

American spirit shines in parade, 1B



Glenn tops in track, 1D

Students produce literary magazine, 8A

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GUIDED tours of the new Farmington Hills Police Facility are scheduled for this weekend.

Hours are 4:30-8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tours will start on the half hour.

The 32,000-square-foot, \$3.7-million facility is on the southwest corner of Orchard Lake and 11 Mile roads, next to the city hall.

If you're at least 11 years old and you'd like to volunteer at the Farmington Community Library, call Nancy Hasek at the Farmington Branch, 474-7770, or Jean Jambas at Farmington Hills Branch, 553-0300.

Volunteers help librarians with behind-the-scenes jobs. They also assist at children's programs and special library projects.

At summer's end, all volunteers will be recognized and rewarded with a party.

GROWING. Six modular classrooms will be bought to expand four overcrowded Farmington Public Schools elementarys.

Two of the 1,000-square-foot classrooms will be placed at Longacre. One will be placed at William Grace, Flanders and Larkshire.

The school board approved the \$234,000 expense last week.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week - U.S. Air Force Reserve Col. Bruce Wylie, guest speaker at Memorial Day services at the Downtown Farmington Veterans Memorial, opened with a quote from Thomas Paine: "Those who expect to reap the blessing of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

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IN EVERY THURSDAY EDITION

Schools eye an improved curriculum

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington high school employees are taking suggestions and making changes, based on reports from the North Central Association, an accreditor for secondary schools throughout the country.

Improving the curriculum was the common need at the three public high schools.

"I want us to be an instructional model for the state," Farmington High School teacher LeeAnn Cunningham told the school board last week. She said her previous experience with North Central evaluations in other districts had "superficial luster" compared with her experience in Farmington. "I think we are way ahead of the ballgame with a seven-year plan."

Principals and staff members from the schools met with the school board last week to give a report on North Central suggestions, and how each school is implementing them. Farmington recently received its evaluation from North Central, while staffs at Harrison and North Farmington have had information to work with for about a year. Each school is evaluated and reaccruited every seven years.

"WE CREATE a positive learning experience," added Farmington

'I want us to be an instructional model for the state.'

— LeeAnn Cunningham, Farmington High teacher

High principal Jerry Potter. "Our goal will be instructional. The strength of the school rests with the students."

In addition to curriculum issues, the district will look at other areas during the next seven years, including cultural relationships in the district, the gifted program, improved technology for learning and many capital improvements, said Judith White, assistant superintendent.

"North Central reports serve as a basis for looking at the secondary programs," she said. White said she appreciated the "fresh data" generated by the accrediting teams.

Superintendent Graham Lewis said he was "impressed and delighted" with the actions being taken at each school.

"You always hope a district will take it (the recommendations) up" said Lewis, who has served on six North Central teams to evaluate

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Murder victim's 2 sisters testify at Merlo retrial

Defendant's letters debated, 14A.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Little more than a month before he killed his wife, John Merlo showed his sister-in-law that he had a gun.

"He took out the gun and showed it to me in his hand and said he wasn't afraid of anybody," Sharon Merlo's older sister, Diane Wilsher, testified before Oakland Circuit Judge Fred Mester Tuesday.

Wilsher and a younger sister, Christine Lewis, were among witnesses who testified in the continuing retrial of John Merlo. He was con-

victed 20 years ago of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Sharon Merlo, then 18.

Merlo has spent the last 20 years in the Southern Michigan Prison at Jackson. If Merlo is convicted of anything less than first-degree (premeditated) murder in the retrial, he might now be eligible for parole.

Merlo, then 25, admits killing his wife on the morning of Jan. 6, 1967, at the Great Eating Shop, at Inster and Eight Mile, in what was then Farmington Township.

MERLO AND his defense attorneys, Patrick Cleary and Frank Lawrence, maintain that he did not

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A time to remember



LAURA CASTLE/staff photographer

World War I veteran Warthman Hubert of Farmington pauses for a moment of thought about the 37 American soldiers who lost their

In memory Service tugs at heart strings

By Chris Rizk staff writer

HEB FACED the harrowing experience of war twice in his life. And he was grateful that he returned home each time.

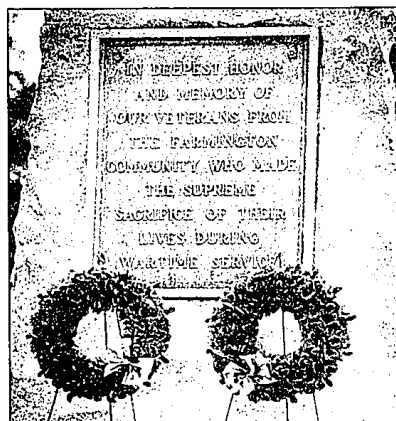
By the time John Tobin was most thankful for this Memorial Day was his ability to lend a few words honoring those men and women who have helped maintain peace at home and abroad. Tobin is vice chairman of VFW Post 2269.

In addition to the thanks, Tobin, speaking at the Memorial Day observance in downtown Farmington, shed a few silent tears.

"It was a very dramatic and touching scene when the band played taps and the firing squad performed," Tobin said. "I get goose bumps everytime I hear it."

Tobin wasn't the only Farmington/Farmington Hills resident to hold back tears during the ceremony, which Farmington Hills Mayor Ben Marks described as a great way to "continue to dedicate the tradition we have of honoring those who gave their lives . . . so that we may continue to enjoy our way of life."

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Members of World War I Veterans, Gold Star Mothers, Blue Star Mothers, and American Legion posts 346 and 190 and VFW post 2269 and their auxiliaries placed wreaths at the War Memorial.

Downtown director sizes up her job



LAURA CASTLE/staff photographer

DDA executive director Wendy Strip Focal Point. The photo studio is moving to a Sitteamer (right) chats with Jerry Jekackl of former factory that's being renovated.

By Casey Hans staff writer

A woman with international taste will focus her energies on downtown Farmington.

Wendy Strip Sittsamer, new executive director of the Downtown Development Authority, believes she has found her ideal job, despite an itch to travel, interest in international relations and a global perspective on life.

Her original goal of working in in-

ternational relations as an ambassador has melted.

"I don't think I could have said, 'I want to direct a DDA,' but the combination was right," she said.

It's a chance to "use my skills, make a contribution and have fun too," she added. "I know I'd enjoy being in government again."

Strip Sittsamer formerly worked with a Pittsburgh city councilman, has dealt with elections, researched

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Candidates profiled

On Monday, June 8, first-term incumbent Susan Rennels and challenger Jennifer Mart will vie for one four-year term on the Farmington Board of Education.

Voters have until 2 p.m. Saturday, June 6, to request absentee ballots at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Sitawassec.

The school district encompasses all of Farmington, most of Farmington Hills and a portion of West Bloomfield Township.

The seven-member school board considers recommendations from the salaried administration and sets all district policies. Each member earns \$30 per meeting attended up to one day and \$2 per year.

For candidate profiles, see Page 3A.