

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Farmington City Council: Officials will meet Monday in Chambers at city hall, 23600 Liberty Street, at 8 p.m. Agenda items will include an update from county commissioner Terry Sever, a presentation on the new SWOCC facility progress, appointments to the planning and environment commissions and consideration of an amendment to the fee schedule at the Governor Warner Mansion.

TUESDAY

School board: The Farmington Board of Education: School Board members will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the board room at the Lewis B. Schulmann Administrative Center, 32500 Shiloh in Farmington. The agenda includes a report on the high school graduation requirement study, approval of attendance area and early childhood study committee recommendations.

WEDNESDAY

Turn Around Awards: The Turn Around Program awards ceremony will be held at Farmington Hills Manor Wednesday, beginning at 11:15 a.m. More than two dozen secondary students who have made significant positive changes in their lives will be honored.

INDEX

Apartment/D6
Automotive/E6
Classified/D,E
Classified Index/D3
Crossword/D4
Jobs/E1
New Homes/D1
Obituaries/A7
Pastimes/B1
Police Calls/A7
Real Estate/D1
Service Guide/E6
Sports/C1
Travel/B8

GENERAL WAREHOUSE
Full time, competitive wage,
benefits.....

"Thanks for your help. We had a
good response."
T. Livonia

**HOMEOWN
CLASSIFIEDS
WORK!**

1-800-579-SELL



6 53174 10005 4

Connecting Area communities offer more choices on Web

BY TEDD SCHNEIDER
STAFF WRITER
tschneider@ec.homecomm.net

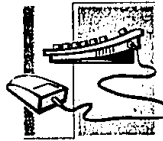
The virtual city or township hall is slowly becoming reality as most local communities move to a second generation of on-line presence that offers everything from a peek at property tax bills to

handgun permit applications. Gone - almost - are the days when municipal Web sites were nothing more than fluffy PR for elected officials and collections of sometimes outdated, or nearly useless information.

Coming next in southeastern Michigan will be the

ability to submit permit applications and other municipal documents over the Internet, although local Web site administrators said legal and security issues still cloud the timeline for that step.

Please see AREA, A3



Technophile: Farmington Hills resident David Haron considers himself "wired," between his desktop and laptop computers, Palm Pilot, BlackBerry and cellular phone. Home technology also includes high-speed Internet service and satellite direct television.

STAFF PHOTO BY JOEY STURKLAND

Local attorney finds good news, bad news in being totally connected

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER
jhubbard@ec.homecomm.net

The good news and bad news in David Haron's life is that he's connected.

Technologically speaking, the attorney and Farmington Hills planning commissioner has a wide array of gadgets that allow him to communicate,

whether by voice or computer. That proved critical on Sept. 11, when he and his wife, Pamela, were waiting to hear from their daughter Andrea, a North Farmington graduate who works just a stone's throw from the World Trade Center.

"She got through to us on a cell phone after an hour," Haron recalled. "Her

first words were 'Daddy, I'm alive.'"

Son Erik, also a North alum, is living and working in Dublin, Ireland, where the time difference can make scheduling phone calls a little difficult. The family keeps in touch via e-mail, which they can read at their convenience. They've

Please see CONNECTED, A2

Time change crowd says no

■ Those who attended a public forum held Thursday to discuss a later start-time in Farmington high schools were largely opposed to the change, for a variety of reasons.

BY SUE BUCK

STAFF WRITER
sbuck@ec.homecomm.net

A public forum to discuss the pros and cons of initiating later start times for Farmington's three high schools based on adolescent sleep time research drew largely negative responses.

Many at the Feb. 28 meeting held at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills questioned the district's process, the extent of new local information gathered and general fiscal responsibility.

Bill Trapp wasn't aware he would be in the minority, as someone who favors the plan. "I thought to myself, 'Who could be against this?'" He noted students would be home alone for a shorter time after school.

However, in a tight budget year with anticipated cuts, parents wanted to continue assurances of small class sizes. Farmington teachers worried about staff cuts.

With a switch to the Oakland Athletics Association this fall, some wondered how flexible other districts would be with Farmington's later schedule. But LaVonda Ramey of the co-curricular subcommittee felt the district could use "creative scheduling" for extracurricular activities.

Kristie Boskey, a Farmington High School junior said she wasn't willing to leave early from classes scheduled for the end of the school day to participate in athletics.

"Academically, I don't want to miss those classes," Boskey said. "I'm an AP (advanced placement) student and am in all honors classes this year."

Michelle Harris, a teacher and chair of the committee said the school district is always looking for ways to improve.

While district administrators had originally discussed a fall 2002 implementation, the change is now considered for the 2003-2004 school year. A committee charged with examining related concerns may make a recommendation to the school board in April. If that happens, board members are expected to vote on the issue in May, well in advance of

Please see TIME, A2

Teamwork's the key to State of the Cities event

BY PAUL R. PACE

STAFF WRITER
ppace@ec.homecomm.net

Working as a team to achieve success was the theme of the recent State of the Cities breakfast.

On Thursday, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce hosted business people, school and city workers and elected officials from Farmington and Farmington Hills, who heard from community leaders about the state of each community and the school district.

Andrew Halli, vice chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, led the event held at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn.

"I can't express how well our chamber has worked with our communities," he said to the crowd of about 150 people.

The two communities' mayors, city managers and school leaders spoke about what has happened in the last year and what is in store for the

future.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates said her community's real estate has a total value of about \$7 billion. Keeping taxes low for residents was always in the plan and is accomplished in part by the fact that 35 percent of the city's real estate is commercial.

Low taxes "allows both businesses and families to thrive and prosper," she said, adding the important infrastructure of the city is the people who live and work in it.

"We're a community rich with good corporate citizens," she said.

Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock said the Hills is in "excellent shape and noted positive results were recorded from a recent random poll of residents.

"Ninety percent of those polled said the quality of life was good here," he said,

Please see TEAMWORK, A6

Family portrait



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREGER

Line them up: Leah Yurasek organizes photos made by her and sister Jessica.

Art display proves theory of relativity

BY PAUL R. PACE

STAFF WRITER
ppace@ec.homecomm.net

While there is no title for the recent art show at the Costick Activities Center, it could easily be called A Family Affair of Art. The Piepenburg clan have

their works on display at the City Gallery at the Costick Activities Center, located on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt.

Artists in residence Robert and Gail Piepenburg along with Gail's two daughters, Leah and Jessica Yurasek, have submitted

works in photography, drawing, ceramics and more.

"We're kind of excited about this," said Gail as she set up pieces of the artwork. The display runs through April 1.

Please see ART, A2