

Makeup artists get prom dates ready, 1C



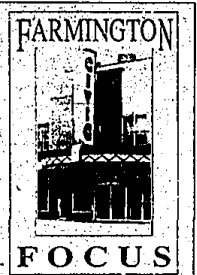
Soccer scene, 1B

Clarenceville schools chief resigns, 15A



# Farmington Observer

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**ATTENTION**, all would-be Miss Farmingtons... Applications are available at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 33411 Grand River in downtown Farmington, and the deadline for submitting them is Friday, May 31.

**MUSIC TEACHER** Margaret Koltz will be performing her last vocal concert at 8 p.m. today at Farmington High School on Shiawassee. She's asking her former students to follow a long standing tradition and be on hand for the occasion.

**FRIDAY, MAY 17**, will be a big day at Farmington's Thomas P. Beahan Junior High School, with students and teachers taking part in a lot of "nonsense."

**THE PAINTINGS** of Donna Vogelheim, Farmington's Artist-in-Residence for 1991, will be on display at the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road, through June.

**WHAT THE occasion?** Why, it's the retirement of longtime Farmington High School principal Gerald Potter, and the public is invited to attend a reception in his honor.

**HEAR WHAT'S** wrong with TV these days by attending the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce luncheon at noon Thursday, May 23, at the Clarion Hotel Orchard Lake Road and 12 Mile.

**MEMORY LANE** - From the May 17, 1931 Farmington Enterprise: Delos Hamlin, former Farmington mayor, was named temporary city manager, and Keno Loomis was elected mayor during the organizational meeting of the new Farmington City Council.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21688 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LEWIS/Staff photographer

## Welcome home!

Jose Herrera, clad in the same fatigues he wore in Operation Desert Storm, gets a welcome-home hug from his daughter, Halston, Tuesday morning during a ceremony at the

Farmington Square Montessori School. For a story and more photos, please see Page 3A.

## Still stinks: school's air to be tested

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A lingering odor caused by a tile glue remover used in the renovation of Hill Elementary six weeks ago has prompted both school district and union officials to have air quality testing done in the building. School officials say the situation is under control and that there is no health hazard, according to the results of initial air tests. The odor reportedly smells like mothballs and is believed caused by naphthalene, a white, crystalline by-product produced from coal tar and believed to be used in the glue remover. "The smell is still with us," said principal Michael Duff. "There has been some staff concern over it. We're on top of the situation."

break, school was closed, down for two days, Duff said. The three classrooms and a teachers' lounge in which tile was removed still have the odor, and several staff members reportedly remain concerned about air throughout the school. An initial air test contracted for by the district shows no toxicity in the air, while officials of the Farmington Education Association are testing the air this week for a comparative sampling. FEA president Jim Miner said members "are still concerned. Hopefully, between the two of them (tests) everything will be OK. If not, we'll have to revisit it."

Over the school spring break in late March, contractors used a chemical to remove tile mastic from four rooms in the southwest side Farmington Hills school as part of a major building renovation and addition project. Because of the strong odor which remained after the

As a SAFEGUARD, three classrooms of students are now busily to nearby Longacre Elementary, where they are schooled in portable classrooms, Duff said. Duff said staffers, including himself, had an initial reaction to the odor including some eye irritation. "We never expected this to happen."

## Cities sort out recycling plans

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington and Farmington Hills residents will pay a quarterly fee to separate and recycle their garbage at their curbside. The new program — and billing period — begins July 1. A few ordinance, to be enacted Monday, May 20, by both the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils, also will take effect that day. "I'm running because I can feel I can make a contribution."

For example, each single family homeowner and condominium owner — with a separate entrance — to accommodate curbside pickup — will receive a yellow and green recycling bin. City officials expect that someone where along the line, someone will sell their house and take the bin with them instead of leaving it for the new residents. "It's going to happen. We anticipate they will probably have to buy a new one," Farmington Hills public services director Tom Biessell said. THE FARMINGTON Hills proposed ordinance does not require a

## Board candidate: Schools must 'justify every dollar'

Editor's note: Coverage of the 1991 Farmington school board race continues with a profile of challenger Richard DeVries. Election coverage will continue throughout May. The election is June 10.

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

This is Richard DeVries' second try at the Farmington school board. And, the 41-year-old challenger hopes the approach he labels "fiscal responsibility" will garner enough votes to win him a seat on the board. If elected, DeVries plans to focus on successful budget-cutting, goal-setting and increased academic achievement in the district. He wants more money for instructional areas and better efficiency and non-

## '91 SCHOOL BOARD RACE

ey-saving techniques in each department. "We've got to go right down the list. We've got to justify every dollar," said DeVries, a Ford Motor Co. engineer who is married and the father of three and lives in Farmington Hills. His sons attend Hillside and Highmeadow elementaries and a preschool daughter is still at home. His wife, Jill, is a teacher. He said six of seven board members have no children in the school

district, and he believes it's his turn. "To them, it's an academic exercise," he said. "To me it's the future of three children. I think the board should be a check and balance on the administration. "I'm running because I can feel I can make a contribution. DeVRIES IS vying for a non-partisan four-year school board term against two-term incumbent and Farmington Hills bank executive Susan Hornels, and challenger Laura Myers who is a parent and community activist. In the 1990 campaign, DeVries placed fourth in a slate of nine candidates, and has gotten the support of resident and school board watcher Robert Tanney who ran for the board in both 1989 and 1990. Holding both a bachelor of science and master of arts degrees from the University of Michigan where he



Richard DeVries

now teaches courses during the summer, DeVries believes the school board needs a member with a strong background, training and experience in science and technology. He is a member of the University of Iowa National Science Foundation. Please turn to Page 2

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## DeVries targets spending, district goals

Facing one incumbent and another challenger for one seat on the Farmington School board June 10, challenger Richard DeVries

district's spending. He is determined it can do well with the money it has. "Believes not enough money is being put into instruction in the district. "We've got a whole army of people who are consultants and coordinators. Some of these are the best

teachers," he said. "It doesn't do my kids much good if they aren't in the classroom."

Advocates a full school board packet be available to the public for review at each meeting. "Everything that goes in the board packet should be available to the public," he said. He also wants each person who took the time to write to the board to receive a response.

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