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stage for open  
mic nights at area clubs. B1



PLEASE SEE 'DIALOGUE', A6

# FARMINGTON Observer

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**THURSDAY**  
March 27, 2003  
75 cents

**OUT  
TOWNS**

**Falcon golf**

Farmington High's Falcon Society will host the Third Annual Falcon Open Golf outing on May 17 at Certain's Golf Club in South Lyon.

Registrations for the 144-spot open are now being taken for singles, twosomes or foursomes.

Cost to enter is \$100 per person, which includes lunch, 18 holes of golf with cart, time on the driving range, gift bag, contests and dinner. Dinner only cost is \$50.

Opportunities to financially support the event are available at a number of different levels, including hole, driving range, putting green, carts and meal sponsorships. Professional sponsorship signs are being produced by the school's Technology Department.

The event raises funds for improvements inside and outside Farmington High School. For more information about the outing, call (248) 478-3915 or (248) 866-5292; sponsorship questions, (248) 478-3218.

Registration brochures are available at the school office.

**Reverse raffle**

The Exchange Club of Farmington, together with the City of Farmington Hills' Youth and Family Services Division, will host an evening of fun, food, and dancing from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Friday, April 4 at the Farmington Hills Manor on Orchard Lake Road between 10 Mile and Shiloh.

Proceeds from the event will help support youth programs in the community, including the after-school Youth Centers program. The evening will include dinner, dancing, a reverse raffle, 50/50 drawings and the auction of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Tickets are \$70 and include two dinners and entry into the reverse raffle, in which it pays to be picked last. Throughout the evening, all activity will stop periodically to draw numbers in the reverse raffle and a random number of tickets drawn will be winners.

Each winner will then receive a prize package with a variety of gifts, with a retail value of \$100. The last three tickets drawn will receive \$500, \$1,000 and \$1,500 respectively.

For ticket information, to sponsor a table, or to donate goods or services for the event, contact Todd Lipa at (248) 473-1841.

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## Chamber to host future 'Dialogue'

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is no longer facilitating its annual State of the Cities Breakfast.

This year, the chamber will instead host a program that aims to produce results.

Carleigh Flaharty, chamber president, said instead of inviting area businesses to

hear about past accomplishments of Farmington, Farmington Hills and the Farmington Public School District, the annual meeting will have a new agenda and a new name.

The Future Farmington/Farmington Hills 2003: A Dialogue Among Leaders will happen from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. April 11 at the Dana Corporation, 27404 Drake Road in Farmington Hills.

This time, industry leaders from the two communities will discuss the global

business economy and how it affects the area and also what the cities and school district can do to continue the area's success, said Flaharty.

"We'll be looking at short- and long-term objectives," she said of combining business, government, civic and school resources toward a positive futures in the two communities.

"These are troubling times," she said. "We think this is a time to position ourselves to continue the communities' suc-

cess." There will be nine speakers from the area, including leaders from Walsh College, S.C. Davis & Associates, Botsford Health Care Continuum, Bosch Corporation, Chrysler Financial Services North America and Metrobank.

After the luncheon, break-out sessions will allow attendees to continue dialogue with community leaders on topics of education, quality of life, economic develop-



BILL BREZLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Sleep on it

Students rehearsed this week for North Farmington High's production of 'Once Upon a Mattress,' which opens tonight. Pictured, Sir Harry (Ben Ryberg) is off to the territories to the consternation of Lady Larken (Megan Hestor), King Sextimus the Silent (Rob Feldman) and the dreaded Queen Aggravain (Kristina Reese). Details, page A3.

## Top local teacher wins again

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High math teacher Paula Robin was selected March 20 as one of three 2002 Oakland County Outstanding Teachers of the Year.

Oakland Schools also named Kimberly Ray, a teacher at Lone Pine Elementary School in the Bloomfield Hills School District, and Raymond B. Went, a teacher at Avondale Middle School in the Avondale School District.

Each teacher will receive \$2,000 from the Oakland Schools Foundation at a reception at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, in the Oakland Schools KIVA.

Robin was chosen from a large group of nominees who represented 21 of the 29 intermediate school districts.

"She is the best of the best," said Shelley Yorke Rose, communications

PLEASE SEE TEACHER, A7

## Hills council kicks up dust control issue

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Ellis are tough, say Farmington Hills city leaders.

But they aren't so bad the city can't pay to treat gravel roads with dust control.

Councilman Jerry Ellis Monday proposed reinstating a special assessment through which residents who live along gravel roads pay for their own dust control.

"The cost is \$70,000-75,000," Ellis

said, adding the city will be losing an anticipated \$300,000 in state-shared revenues again this year, the same amount cut last year.

Ellis said anywhere the city can save money is important.

He said in the past, each home along a gravel road was assessed about \$25 a year for the service. About four years ago, the council decided to have the city pay for the procedure, which includes salting icy roads in the winter.

Mayor Pro Tem Jon Grant agreed

having the service benefits the abutting property owners who chose to live on gravel roads.

"In this difficult budget year, I fully support going back to this," he said.

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett argued council members discuss each year who should pay.

She said it boils down to whether the service is considered maintenance or an improvement.

PLEASE SEE DUST, A4

## Farmington area's Teen Center hosts opening

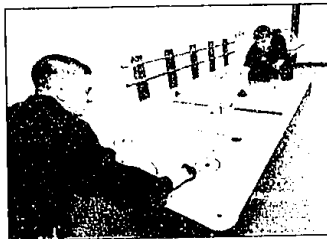
BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington area teens have a new place to call their own in the recently remodeled Teen Center located on the second floor of the Farmington Hills Ice Arena on Eight Mile.

A dedication ceremony was held Tuesday evening, wherein community leaders, kids, parents and business leaders joined in celebrating the center's redesign.

The center will be open Friday and Saturday nights for high schoolers starting this Friday.

Students from the Mayors Youth Council who helped rebuild the center, members of the Farmington Hills City Council and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation and area business leaders were on hand at the dedication.



BILL BREZLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Landrum and Peter Ferlen play a little air hockey at the dedication of the 2nd floor.

PLEASE SEE CENTER, A4

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

Exquisite  
Meet a pastry chef whose delectable cakes are also detailed works of art. Read about it in the Taste section Sunday.



**If it's important to you, it's important to us.** **For totally local news, Read on...**