

Students plant trees for state, 1B



Heavy duty sport, 1D

Friends help give library a boost, 8B

# Farmington Observer

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## Schools mull extra revenue

**By Casey Hans**  
staff writer

Farmington school trustees face a choice of rolling back the district's millage, or budgeting an additional \$1.2 million for the coming budget year, based on information presented at a Tuesday study session.

Although the board has several weeks to consider the matter and until June 2 to adopt the 1987-88 budget, at least one trustee said he wants to give the money to taxpayers.

"I think we should roll it back," said the board's treasurer R. Jack Inch. "It looks like we're searching for ways to spend the money. I have a little difficulty saying 'we found a place to spend the money'."

"This budget is adequate — it's far enough to go in one year."

The preliminary budget reviewed Tuesday by the school board totaled \$66.5 million based on a State Equalized Value of \$1,647 billion.

A last-minute revision by the city of Farmington Hills took the district's SEV figure to \$1,686 billion, giving the district \$1.2 million more than proposed in the budget, Deputy Superintendent Michael Flanagan explained. The majority of the SEV rating, or \$1,442 billion, comes from Farmington Hills.

THE BOARD voted unanimously to schedule the required Truth in Taxation hearing for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, based on the higher figure for purposes of budget review.

The district is proposing the same

32.5 levy for operating millage for the district which covers the city of Farmington, a major portion of West Bloomfield Township.

The proposed budget at the lower figure would cover:

- Wage settlements for union contracts currently being negotiated.
- Allow \$2.5 million for equipment and building improvements — following a similar program to upgrade the district's buildings, which

full 32.5 mills based on the higher SEV, the extra dollars would be placed in the new budget.

Please turn to Page 14

### Farmington FOCUS

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**HOW** cold was it? No topcoats were seen at the Farmington Area YMCA Wellness Center groundbreaking April 30. But sunny skies belied chilly temperatures.

"Getting ready for the program, I was concerned about rain. But I never thought about the cold," said Robert Denmore, Farmington Area YMCA Board of Directors chairman.

**IT'S** National Music Week. At Farmington Musicale's request, Farmington City Council issued a proclamation urging residents "to observe and take part in activities recognizing the importance of music, musicians and musical organizations to everyone."

**MONDAY** is the last day to register to vote in the Monday, June 8, Farmington Board of Education election. Incumbent Susan Rennels will face challenger Jennifer Mart in the race for a four-year term.

**ON** board. Farmington Hills City Council has chosen Farmington Green West resident Stuart Selis to fill a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission. His term expires Feb. 1, 1989.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Three Farmington Public Schools senior high students — two from Harrison and one from North Farmington — were among the 15 members of the Observer's 1986 Academic All-Star team.

### 'What a shocker'

## Escape out of Tehran traced

Escapee has written the book, "Not Without My Daughter"; Page 6A.

**By Joanne Maliszowski**  
staff writer

**F**OR HELGA Miller, it was a personal coup.

For Betty Mahmoody, it was yet another chance to tell her story of escape from Iran.

Miller's coup was a personal interview — following in newswoman Barbara Walter's footsteps — with Mahmoody, the Michigan woman who escaped with her daughter after months of being held hostage in Iran by her husband.

"I was just so fascinated. There is so much to this," Miller said of meeting and interviewing Mahmoody.

Mahmoody's tale of escape — with the help of an Iranian businessman — on horseback through Turkey was first told in July 1986



Helga Miller of Farmington Hills achieved a personal coup with the interview of Betty Mahmoody, who escaped from being held hostage in Iran by her husband.

Please turn to Page 6

## Property tax appeals down from last year

**By Joanne Maliszowski**  
staff writer

It wasn't as hectic as expected. Property tax assessment appeals in Farmington Hills were fewer this year than last. That's particularly surprising because of the creation earlier this year of a second property assessment board of review, said Dean Babb, Farmington Hills assessor.

Members of the city's two boards of review heard a total of 709 appeals — 41 fewer than last year, Babb said.

With the type of increases, we had few appeals," Babb said, particularly with commercial and property assessments.

THOUGH THE assessor's staff does not yet have final figures on the specific number of cases denied or the number of assessments reduced, dollar values are available. Assessed value is 50 percent of the property's

Please turn to Page 6

## Hills 3rd in county for SEV

**By Joanne Maliszowski**  
staff writer

Farmington Hills remains in third place behind Southfield and Troy for highest state equalized value (SEV) in Oakland County.

That doesn't mean Farmington Hills didn't grow in value of property last year.

The city's total SEV, in fact, in-

Please turn to Page 6

## Peace connection links 3 generations

**'For me the definition of being a mother has broadened in concept to include my duty of protection.'**

— Rebecca Fineman, Farmington Hills

**By Davo Varga**  
staff writer

How much difference can a college kid make?

Jaekie Victor of Bloomfield Township made a big impact at home. She helped inspire her mother and grandmother to become activists in the war against nuclear destruction.

"I never thought because I was involved my mother would get involved and my grandmother would get involved," Jackie said.

And their involvement eventually helped form a metropolitan Detroit chapter of the Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament (WAND). The year-old local group will hold a Mother's Peace Day breakfast in Birmingham this morning, followed by a speech by Sayre Sheldon at 7:30 p.m. at the Southfield Public Library.

The peace connection with this weekend's Mother's Day celebration is natural, WAND members point out. One of the early originators of

celebrating a day focused on mothers was Julia Ward Howe of Boston.

After the carnage of the Civil War and Franco-Prussian War, Howe wrote, "Why do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters to prevent the waste of human life

which they alone bear and know the cost?"

REBECCA FINEMAN, Jackie's grandmother who lives in Farmington

Please turn to Page 14

## Principal's memory honored

**By Bob Sklar**  
staff writer

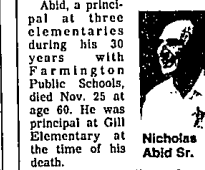
Calling him "a model for all children and citizens of all ages," the Farmington City Council Monday honored the memory of longtime educator Nicholas Abid Sr.

He "so often followed his heart, beyond the requirements of his position, to serve the needs of his charges in countless ways," the proclamation continued.

The 25-year Farmington resident taught others how to live through his efforts on behalf of the many community-minded programs he founded, including the school district's Student Emergency Fund.

teeth fluoridation and Head Start. It applauded his efforts on behalf of the Sarah Fisher Home for Children and the Farmington Area Goodfellows.

The council commended Abid "for his high understanding of the role of the citizens in a democracy."



Nicholas Abid Sr.

The city council proclamation pointed out that Abid "earned the affection and respect of the children and their families in the neighborhoods in which he practiced his chosen profession."

Abid, a principal at three elementary schools during his 30 years with Farmington Public Schools, died Nov. 25 at age 69. He was principal at Gill Elementary at the time of his death.

Also on her husband's behalf, Abid's widow, Juanita, received a Civic Leader Award from the city council and a memorial resolution from the Michigan Legislature.

The Civic Leader Award recognized Abid's achievements "in the education and social care of the children of Farmington." The legislative resolution was signed by state Rep. Wilbur Brotherton, R-Farmington, and state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

Juanita Abid accepted the awards exactly as she said her husband would have wanted her to — "on behalf of all the principals of Farmington Schools."

THE CITY council also cited Abid's work in helping introduce such social programs as student



These three generations of women are active in the anti-nuclear/peace movement — Jaekie Victor, 23, Arlene Victor, 53, and Rebecca Fineman, "a grandmother."

### what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 3B
- Business . . . 1-3C
- Cable connection . . . 7C
- Club circuit . . . 2B
- Crossword puzzle . . . 11E
- Entertainment . . . 8-D
- Library watch . . . 10B
- Opinion . . . 18A
- Police/fire calls . . . 16A
- Readers' forum . . . 19A
- Sports . . . 1-5D
- Travel . . . 5C
- Classifieds . . . Secs. C,E,F
- Index . . . 2F
- Auto . . . Sec. C
- Real estate . . . 2E
- Employment . . . 2F



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