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THERE promises to be lots of enthusiasm at this year's Memorial Day parade at 10 a.m. Monday, May 29, in downtown Farmington, as Farmington Exchange Club members pass out American flags to patriotic young spectators.

"Give A Kid A Flag To Wave!" is the name of the program, in its second year. Chairman Bob Rock encourages anyone who has flags from last year to "bring them along and wave their flag."

TWO Farmington-area leaders will be honored by the Greater Michigan Foundation during Michigan Week May 19-27.

Farmington city councilwoman and beautification proponent Shirley Richardson will receive a volunteer leadership award for outstanding volunteer service to her community.

QUOTE of the week

"I'm just a smaller part of a large cosmos. I'm rather insignificant."

— David Rivlin, a quadriplegic, from his bed in the Oak Hill Care Center, Farmington. He wants the ventilator that has kept him alive for more than two years disconnected (see story on this page)

A life or death matter

Quadriplegic asks for the right to die

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Thinking about the universe — its beginnings and what will become of it — is helping Farmington quadriplegic David Rivlin through his decision to die.

On his television set sits a copy of author Stephen Hawking's "A Brief History of Time," a book about the creation of the universe. "It's an interest that makes my decision easier," said Rivlin, 38.

"I'm just a smaller part of a large cosmos. I'm rather insignificant," said Rivlin, from his bed in the Oak Hill Care Center, Farmington, where he's lived for about two years.

Rivlin feels a sort of kinship with Hawking, a mathematics professor at Cambridge University in England. The author, who holds the same professorship held by Isaac Newton, is incapacitated with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Rivlin has had plenty of time to think and ponder the life of the world as well as his own. "I realized I'd be spending the next 20 years in an institution, cut off pretty much from life," he said.

On May 17, Rivlin petitioned Oakland County Circuit Court to be removed from the ventilator that has kept him breathing for the past two years. But his decision to die did not come easy. "I had the idea, but I held onto it for about a year. I wanted to make sure in my own mind that what I wanted."

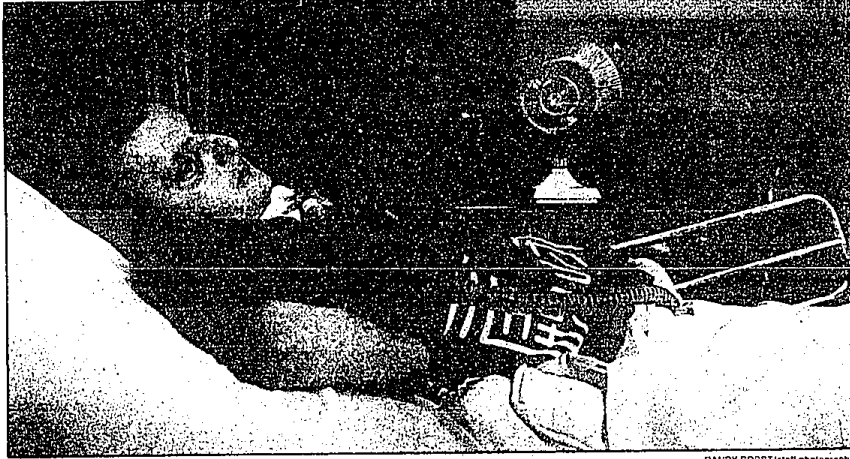
RIVLIN BECAME a quadriplegic 18 years ago when his spinal cord was severed in a surfing accident in Huntington Beach, Calif. "A wave drove me into the sand and broke my neck," he said.

The former Oak Park resident returned to Detroit following his injury because he believed he could get better medical treatment here.

Life changed drastically after the accident. But Rivlin said he was in pretty good condition until almost three years ago, when he had an aneurysm and a resulting operation on his spinal cord. "They tried to save my breathing. But they weren't able to."

Despite his injury, Rivlin said he tried to live independently. At the time of his accident, he was studying to be a psychiatric technician. Even though he was in and out of hospitals,

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David Rivlin, 38, who lives at Oak Hill Care Center in Farmington, has been a quadriplegic for 18 years and has been on a ventilator for almost three years.

Patient favors right-to-die bill

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

A controversial right-to-die bill in the Michigan Legislature won't help Farmington quadriplegic David Rivlin. But Rivlin thinks it's time legislators stopped their fighting and let the bill become law.

"They should have more faith in the intelligence of their constituents," said Rivlin, 38, from his bed in Oak Hill Care Center, Farmington.

"Forty-one states have this right. And Michigan does not. We are supposed to be on the forefront of technology, and we should recognize the limits of technology," he added.

Senate Bill 293 would allow a patient to give the power of attorney to another to make medical treatment decisions if the patient becomes in-

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— David Rivlin

capacitated. A debate continues to rage over provisions protecting the rights of a fetus separately from the rights of a pregnant woman.

Rivlin knows first-hand the limits of medical technology. He's fighting his own battle to be disconnected

scheduled. "HE HAS determined that, not only is his continued existence a burden to the people of the state of Michigan and to the United States government, who have been paying for his support; but, also, the frustration, boredom, and complete lack of ability to contribute to society, to the community, or to enhance his own identity, has frustrated him," Rivlin's petition reads.

Rivlin, according to the petition, decided that his "continued existence will cause him emotional harm and strain, and his one driving wish at this time is to have his existence terminated in as painless and swift a manner as may be possible."

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HOLIDAY DEADLINE

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, we will be closed Monday, May 29, 1989. To place your in-column "Liner" ad in our Thursday, June 1 edition, please call either Friday, May 26 or Tuesday, May 30, 1989. Have a Happy and Safe Holiday!

WAYNE COUNTY 591-0900

Candidates: New school is for neighborhood

By Casey Hains staff writer

All four Farmington school board candidates agreed this week that the planned new elementary school on the district's west side would best serve the community as a "neighborhood school," where children surrounding it would attend.

"I would assume the new school would be a neighborhood school," said incumbent John Cotton, Challenger Albert Ranney said he "strongly favors" the concept, and challenger John Akouri added, "I would hope . . . they

(neighborhood students) would be able to attend this school."

Incumbent Helen Ditzhazy took the issue one step further, supporting the neighborhood school concept but calling on citizen involvement in the ongoing planning process, which is well under way.

The concept of neighborhood schools was just one of many issues raised at a candidates night Monday, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Farmington/West Bloomfield Area and the American Association of University Women-Farmington branch. Turnout at the annual candidates forum was better than

in previous years; organizers said they had more questions from the audience than could be used.

INCUMBENTS DITZHAZY and Cotton and challengers Akouri and Ranney will vie for two seats on the Farmington Board of Education during the regular school election on Monday, June 12. The two top vote-getters will win four-year terms on the non-partisan board.

The tone of Monday's candidate session was more controlled and less challenging than another candidates forum held last week, where Akouri and Cotton were absent.

Monday, several questions were asked about the voting records of the candidates. Both Akouri and Ranney admitted to not voting in recent school elections; the two incumbents say they vote regularly in all local elections.

Several new issues were raised, including a suggestion that the board consider having evening or Saturday hours for administrators to meet with the public, a suggestion which appealed to all four of the candidates.

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Cities plan for recycling as trash disposal costs mount

□ Solid waste authority considered, 4A

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

There's no time to waste as garbage and increasing costs for disposal continue to pile up. Farmington and Farmington Hills will do their share to reduce the volume of garbage with recycling centers early this summer.

beginning curbside recycling," said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman, Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium chairman.

As members of the consortium, Farmington and Farmington Hills are participating in a study of solid waste disposal needs and solutions. A major component of the consortium's study is a recycling facility, for which a \$5 million state grant has been sought to help defray the estimated \$20-\$30 million cost.

years away. The interim recycling centers — still in the planning process — are designed to get residents accustomed to the idea of recycling their garbage. Deadman and Farmington Hills city manager William Costick said.

"The process is really to build a recycling ethic. We want people to pay more attention to products for recycling," Deadman said.

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Parade to honor fallen Marines

The Marine Corps will be the honored military branch at this year's Memorial Day parade in downtown Farmington Monday, May 28.

Immediately after the parade, Reserve Lt. Col. Leo Williams III will deliver the principal address at a memorial service at the Veterans Memorial on Grand River, just west of Farmington Road.

Williams, a future vehicle product planner at Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, is commanding officer

of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing Detachment B, based at Selfridge Air National Guard Base near Mount Clemens.

The festivities will "honor those men and women who have given their most precious gift to their country, their lives," said Walter Christensen, chaplain at American Legion Groves-Walker Post 348 in Farmington.

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