

IN THE PAPER

**TODAY**

**In writing:** An author, an illustrator and a poet were on hand to help Gill Elementary School youngsters think about writing. /3A

**A growth business:** Mary Lore likes fixing things and making them grow. She has her chance as the owner of a flower shop and greenhouse in Farmington Hills. /9A

**Overseas help:** A Farmington Hills mother plans to take her daughter to Germany for medical care. A fund-raiser is planned to help with the costs. /11A

**COUNTY NEWS**

**Merit Scholars:** Area seniors win corporate scholarships in the first of three announcements of National Merit Scholarship winners. /7A

**OPINION**

**Who's on first?:** Maybe they should break out the baseball equipment. There are nine candidates for the Farmington Board of Education seats. /14A

**A modest proposal:** Give up TV for a week? Maybe we'll be brighter, better people if we do. /15A

**SPORTS**

**Softball outlook:** The Farmington and North Farmington softball teams will have their season openers when school resumes next week. /1B



**Baseball action:** Redford Catholic Central split a doubleheader with Divine Child and swept two games from Plymouth Canton. /1B

**INDEX**

- Building Scene . . . 1F
- Business . . . 1-G
- Classifieds . . . D-G
- Index . . . 2E
- Auto . . . F-G
- Employment . . . F-G
- Real estate . . . E-F
- Creative Living . . . 1D
- Crossword . . . 3E
- Entertainment . . . 6-8B
- Obituaries . . . 12A
- Opinion . . . 14-15A
- Police, fire calls . . . 2A
- Personal scene . . . 7G

**HERE'S HOW TO REACH US**

Newsroom: 477-5450  
 Newsroom Fax: 477-9722  
 Sports: 563-2161  
 Reader Comment Line: 563-2042  
 Classified Advertising: 591-0900  
 Display Advertising: 591-2300  
 Home Delivery: 591-0500  
 Cable/TV Weekly: 478-5150

## Nine file for two school slots



By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Nine people have filed to run for the Farmington Board of Education this year. Only two will be successful. Monday was the deadline for candidates to file petitions for the June 14 election. Incumbent Helen Ditzhay, who is seeking a third term on the board, was one of the nine.

The rest is a field of fresh faces who are making their first run for the board. They include an Army major, a legal nurse, a law student, an engineer, a PTA president, a substitute teacher, and a former high school principal.

"I tell you, with what's down the road, that's a wonderful sign," said trustee John Cotton, who is not run-

ning for re-election. "With all the land mines that are in front of boards of education in the years to come . . . that's a healthy sign."

Challengers are:

■ **Bobbie Feldman** — A former nursery school teacher, who is the PTA president at Wood Creek Elementary. She's served on school-related committees such as the Elementary Boundary Study and the Facilities Task Force, and she co-chaired 1991 and 1992 citizen-based millage renewal campaigns. "I've been involved in this district for quite a number of years," said Feldman, 37. "I felt I could become even more effective in

my work . . . by becoming a board member."

■ **Terry Fobbs** — A major in the United States Army Reserve who runs his own consulting business. He is a spokesman for Farmington-based Citizens Against Violence in the Schools. "I don't wish to see my school district caught up in the current political and financial strife other districts are experiencing," stated Fobbs, 40, who lives in Farmington Hills.

■ **Julia Glazer** — A homemaker who is involved in civic and school-related

See FILE, 6A

### And a drain runs through it



SHARON LEMMUS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Looking it over: Kendallwood subdivision resident John Dickson surveys part of the Minnow Pond Drain in northern Farmington Hills. He's against a controversial flood-control project.

## Drain creates flood of controversy

By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

A massive drain project that residents in the Kendallwood and Westbrook subdivisions say is long overdue is bringing a storm of protests from residents on the street where construction of the project will be focused.

Several residents on Kendallwood Drive in Farmington Hills admit that their complaints about a drain project that has been approved by the city and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has a lot to do with where they live.

Although they are in the minority, they say that is because a lot of resi-

dents don't realize what the project will do to their street and properties.

"There are many people that live on Kendallwood drive who have no idea of what's happening," said Patti Morissette.

What is planned is a bypass pipe 8 1/4 feet in diameter that will run from a detention basin on 13 Mile

and Farmington under Kendallwood Drive south to alleviate flooding.

Like that in June of 1989 that flooded more than 200 houses and cost residents thousands of dollars in damage.

But many of those residents say

See DRAIN, 4A

## Crossovers, traffic light to improve safety

By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills will work with the state Department of Transportation to solve a troublesome traffic safety issue involving crossovers on Grand River.

MDOT has taken bids to eliminate two-way crossovers and replace them with one-way crossovers this summer. The cost of the project within Farmington Hills is \$250,000. The city's

share, which the city council unanimously approved at Monday's meeting, will be \$6,300. The federal government will pay for the bulk of the project, \$200,000, and MDDOT will pay \$43,700.

The two-way Grand River crossovers to be eliminated are at Waldron, Whitlington and Colgate. The new one-way eastbound to westbound crossovers will be between Waldron and Rockwell and between Colgate

and Albion and westbound to eastbound at Purdue.

City engineer Tom Blaszell said the two-way crossovers allow cars coming from both directions on Grand River into the same crossover, which causes traffic problems. Most of the new crossovers will be between streets, he said. Although that will cause some inconvenience for residents on some streets, it will cut down on truck traffic and accidents.

"Motorists will be able to slide left into a deceleration lane," he said. "Residents in the area are very supportive."

Although safety features such as traffic lights on some crossovers have already been added, the area from Purdue and Grand River east of M-102 has seen several accidents involving serious injury and deaths in recent years.

### Marching orders

It's only mid-April, but Gerald R. Lynch, senior vice commander of the Farmington American Legion Post 346, is thinking late May — Memorial Day, to be exact.

The Legion sponsors a Memorial Day parade. Marching units, organizations with floats, and others who want to be part of the parade on Monday, May 31, should call the post at 478-9174 as soon as possible, Lynch said.

### All health — all day!

The Society for the Advancement of Natural Teachings (SANT) will sponsor the International Health Expo 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the Mercy Center, 11 miles west of Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

Alternative health products, services, exhibits and concepts will be featured. Some 70 exhibitors will focus on such topics as nutrition, massage, vitamins, natural cosmetics, water purifiers and health screenings.

### Strike up the band!

The Farmington Community Band, directed by R. Paul Barber, will present its annual Senior Citizens Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 2, in the auditorium of Harrison High School, 12 Mile west of Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

This year's concert, titled "Those Were The Days," will feature Mike Deja, WJR radio person-

ality. Refreshments will be served and the Community Band's scholarship recipient will be on hand.

For more information on the band, call 476-5014 or 489-3412.

### Memory Lane

From the April 16, 1993, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ The Farmington Township School Board approved its 1993-94 budget of \$785,464. In the Clarenceville District, a budget of \$384,480 was approved by that board.

■ Kenneth R. Loomis was reappointed mayor of Farmington for another term.  
 Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.