be just as enjoyable for complete strangers in New York City's Times Square.

Erik's tissue paper seascape, depicting various watercraft under a spectacular sunset, is tentatively set to be displayed on the famous big screen in mid-March. That coincides with a national education awards ceremony during which his Highmeadow art teacher, Harvey Goldstein, will be honored.

"I like to be creative, it's fun for me," said Erik, son of Randy and Donna Harbert of Farmington Hills. "I feel good that he (Goldstein) helped me and taught me how to do it."

Goldstein said it was no problem at all to work with the youngster on his creation.

"We had Erik as a student since first grade," Goldstein said. "It's very obvious (about his talent). It's in the genes. ... I think Erik's painting was unique."

All students in his art class were instructed to look at "View of Toledo," an art print by El Greco, and then put something together with a similar approach.

"We talked about the mood and the feeling that this artist expressed, that art can express feeling," said Gold-

Please see ART, A2



**Artsy: Erik Harbert's seascape will be displayed in New York. Also pictured, teacher Harvey Goldstein.**

## District inks pact on 10 Mile building

**BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER**  
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If Oakland Schools purchases the current 47th District Court facility, the intermediate district will team up with Farmington Public Schools to ensure its use.

Farmington school board members Tuesday night authorized Superintendent Bob Maxfield to enter into a

partnership with Oakland Schools to share the 10 Mile Road facility for a variety of educational purposes.

Oakland Schools must first purchase the courthouse from the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, a deal that is not yet imminent. But if a sale agreement is reached, the intermediate district would move in during fall 2002 - at the earliest - after the

planned construction of a new 47th District courthouse is completed.

In that scenario, Oakland Schools, which serves 28 districts, would use the facility as a regional staff development consortium. Farmington schools would use part of the building for instructional media and science department storage.

Meanwhile, as part of the

agreement approved by the new 47th District court board Tuesday, office space at Farmington Training Center would be dedicated for use by Oakland Schools' support staff, "to assist in the development of this consortium."

The new courthouse would be built on the Farmington Hills city campus, on Orchard Lake south of 11 Mile roads.

# 'Birds of a feather fly anywhere'

## City, school officials stress need for cooperation

**BY JONI HUBERD STAFF WRITER**  
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The words may have seemed a little out of place, but the proverb misquoted by a Lanigan third-grader seemed to provide a cogent theme for Tuesday morning's "State of the Cities" breakfast.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Maxfield related the fractured but perfectly logical quote to a crowd of more than 180 gathered at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills: "Birds of a feather can fly anywhere."

In his portion of a program that also included city officials from Farmington and Farmington Hills, Maxfield stressed continuing cooperation to keep Farmington Schools on track toward becoming one of the nation's premiere school districts. His comments included a recount of the year's achievements - from a national award for instrumental music to Hillside and Kenbrook being named "Blue Ribbon Schools."

"In our schools, great things happen on a regular basis," Maxfield



**Speaking on schools: With Frank Lauhoff, student Mark Drum, Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock and Chamber president Jeffery Sprague looking on, Board Chair Frank Reid spoke about Farmington Schools.**



Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock



School Superintendent Bob Maxfield



Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates

said.

The District also holds itself accountable through student testing and the accreditation process, he said.

"Being an outstanding school district means not leaving any child behind," Maxfield said, adding efforts continue to make sure that doesn't happen.

He and School Board chair Frank Reid cited work by a core group of volunteers on the Search Institute's 40 "developmental assets," positive community attributes that have been linked with student success in school and good decision-making. Reid said all aspects of the community have taken on the challenge and applauded the many volunteers willing to work together "for the benefit of our children."

### Working together

Representatives from both cities also noted many points of pride and emphasized the continuing need to work together.

"The state of the city is about more than statistics," Hills Mayor Nancy

Please see STATE, A3

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