



# Farmington Observer

FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**Go TEAMS!** A group of bright students from Harrison High School soared in the recent TEAMS competition./3A

### COUNTY NEWS

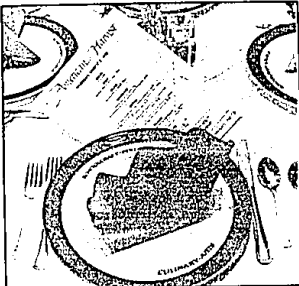
**Book him in:** You may have heard the new president of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus leading book reviews at a local library./12A

**Ronna wows 'em:** The Oakland County politico turned radio talk show host blasts TV news before delighted OCC students./9A

### MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Have a heart:** Some savvy retailers are matching up products and the causes you care about./6A

### TASTE



**Serve and learn:** Put student chefs to the test, and enjoy an affordable, delicious meal by visiting one of the restaurants operated by local college culinary arts programs./1B

### STREET SCENE

**Honest sound:** Don't look for a musical version of the tale of "The Hobbit" coming from this band, even though its name shows up in the book. The Grey Havens offer music with feeling. As they see it, if it's not worth playing, why play it?/5B

### SPORTS

**Soccer preview:** The Farmington and North Farmington girls teams are preparing for the start of a new season./1C

### INDEX

Classifieds . . . C-D	Opinion . . . 10A
Auto . . . C-D	Personal Scene . . . 7B
Employment . . . C-D	Police, fire calls . . . 3A
Real estate . . . C	Sports . . . 1C
Crossword puzzle . . . 4C	Street Scene . . . 5B
Malls . . . 6A	Taste . . . 1B
Obits . . . 4B	

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## School chief unhappy with cable



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

One cable TV customer — Farmington Public Schools and Superintendent Michael Flanagan — hasn't been pleased with the service of late. Flanagan voiced his concerns at Thursday's Southwestern Oakland

A Farmington school official isn't happy with the district's cable TV service, Superintendent Michael Flanagan let his views be known last week at a meeting of the cable commission.

Cable Commission meeting and in a letter to SWOCC dated March 12. He attributed the problems to a series of miscommunications.

Among the schools' grievances: ■ A letter dated Feb. 4 from SWOCC executive director Lark Samouelian, stating the schools could not be

represented on the commission as a voting or ex-officio member according to the franchise agreement. Flanagan said he knew that, but the letter didn't reflect the tone of the discussion he had with the cable commission.

■ The cancellation of Flanagan's monthly show, "From the Desk of Mike Flanagan," on community access Channel 12 without a phone call or any prior communication. The show continues to be shown on Channel 10, however.

■ And three school board meetings,

Feb. 9, 23 and March 23, which were delayed on Channel 10 due to technical difficulties.

"One can almost become paranoid after awhile," Flanagan told the commission. "The very time you get a letter saying everything we said at the meeting is not what we meant — at least that's how it sounded, and then suddenly the show is canceled and then three meetings in a row were not live."

The commission and representatives from MetroVision assured

See CABLE, 2A

### Relaxing at home



ARN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Educator speaks: Bernard Klein, interim chancellor of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, relaxes in his Farmington Hills town house.

## Ex-prof frets over costs

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Bernie Klein grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of poor immigrants who believed in education as the way to a better future. Klein, who retired after a distinguished teaching career at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, has seen opportunities for students diminish as the cost of college tuition and fees goes up.

"When I went to Brooklyn City College, tuition was free," said the Farmington Hills resident. "I don't think I could have gotten a college

### HIGHER ED

education if it hadn't been." Klein, 64, has a career as colorful as he is. Not only has he been honored as a distinguished faculty member over the past 22 years, but he has also filled in as interim chancellor twice, been involved in local and state politics both as an appointed and as an elected official, and served as a free-lance labor arbitrator for the past 15 years, a job in which he is still active. A lifelong Democrat, Klein is

hopeful that the election of a Democrat as president signals the return to the idea of public service as an important part of the country's well being, not just a necessary one. "The liberal label is one I wear proudly," Klein says.

### Politics colors life

Growing up during the depression, being influenced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and spending most of his adult life involved in politics have colored Klein's

See EX-PROF, 4A

## Taxes, Lansing turmoil worry officials

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Although Farmington-area city and school officials were upbeat about the state of their cities and schools, the political turmoil in Lansing over taxes and school funding has them worried.

School board president Jack Inch compared the situation to that of Londoners sitting down to breakfast on Aug. 30, 1939 — the day before Germany invaded Poland to begin World War II.

"We knew something was going on in Berlin," Inch said. "We weren't sure what it was. Instead of Berlin, it's now Lansing."

Inch's remarks were delivered at the annual State of the Cities Break-

### FUNDING

fast March 24 at the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance complex in Farmington Hills.

The closing of the Kalkaska Public Schools in northern Michigan has gotten the attention of officials here. And, although they boasted about their accomplishments over the past year, officials were quick to point out that the decline in state and federal money for infrastructure and school operations will continue to put pressure on cities and schools.

"Whatever shape or form or size government takes, the need still remains," Farmington Mayor Bill Hart-

sock said. "We are always looking for citizens to participate. We must be prepared to ask more of ourselves."

Hartsock said citizens and organizations such as the Goodfellow, Salvation Army, senior and youth groups will be more critical as state money for social programs continues to shrink.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates said the Hills' "extraordinarily low" city tax rate combined with the city's high quality of services and solid fiscal condition.

"The fiscal affairs of our city continue to be in good shape," she said. "Our goal is to make Farmington Hills the most livable city in the na-



See TAXES, 2A Jack Inch

### Now honestly!

Are most people honest, or is Noreen Smith just very lucky?  
Smith, a West Bloomfield resident, is happy that honesty was the best policy for one unidentified shopper in Farmington Hills last week.  
Smith, a West Bloomfield resident, left her purse in the shopping buggy in the parking lot after an outing at T.J. Maxx on Orchard Lake Road. Thirty minutes later, the frantic woman wheeled back into the parking lot — just in time to see the woman taking her purse into a shoe store to turn it in.  
"Nothing was touched," Smith said. "All the money and credit cards were still there."  
And the Good Samaritan? "Oh, she wouldn't take anything, not even a dollar for a cup of coffee. You hear so much about how mean people are to

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

one another. It's great when something like this happens to you."

### All about animals

A free seminar on wild and domestic animals will be from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at the Splendor House in Heritage Park, Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads.  
Beverly Cornell, a Farmington Hills resident who rehabilitates animals, will speak. The seminar is sponsored by the Womens National Farm and Garden Association.

### Memory Lane

From the April 2, 1953 issue of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ In a great show of civic generosity, many Farmington-area and Novi residents pitched in to build a new house for the Harry Foster family of Farmington Township. A fire had left the Fosters — mother, father and five children — homeless about a week earlier.

■ William Kingsley, a Farmington High senior, won the American Legion Oratorical Contest. His oration, "Elastic Cause," earned him a \$50 defense bond.

■ The Farmington High baseball team, coached by Warren Piche, was to open its 1953 baseball season April 25 at Clarenceville.