

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Election results:** Find out how your neighbors voted in your school election 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 Tuesday, June 15.



**Grad round-up:** Farmington High senior class president Kevin Yoder speaks to graduating seniors at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor. There's plenty of memories (and photos). /3A

**Foamy frolic:** Some middle school students decided to celebrate the last day of school with a shaving cream fight. They upset some of the business operators, though. / 4A

### COUNTY NEWS

**Business roundtable:** Oakland County's economic thrust may be determined by its own businesswomen and businessmen. /5A

**Rebuilding Detroit:** Some suburban residents don't have to "Think Twice" about pitching in to help some inner city neighborhoods come back. /10A

### MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Dad's day:** Yes, once again it's that time of year, and Linda Bachrack has some suggestions in her "Shopping Centered" column that might just work for you. /9B

### INDEX

Classifieds . . . . .	B-D	Obits . . . . .	3A
Auto . . . . .	C-D	On the agenda . . . . .	3A
Employment . . . . .	C-D	Opinion . . . . .	10A
Index . . . . .	4C	Personal Scene . . . . .	8B
Real Estate . . . . .	C	Police, fire calls . . . . .	11A
Crossword . . . . .	5C	Sports . . . . .	1C
Entertainment . . . . .	7B-8B	Street Scene . . . . .	4B
Malls . . . . .	9B	Taste . . . . .	1B

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# Coyotes prowl Farmington



More coyote sightings have been reported in Farmington. A resident is concerned and wants the animal trapped and returned to the wild, despite experts' assurances that coyotes pose no serious threat.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Nature experts agree coyotes are shy. Ones seen lately by Farmington residents, though, are apparently about as bashful as pop star Madonna is in front of a camera. Cindy Turner, who lives on Brookdale, near Grand River Avenue and

Orchard Lake Road, said family members have seen a coyote in their back yard four times in the past week.

Turner's concerned. She has talked with Farmington Public Safety director Gary Goss and city manager Frank Lauthoff. She wants the animal caught and returned to a natural setting.

"I don't think it's in an area (coyotes) should be in," Turner said. "This is city. I think he's kind of stuck."

Coyote sightings have been on the increase in the Farmington area. In April, four people said they spotted a wolflike animal running along the Mayfield and Maple street area of the city.

One sighting was confirmed by a Farmington public safety officer.

The animal was described as a patchy gray, German shepherd-like creature with a pointy nose and a bushy tail. Turner said that's the de-

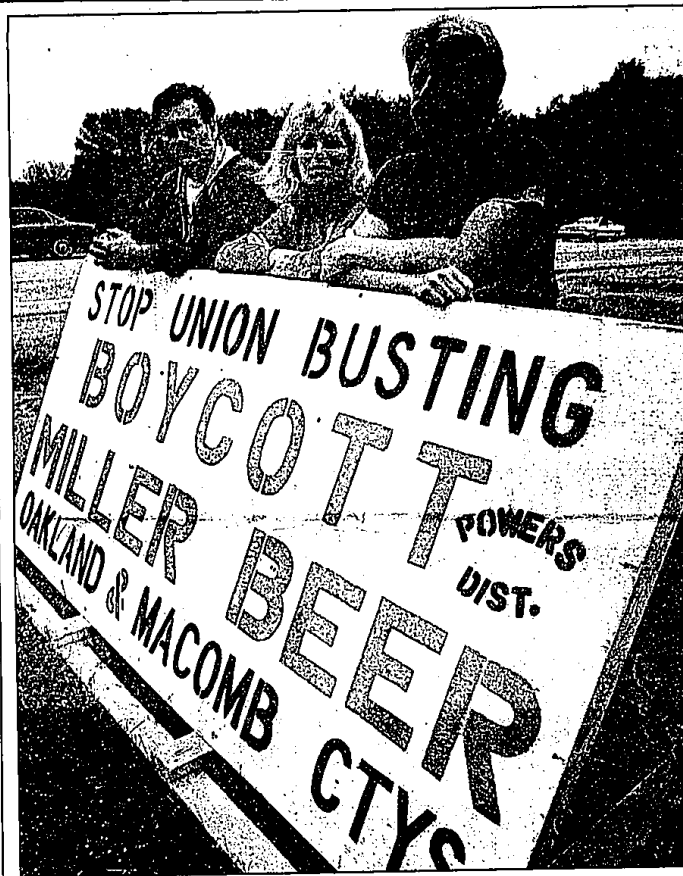
scription of the animal turning up in her back yard during the evening.

Nature experts say coyotes pose little danger to people, often running away when confronted. Naturalist Joe Derek of Farmington Hills said coyotes are generally elusive.

"I would never say an animal couldn't hurt someone," Derek said. "I don't think there is a threat to small children, though."

Derek said a raccoon or a skunk is more likely to bite someone than a coyote.

See COYOTES, 2A



Sign of protest: Gordon Kapron (left) and Jim Nichols hope to bring attention to the problem of not having a contract. Peggy Bentley lives in Farmington Hills where the sign is located.

SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Signs tell of trouble

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

There's a heap of emotion and a story behind a residential sign on Orchard Lake Road north of 11 Mile that calls for a boycott of Miller Beer products in Oakland and Macomb counties.

Workers from Teamsters Local 1038 want a contract and an end to what they call "union busting." Workers have been without a contract for three years.

"They're trying to starve us out," said Jim Nichols, a White Lake resident who works for Don Lee Distributing Co. in Warren.

"You base your lifestyle on your income," said Nichols' sister, Peggy Bentley. Her empathy with her brother's plight influenced her to allow the local to place the boycott sign on her property.

Eleven other movable signs are in the two counties, including Southfield (22 Mile-Telegraph), West Bloomfield (Square Lake Road-Telegraph) and Rochester (Rochester Road-South Boulevard).

A former Prito-Lay truck driver, Bentley said she relates to the situation.

Nichols and wife Joanne, a homemaker, have four children: Emily, 11, Lisa, 9, George, 5, and Hank, 3.

Jim and Joanne are Farmington High School graduates and high school sweethearts, eagerly awaiting their 20th year reunion.

Distributors involved in the boycott are: Don Lee (Dearborn, Warren), Oak (Drayton Plains), Powers (Sylvan Lake), Eastown, (Highland Park) and Hubert (Pontiac).

A March 15 investigation by the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited unsafe practices at Hubert, including excessive noise, failing to both label chemicals and provide eyewash and

See TROUBLES, 7A

# 'A' failed, so Farmington taxes won't rise

BY JESSIE HALLADAY  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington City Council approved the budget for the 1993-94 fiscal year, leaving the city tax rate at its current 10.05 mills of property tax.

This was the first budget put together by city manager Frank Lauthoff, who took the position in January after being director of public safety.

"It was very interesting," said Lauthoff. "It was quite different this year because we did an alternative

### See related story, 2A

budget in case Proposal A passed." Because of the defeat of Proposal A, the city will not raise taxes by half a mill.

An expected revenue increase of 2.5 percent is expected for the last two budget years. The total budget is estimated at more than \$9 million, which is broken down into six different funds.

A major part of the budget is replacement of equipment. Replacement was delayed due to the assessment freeze of last year.

"This year what we are trying to do is replace some of the capital equipment," said Lauthoff. "We're replacing what was scheduled to be replaced last year."

Included is one of the three public safety fire pumper trucks, which will be financed over eight years.

Also, firearms used by the public safety officers will be replaced. Semi-

automatic pistols will take the place of the revolvers that are currently in use.

The city intends to buy a newer computer system. This would allow for increased storage capacity and more users. The current system is seven years old and cannot keep step with increased demands, according to city clerk Patsy Cantrell.

According to Lauthoff, many increases cannot be avoided due to replacement needs or demands by the state and county.

### There she is . . . again

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills pageant, there will be a reunion of past pageant winners July 13. Joan LeMarra is trying to contact former Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills and Miss Oakland pageant winners. They can call 799-9171. This year's Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills pageant is July 14 at Vladimir's.

### Minding the store

The Farmington Public Safety Department, along with the Uptown Farmington Plaza Business Association, is extending open arms to

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

proprietors who want to be involved in the Business Watch program. Interested business owners need to attend a meeting 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 16, at the Yankee Consignment Shop in the Uptown Farmington Plaza, Grand River and Mooney.

Some 60 businesses participate in the watch program, which is a network that allows information of criminal activity to be passed onto other businesses.

### Memory lane

From the June 11, 1953 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

In a light turnout, voters approved a tax increase of \$4.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation in the Farmington school election. The vote in favor was 267-111. Also, Byard Typper and Wendell Brown ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Farmington Board of Education.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.