

Attention! Romeos & Julietts

There's still time to enter our "Lessons in Love" contest. Just describe your idea of a romantic evening for two in 100 words or less. The winner receives a night out on the town Friday, Feb. 8, that includes two Red Wing tickets, dinner for two at Cafe Cortina, limousine service, candy and flowers.

To enter, you must be at least 18 years old and very romantic. We must receive your entry by Jan. 25. The winner will be announced Jan. 31. Send entries to: Cathy Young, Lessons in Love Contest, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, phone: (734) 953-2155; fax: (734) 953-2232; e-mail: cyoung@oe.homecomm.net

THE PAPER TODAY

AUTO SHOW

Geared up: Help plan your route for visiting the North American International Auto Show with this special section that features some of the vehicles in this year's event.

ENTERTAINMENT

Diamond cut: Ice carvers from around metro Detroit are polishing up their skills in preparation for the 20th annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular next week. /B1

AT HOME

Galloping in: Get ready to gallop, get ready to run - the Chinese New Year 2002, which begins Feb. 12, rings in the Year of the Horse. /C1

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CLASSIFIED CHANGES
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Starting January 13th the deadlines for ALL lines will be:

SUNDAY PAPER: 5:00PM Friday
THURSDAY PAPER: 5:30PM Tuesday

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District targets '03 time change

Committee asked for board recommendations in April

By SUE BUCK
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prove costly.

If the Farmington School District decides to delay high school start times based on adolescent sleep research, putting a transportation plan in place will

about 7:30 a.m. now. According to information presented by transportation director Bill Touseley, an 8:30 a.m. start time would cost \$644,985.72 the first year.

The district would have to add four new regular education routes and one new special education route. Five new buses would be added, at a cost of \$390,000, along with a new mechanic and drivers, Touseley estimated. A 9 a.m. start time would cost \$404,614.82 with three new buses at \$234,000, new

drivers and a new mechanic.

Whether the district added three or five new buses, they would require an expanded garage facility costing \$250,000-\$500,000 including a new work bay, hoist and accompanying equipment, according to Touseley.

But the adjustment could be made. "I'll do whatever you are willing to pay," he told a committee that met Monday at the Farmington Training Center. Besides Touseley's transportation subcommittee, three other subcom-

mittees delivered reports.

Best in April

Farmington School Superintendent Bob Maxfield is pushing for a recommendation to the school board by April to keep the momentum going, although implementation isn't expected until fall 2003 because of budgetary concerns this year. The district anticipates a shortfall of about \$5 million.

Major changes are due this year in

Please see **START TIMES, A6**



Snow problem: At Farmington Gymnastics, having snow outside wasn't enough - staff members created a "Winter Wonderland" inside. Pictured here, Jimmy Pierce waves to his instructor from a winter ice castle, instructor Amber Boehm spots student Hannah Fecher and Hannah Zawisa crosses the balance beam surrounded by winter decorations. The school is located near 10 Mile and Grand River.



Winter wonderland at gym



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

Chamber starts 2002 with two big events

■ As Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber members and staff start a new year, their President Carleigh Flaharty faces a personal challenge with a positive attitude.

By JONI HUBBARD
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From Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson to Guerilla Marketing expert Jay Conrad Levinson, the

Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is starting off the year with a bang.

Patterson will keynote the 38th Annual Meeting & Business Awards Dinner, slated Jan. 24 at The Hotel Baronet in Novi.

"Typically, he doesn't do speaking engagements in January," chamber president Carleigh Flaharty said, "so we're excited to have him. He's going to speak on Automation Alley. I think he's got a great story to share."

Held in partnership with Detroit Edison and the Farmington Observer,

the event also celebrates the presentation of the chamber's Partners in Progress Awards. Dennis Page of Page's Food & Spirits will receive the Good Partner Award; Metrobank is the Good Partnership Award recipient.

Levinson was booked for a half-day program, which will be held at the Birmingham Training Center in February. The author of 25 business books, including the best-seller Guerrilla Marketing, he presents an innovative "take-no-prisoners" approach to marketing for small business owners.

"We were looking at trends, and the

drop in the economy," Flaharty said. "The first thing people cut is advertising dollars."

The goal of the seminar, she said, is showing businesses how to maximize their advertising and public relations resources. "Those who survive the recession are the companies that will be successful afterwards. Marketing is something everybody needs to be doing."

The event is big enough that Chamber officials decided to bump their

Please see **CHAMBER, A2**

Bogdan Raczkowski services set for Saturday

Bogdan Raczkowski, a longtime community activist and leader within Michigan's Polish community, died of an aortic aneurysm Monday at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

He is the father of State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski (R-Farmington Hills).

Visitation will take place at McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills from 6-9 p.m. today (Thursday) and from 2-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Friday.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Fabian Church in Farmington Hills. Burial will be at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Southfield, followed by a wake/celebration of life at Vladimir's Banquet Center in Farmington Hills.

Bogdan Raczkowski was best known as the former president of the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, where he was instrumental in the design and implementation of a finan-

cial plan that restructured the center. This allowed the Metropolitan Polish Community to own the center.

An avid fighter for fair, but reasonable immigration, Mr. Raczkowski understood the meaning and cost of freedom. He was a young boy in World War II when the Nazi regime invaded his homeland of Poland. He and his family were displaced by the Nazis into forced labor in Austria where he suffered multiple injuries.

After being liberated, he joined the 8th British Army, II Polish Corps, 6th Polish Infantry Division as an infantry soldier.

After the war, he sought freedom and moved the family from Italy to England for the start of his journey to the U.S. Mr. Raczkowski immigrated to Windsor, Canada, in 1951.

In 1958, he moved to the U.S. and pursued citizenship with great fervor. After marrying Sonia in 1962, they both began a long journey of giving

back to their community.

Actively volunteering at civic events were the couple's benchmark. Later in life, Mr. Raczkowski became active in politics, even to the point of assisting and encouraging his youngest son, Andrew, to run for state representative.

A longtime employee of the Ford Motor Co. in the engine manufacturing development operations, he was also a member of the Polish American Congress, American Polish Coalition of Republicans and the Polish National Alliance.

Survivors include his wife, Sonia; two sons, Waldemar and his wife, Annette, and Andrew; one grandchild, Caroline; a sister Adela and her husband, Zygmunt Zomer.

Memorial donations may be made to any children's charity or the Polish American Congress, 11333 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

City seals pricey deal for road salt

By SUE BUCK
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City of Farmington officials sealed a deal to ensure they have enough salt for the season but sky high prices make them cautious buyers, according to Assistant Farmington City Manager Bill Richards.

"We have an agreement to purchase up to 1,500 tons, our normal purchase allotment, but we are not obligated to buy that amount," Richards said. "We won't buy any more than we have to. We plan to

Please see **SALT, A7**