

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Farmington City Council:** Officials will meet Monday, July 2 at 8 p.m. to consider an agenda that includes consideration of approval to purchase in-car video systems, repair and resurface and Downtown Center parking lot driveway and an application for a fence variance at 33921 Moore. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street.

## WEDNESDAY

**Holiday news:** Both Farmington and Farmington Hills City Halls will be closed today in honor of the 4th of July. Fireworks begin at 10 p.m. in Founders Park, on Eight Mile Road between Gill and Halsted. Pre-fireworks entertainment will be provided.

## SATURDAY

**Benefit:** On Saturday, July 7, Colonial Car Wash will host a free car wash to benefit the National MS Society. Any donations taken that day will go to the MS Society. Colonial Oil Exchange will donate \$10 from each bronze oil change done that day to the National MS Society. Both businesses are on Nine Mile, west of Farmington Road.

## INDEX

Apartment/E11  
Arts/C1  
Automotive/G9  
Classified/E,G,H  
Classified  
Index/E5  
Crossword  
Puzzle/E7  
Jobs/G1  
Malls/C8  
Movies/C4  
New Homes/E1  
Obituaries/A5  
Real Estate/E1  
Service Guide/G8  
Sports/B1  
Taste/D1  
Travel/C8

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# Teen center snags on deed rules



**Deed restrictions imposed in 1967 and neighborhood reaction will keep Hills city officials from purchasing a Shiawassee building they wanted to use as a teen center, but that doesn't close the book on the idea.**

By JONI HUBRED  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubred@hometownnewspapers.net

"It's over," Mayor Nancy Bates' voice reflected a note of disappointment Friday morning as she announced the city's plans to scrap the purchase of a youth center on Shiawassee. But Bates stressed the effort to find a place for high school

youth to meet remains very much alive.

City officials moved quickly in May to approve spending \$180,000 on the building, which formerly housed a church and a day care center. They'd been looking for property in that area of town and learned in mid-May that 29200 Shiawassee was up for sale.

City staff made an offer contingent upon council approval, which came at

the May 21 regular meeting. During a study session held prior to the meeting, officials discussed a number of issues, with councilman Jerry Ellis saying he didn't want any surprises with regard to asbestos removal and Americans with Disabilities Act standard compliance.

The surprise came, however, during a title search, completed as part of the real estate transaction. Officials learned deed restrictions signed in 1967 limited use of the property to a church, religious school or other church-related uses.

Real estate agent Mary Bush immediately contacted residents about sign-

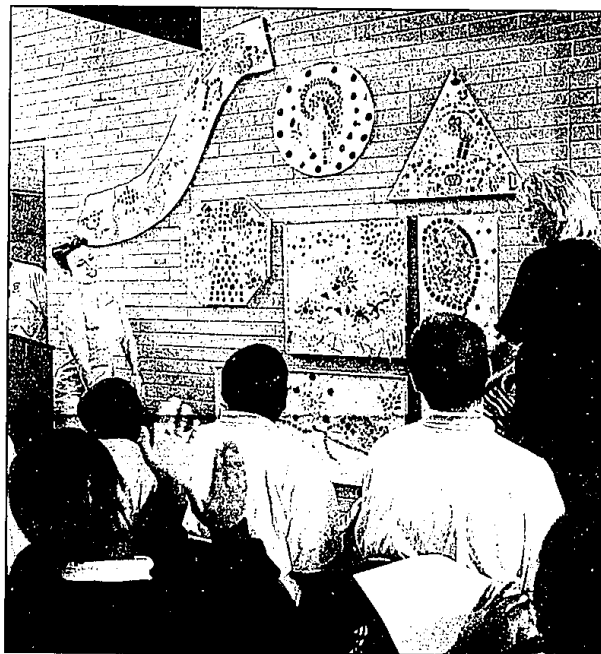
ing a waiver that would allow the use. Neighbors were hesitant to sign, particularly since this was the first they'd heard about the facility being purchased as a teen center.

"I didn't know anything about it until the real estate lady came to my house," said Nancy Boulton, whose home sits next to the 4,100-square-foot building. It was formerly a parsonage.

What's more, she said, neighbors who live across the street knew nothing about it. At an informal meeting held this week, residents expressed support for the city's young people and

Please see TEEN CENTER, A2

## Worth 1,000 words



## Mosaic mural tells Miller students' stories

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@hometownnewspapers.net

A mosaic mural in the front lobby of Miller School was a cause for celebration Thursday.

"As for an art project, this is the biggest one we've done," said Ben Chin, Miller School principal.

Involved in the effort with students were Jane Dwyer and Rachelle Pepple, life management teachers, Nancy Isen, a paraprofessional, and Toni Johnstone, a Wayne State student who is working on her master's degree in art therapy.

"This will be a legacy for the school," Dwyer said. She will soon move to Beaver Island after spending five years at the school, which educates students who have had interaction with the court system.

The students also are working on stepping stones and garden stones, which will be placed around the facility. Boys and Girls Republic is a place where structure and its benefits are learned, Chin said. The court-placed middle school and high school students stay a minimum of six months. The facility houses boys and girls ages 12-17 on an 80-acre wooded facility northwest of Nine Mile and Inkster, just across Inkster Road from Southfield.

While the students are there, they are considered Farmington Hills residents and part of the Farmington

■ 'This will be a legacy for the school.'

Jane Dwyer  
Miller School teacher

Please see MURAL, A2

**Revealed:** Pictured above, teachers Rachelle Pepple and Jane Dwyer unveiled the Miller School mosaic to the applause of students who attended Thursday's ceremony. During the presentation, a student explained that the two creatures on the mosaic pictured right, a spider and a chameleon, are much like the school's students, all of whom are placed through the court system. Though misunderstood, the spider is strong and the chameleon can change to suit and adapt to its environment. The mosaic mural is the largest art project ever undertaken at the school, according to Principal Ben Chin.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUE BUCK



## RCOC: 'No surprise to us'

By JONI HUBRED  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubred@hometownnewspapers.net

When State Farm Insurance reported this week that two of the state's worst intersections were located in Farmington Hills, the news didn't come as a shock to anyone — least of all the Road Commission of Oakland County.

"What they've identified is no surprise to us," said RCOC spokesperson Craig Bryson of the No. 6 ranked 14 Mile/Orchard Lake and No. 8 ranked 12 Mile/Orchard Lake intersections.

State Farm put together the list based on crashes resulting in claims

## CRASH STUDY

The city of Farmington Hills has the 6th and 8th worst intersections in the state for traffic accidents.



Sticks: 47th District Court officer Jerry McKenzie considers himself, above all, a musician.

## Court officer swings with 'savoir faire'

By HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER  
hneedham@hometownnewspapers.net

As a 47th District Court officer, Jerry McKenzie is required to carry a gun and restore order when the need arises.

But his most powerful weapon, according to those who know him, is his *savoir faire*, a French expression referring to the ability to say and do the right thing in any situation.

One recent court visitor was

Please see MCKENZIE, A3