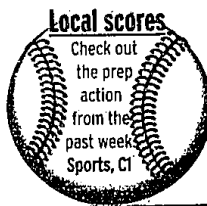


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Main Street experts focus on change

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Looking for redevelopment opportunities, marketing and creating an image — and a slogan — for the downtown area were some of the suggestions planning experts from the Main Street Program offered Thursday.

They also saw a need for an intensive, 12- to 18-month market analysis, studying

who's shopping downtown, who's not and what people want to see downtown. "A series of surveys would measure the attitudes, needs and perception of downtown," said Nick Kalogeris of the National Main Street Program. "What will bring people there?"

He was joined by Scott Ferris and Carolyn Delluri from the National Main Street Program and Bob Donohue and Russell Lewis of Main Street Oakland

County. They spoke at Farmington City Hall following a three-day visit and interviews with business owners and residents.

Sample recruitment packages summarizing demographics, with a map of the trade area, is important, Kalogeris said.

A workshop on better storefronts is also a good idea, he added. Some businesses might want to

expand. Village Mall at Farmington and Grand River is a great business incubator and some of those businesses might someday want to open their own storefront businesses, Kalogeris said.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce can also provide great partnerships, he said.

PLEASE SEE CHANGE, A6

OUR TOWNS



Raffle winner

Marijyn Cannell, a fourth-grade student at Beechview Elementary School in Farmington Hills, won the Giant Easter Egg raffle sponsored by Anna's Café and Baskets.

She was in shock when she



received the phone call from Anna. After much thought about what to do with all that chocolate, she decided to share it with her classmates and Girl Scout troop.

At the end of the school year, she plans to melt down the chocolate and make chocolate covered pretzels to share with her friends.

And to say thanks for a great year, she plans to make chocolate covered strawberries for her great teacher and troop leader.

Town Hall

State Rep. Aldo Vagozzi (D-Farmington Hills) will sponsor a Town Hall meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Monday May 5 at Farmington Hills City Hall Council Chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

Vagozzi will discuss Canadian and out-of-state trash legislative efforts to stop the trash from filling Michigan landfills.

The public is welcome.



Jennifer Baker cheers as her team gets another right answer. The Pixie Chicks took first place in the Battle of the Books competition.

Students do battle with books

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Farmington area students love their books.

And the young bibliophiles put their skills to the test Wednesday at the Costick Activities Center.

Sixty top-scoring teams participated in the 15th annual Battle of the Books.

The teams were among 187 groups who made it to the semi-finals of the challenge.

"It was the most ever," said Meaghan Battle, youth services coordinator for the Farmington Community Library, which co-hosts the Battle of the Books with the help of the Friends of the Library.

The event is a reading incentive

PLEASE SEE BOOKS, A6

Potter named Officer of Year

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

It's unusual for someone to thank an officer for arresting him or giving him a ticket.

However, Farmington Public Safety Officer Dan Potter has four letters in this category, according to Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

"One such letter from a man he arrested for OUIL (driving under the influence) thanks him for treating him with respect and dignity. Also, he thanks Potter for finally getting through to him that he can't solve his problems with a bottle. He concludes with the remark that he is facing his alcoholism and his life is beginning to come together."

During the annual public safety awards program held Wednesday at Farmington City Hall, Potter was named Officer of the Year.

Although Potter has his sensitive side, he can be tough when the need arises, Goss said. He received two Department Citations. One was for climbing a pipe to access a second-story roof where captured two break-in suspects. The second was for capturing a man who had assaulted the homeowner during a break-in.

PLEASE SEE OFFICER, A7

Players salvage equipment from theater

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Call it a twist on an old saying: As one theater door closes, another opens.

While members of the Farmington Players Barn worked diligently to raise money to build a new facility, outfitting the inside of the theater was unresolved.

The community celebrated the new Players Barn opening last year, but members were still burdened with raising money to furnish it.

"We were thinking we have a mort-

gage and now what do we do?" said Players member David Termes.

One member's idea turned into a god-send.

Since last September, members have been taking slightly used items from the inside of Livonia's George Burns Theatre for the Performing Arts on Farmington and Plymouth roads. The little-used theater equipment was destined for a landfill until the players knocked on the door and asked if they could take it for their new facility.

All the auditorium seating now at the

Barn is from the George Burns, which is being demolished to make way for housing and commercial development.

"You can hardly tell they were ever used," said Termes of the quality, metal seats that serve a perfect fit in the new Barn on 12 Mile, just east of Farmington Road.

Stage rigging, screen lights, mirrors, countertops, commercial refrigerators and more from the George Burns now have a new home in Farmington Hills.

PLEASE SEE PLAYERS, A7

Barbers chosen as Citizen of the Year by Jaycees

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Paul and Fern Barber met in violin class while they were freshman music students at the University of Michigan.

And they've been making beautiful music together and in the Farmington community ever since.

Just before graduation from U-M, Paul and Fern landed jobs with Farmington Public Schools. Their passion

for supporting the arts, music and prosperity of the Farmington community has been unwavering for the last 37 years.

Because of their dedication and volunteer efforts, the Farmington Area Jaycees have selected the Barbers as this year's Citizen of the Year.

Jaycees President Stephanie Bessen said, "The Barbers exemplify

PLEASE SEE CITIZEN, A7



Fern and Paul Barber's efforts will be honored Tuesday as the Farmington Area Jaycees Citizen of the Year.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Art in the park
Art fair season kicks off Saturday-Sunday, May 10-11 with the Birmingham Fine Art Festival.

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