



THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Farmington City Council: Officials will meet at 8 p.m. on Monday in council chambers at city hall, 23600 Liberty Street. On their agenda: Presentation of the Mayoral Photograph with Miss Farmington, Tracey Finlayson; a request for outside sales from Fresh Approach Market on Grand River; a sign variance request at 33312 Grand River and consideration of a bid proposal for the 2002 Road Paving Program.

Cyberseniors: Older adults can learn more about using the mouse and keyboard at a class offered by the Farmington Public Library Monday, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The class is held at the William Costick Activities Center.

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Jean Heffel



Mary Legg



Mary Marshall

Women in history

Seniors wouldn't want to repeat the past

By PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER
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Would women of the World War II generation prefer to be young women today?

In honor of Women's History Month, some Farmington area senior women were interviewed regarding how they believe times have changed for women.

Despite all the strides made in

women's rights during their lifetime, the seniors said they wouldn't switch generations. All three worked while raising a family and all three took pride in their independence.

Life was simpler

For Jean Heffel, 77, life was simpler in her generation as far as raising children. Today's kids have such hectic lives it's hard for moms and

dads to keep pace with their schedules, she said.

"When my kids were growing up they would play, now kids are like little programmed adults," she said. She said working as a nurse, raising her two children after her husband died, woman then didn't earn as much as today.

Nonetheless, "I'm glad we grew up

Please see HISTORY, A6

Board petitions due April 8

■ There's still time to run for a spot on the Farmington School Board, and administrative offices will be open this week for anyone seeking petitions.

By SUE BUCK
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If you are still contemplating running for Farmington school board there's one week left to obtain nominating petitions.

Unlike students who will be out on spring vacation until Monday, April 8, the administrative offices which both provide nominating petitions and file them will be open throughout next week.

Petitions and affidavit of identity forms are available 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Lewis Schulman Admin-

Clarenceville School Board has two open seats, and the only incumbent running would like to see a little more competition. See related story A3

Please see PETITIONS, A5

Session fires up arson training

By PAUL R. PACE
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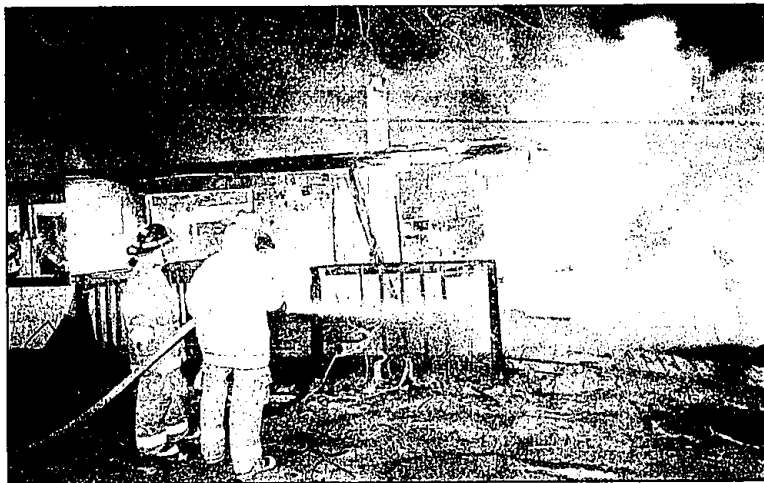
Uncovering the mystery of how a fire originates in a dwelling is all part of a fire investigator's job.

What may appear as the obvious cause of a fire, however, might just turn out to be dead wrong.

About 30 people learned how to tell the difference this week, as the Regional Alliance for Firefighter Training and the Farmington Hills Fire Department hosted a live training session Wednesday. Participants investigated a house that was purposely burned in different ways on Monday.

The reason was to provide a hands-on fire investigation training to public

Please see ARSON, A6



House afire: Firefighters finish up dousing the last of the flames at a training fire Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning, investigators-in-training sifted through the ashes to learn more about how to determine the cause of a fire.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BASKLEY

Fuzzy fun



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAVLEY

Easter Bunnies: Dana and Casey Iles of Farmington Hills joined in the fun at the Wayne County Parks annual marshmallow drop at Hines Park in Westland Friday morning.

School district's top teacher likes 'hands on' lessons

By SUE BUCK
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When it comes to making a good first impression, the message is in the handshake.

"You put one foot forward, your hand out and two or three firm shakes," advises Mary Leyman, a Warner Middle School teacher. "You make eye contact and say, 'How do you do.' You send all this information to people with body language."

Leyman knows first impressions last the longest and she incorporates the proper way to shake hands in her non-academic enrichment class.

The psychology of the handshake translates to her directions on what to do if a person hangs on too long or shakes hands like a well pump, and Leyman tells her students, "Girls need to have firmer handshakes."

In addition to teaching English language arts at Warner Middle School, she teaches public speaking and a career unit. Students work on job applications, interview skills and simulate interviews.

Although the subject matter might seem dull to some, Leyman, who is the Farmington Public School District's Middle School Teacher of the Year, brings the classroom to life.

Business people from around the community come in and work on job skills with the students. They have represented a variety of occupations including Farmington parks and recreation, local banks, and relocation companies and don't just offer vague advice.

"They say, 'I'd hire you in a minute,' or 'I'd hire you, but you need to work

Please see TEACHER, A5