

## IN THE PAPER

# TODAY

**Election results:** Find out how your neighbors voted on the much-debated Proposal A by calling our hot line, 953-2024. Callers will be able to find out vote totals in their communities as well as surrounding suburban communities. Vote totals will be available at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 3.

**Volunteer spirit:** Farmington's Youth Assistance honored 14 young people who have distinguished themselves through volunteer work. /5A

**Officer honored:** The Optimist Club of Farmington/Farmington Hills has honored Hills police officer Chuck Rozum. /2A

## OPINION

**Graduation day:** Columnist James "Doc" Doyle takes a look at how graduation affects students, teachers and parents on today's Points of View page. /10A

## MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Just ducky:** Malls prove to be a gathering place for some feathered friends as well as shoppers. /1D

## CABLE TV WEEKLY

**Local access:** "Viewpoint" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

## TASTE

**Healthy barbecuing:** How to barbecue has become as important as what to barbecue. Health-conscious chefs and a dietitian clear the smoke on barbecuing. /1B

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## HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 477-5450  
Newsroom Fax: 477-9722  
Sports: 953-2141  
Reader Comment Line: 953-2042  
Classified Advertising: 591-0900  
Display Advertising: 591-2300  
Home Delivery: 591-0500  
Cable/TV Weekly: 478-5160

## Ads by Fax

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are now offering specific classified ads by fax, mail or special delivery before they appear in the newspaper. To receive these ads you must request the sections by item number and use a Visa or Mastercard for payment. These ads will be available on Wednesday at 6 p.m. for the Thursday editions. Monday's edition will soon be available on Sunday. Starting June 2, the following sections will be available. Item No. 9700: collectibles, auction sales, antiques, crafts and rummage sales for \$5.95. Item No. 9800: recreation items, boats, motorcycles, recreation items, boats, motorcycles, campers, airplanes etc. for \$5.95. Item No. 9822: autos, used trucks and vans for \$39.95. Call 1-800-967-8904 to order.

# More cheers for N. Farmington



By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

The flag in the North Farmington High School offices states, "Expect the best." Those expectations have been met.

North Farmington has been named a national exemplary secondary school in the Blue Ribbon Schools

There's even more to cheer about at North Farmington High School. The school, already given "exemplary" status by the state, has received a similar honor from the U.S. Department of Education.

Program by the U.S. Department of Education. Principal Deborah Clarke found out Thursday in a phone call from U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg's office.

Her public address announcement of the news was greeted by cheers by the rest of the school.

"I'm not just happy," Clarke said,

"I'm ecstatic."

North Farmington is the first in the Farmington district to receive national exemplary status. The school will be honored during a reception in the fall in Washington, D.C.

The school was named an "exemplary secondary school" by the State Board of Education in December. Kenbrook was selected as an exemplary elementary school last year.

The 30-page application, which was put together by staff and students, was submitted for consideration by the U.S. Department of Education. A thorough review process followed,

including a site visit April 5-6 by a member of the U.S. Department of Education committee. Faculty and students were interviewed.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan, was present during the visit. He was euphoric over the selection, adding it's a reflection on the entire district.

"We don't just say we're exemplary," Flanagan said. "Now we can prove it."

Flanagan commended Clarke, the staff and students for their efforts.

Blue Ribbon Schools are judged on:

See AWARD, 4A

## Outward bound!



Principals 3: Farmington Schools principals David Coffin (left), Clayton Graham and Walter Jablonski got together for this photo. As retirees, they'll be going their separate ways.

# 3 principals chalk up careers

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

For three principals, the chalk dust is settling on nearly 100 years of combined service in the Farmington district. They wouldn't erase one minute of it, either.

Clay Graham, principal at Harrison High School; Dave Coffin, principal at Wooddale Elementary; and Walt Jablonski, principal at Forest Elementary are retiring this year.

All three started off as teachers in Farmington Schools and capped off their careers in education.

"This was from the same class of principals when there was student growth and a lot of change," said superintendent Michael Flanagan.

"They literally went from a society of 'Leave to Beaver' to the one we have today.

"I think all three have adapted to the changes and continued to grow. They didn't just sit back and say they knew all the answers."

Their retirements are met with plans to travel, pursue hobbies and be with their families.

Most of all, they leave with the image of a gap toothed smile, a silly giggle and an untied shoe.

"I have always felt it was a gratifying field to work in," said Coffin, 60, who is leaving Wooddale after nine years as head master there.

"While (education) is going through a transition . . . working

with kids hasn't changed."

Added Jablonski, 61, who's been at Forest for 20 years: "I don't know if they (children) have changed that much. When I look back, they're still kids."

Children — that's all the three have to measure their careers by.

Many who went through their schools have come back as productive adults. Some are doctors, some lawyers, some teachers. Some come back and say hello.

"When the kids come back, that's their way of saying thanks," said Graham, 64, who started as business teacher at Farmington

See PRINCIPALS, 5A

# Board battle heats up

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Some like what they see and want to make it better. Some are tired of it and aren't going to take it anymore.

Seven of the nine candidates for the Farmington School Board stepped on each side of the line during a forum Thursday sponsored by the Farmington Area Republican Club in Farmington Hills city council chambers.

The proceedings were cablecast live

## ELECTION

on Metrovision. The same seven board hopefuls participated as did in the last cablecast May 20. Candidates Joel Marwil and Charles Remus did not attend.

Compared to the last forum, candidates appeared a bit more at ease, and not to mention a bit feistier as the election approach on Monday, June 14.

The Farmington Democratic Club will sponsor the next candidates forum 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, June 3, at Farmington Hills City Hall.

Questions selected by the panel for Thursday's event included ones on Proposal A, major issues confronting Farmington Schools and student safety. Answers varied when candidates were asked what sets them apart from other candidates and the current school board.

Some established themselves as being outside the establishment.

"I think the major issue is that I'm looking to make a lot of change," said Susan McKendrick. "I think there are many people in the community who are unhappy with the current board. They don't feel they are being listened to or responded to."

Candidate Terry Fobbs expanded on the theme in his closing remarks. While commending the standard of education in Farmington, he added things could be better.

See RACE, 4A

# 'We' comes first for David York

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

With David York, it's "we" before "me."

The "we" stands for involvement in school committees, attending board meetings, and being a booster of sound education. "Them" stands for the self-interests, which invariably mender their way into school issues.

Not surprisingly, "we" finds its way into a discussion with York. He's one of nine candidates for the Farm-

## CANDIDATE

ington School Board. The election is Monday, June 14.

The pronoun is a byproduct of being a parent, a board watcher and a member of a slew of school committees.

"With my involvement with committees, there isn't a topic that I don't usually have a strong opinion or conviction on," said York, 38, who is

making his first run for the school board. "I'm free to share those with people. I also listen and consider others and talk."

York has lined up against a few of them.

He spoke out recently at a board meeting in favor of the district's handling of transportation cuts, which led to main-road busing for secondary students.

See YORK, 4A



David York

## A guy named Joe

Joe Knollenberg, new Congressman whose 11th District includes Farmington and Farmington Hills, will speak on "Politics, Pundits and Fill-busters" at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 3, at Tyrrell Hall (Building J) on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

The talk is sponsored by the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corp. Alliance, a group that brings together the Hills EDC, the Farmington Community Library, the local chamber of commerce and OCC.

Cost of \$13 per person. Reservations may be made by calling the chamber at 474-3440.

## Quite a production

Mercy High School in Farmington Hills will be

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

the site of "Kaleidoscope '93" — the 16th biennial dance concert put on by the Birmingham Ballet & Jazz School of the Birmingham Community House Dance Studios.

The production will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 3, at Mercy High, 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads.

"Kaleidoscope '93" will feature 160 student dancers from Oakland County. Tickets at \$3 each may be purchased in advance at the Community House on Bates in Birmingham, or by calling director Rose Marie Gregor at 478-0876.

## 'People & Pups' on the move

A "People & Pups," a four-mile walk-a-thon for children, adults and family pets, will be held 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 5, beginning at North Farmington High School on 13 Mile Road east of Farmington Road.

The purpose is to raise awareness and funds for Paws With A Cause, a non-profit organization that trains "hearing service" dogs for people with disabilities.

The walk-a-thon was conceived by school children 6-12 years of age who are part of the Farmington-area YMCA's Prime Time after school program. The goal is to raise \$14 per walker through pledges. Hopefully, \$7,000 will be raised.

For registration information, call Sue Brooks of the Farmington-area YMCA at 653-4620.