

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

MEAP scores: See how Farmington District students scored with a school-by-school breakdown on the state tests. /3A
Festival coming: The Farmington Founders Festival is coming up, and here are some related events. /5A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Artful gardens: Garden sculpture, whether it be for the birds or amid the flowers, flourishes this time of year. /4A

OPINION

Admitting a mistake: Errant ways have reflected poorly on all media, in the minds of the public. That's Judith Doner Berne's Point of View. /6A

COUNTY NEWS

Swim for SCAMP: Her love for swimming and experience with a special needs child propel a Farmington Hills grandmother to organize this annual swimathon. /8A
Under attack: Where the chips will fall is still up in the air on allegations against the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. /8A

TASTE



Smart snackers: Munch on nutritious nibbles that are fun and easy to make. /1B

SPORTS

Summer baseball: After a fast start, the Farmington American Legion team hit a three-game skid at the start of the week. /1C
College recruits: Schoolcraft College has announced its recruits for the men's basketball team. /1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Viewpoint" on local access Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

INDEX

Classifieds . . . B-D Personal Scene . . . 6B
 Entertainment . . . 5-6B Police, fire calls . . . 7A
 Malls 4A Sports 1C
 Obits 5A Street Scene . . . 4B
 Opinion 6A Taste 1B

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Parents beat 'basics' drum



Farmington school officials are coping with a back-to-basics movement. Should the public schools concentrate on teaching the three Rs or use new thinking?

Related stories on 2A

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Parents say they want the three R's taught. Farmington Schools officials

contend they're doing it — in triplicate. The debate over whether the so-called basics are being taught rages on.

A Farmington Hills resident and teacher has formed a group, Parents

for a Traditional Education, which calls for Farmington Schools to adhere to a practical, sound educational foundation.

The group's founder, Douglas Swiatkowski, has publicly criticized such things as elementary school report cards, inventive spelling and the teaching of Farmington area history.

He's spoken out during a candidates forum June 3 and a June 16 school board meeting.

"I'm not looking at a major con-

frontation," said Swiatkowski, who is an adult education teacher in East Detroit and has children attending Wood Creek Elementary.

"Instead of saying, 'That's impossible, I'd like to hear them say, 'Let's look at this.'"

Still more concerns

Some other parents express similar concerns.

See **BASICS**, 3A

Kind words, fountain gush at 20th



BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

As if sent by central casting, about a dozen smiling children surrounded Mayor Nancy Bates.

The youngsters helped the mayor turn on Farmington Hills' new fountain and make the city's 20th anniversary celebration a family affair.

Except for a light drizzle and a momentary glitch in the public address system, the city's 20th birthday party came off without a hitch Thursday. And the new fountain and landscaping at the city complex drew praise from many of the 300 who attended the affair.

The kind words about former city officials were punctuated by healthy doses of humor.

"Phase I" of a bocce ball court honoring councilman Aldo Vagnozzi had been started behind the fountain.

Mayor pro tem Larry Lichtman, who introduced former city council members, noted that only eight of the 28 former council members had not been elected mayor.

"Since I'm mayor pro tem and I'm up for re-election, that's some comfort to me," Lichtman quipped.

City manager Bill Costick pointed out that he was one of only two city managers in the state who works with a different mayor every year.

"You never get bored," he said. There were also plenty of serious words. Clerk Kathy Dorman praised her Hills citizens as "grand, but down to earth."

And former township and city clerk Floyd Cairns, for whom the city building is named, received three rounds of applause.

After the ceremony Cairns, 78, a lifelong resident who lives about three-quarters of a mile from his 13 Mile Road birthplace, said he remembered many battles over zoning, special sewer assessments and annexations.

"Once we were able to build the sewer system, I knew the city would be a success," said Cairns, the township clerk from 1956-1973 and city clerk from 1973-85. "It has really turned out to be a beautiful city."

In keeping with a family theme Bates recalled the remarks of the city's first mayor, Robert McConnell, who said, "I hope this will be a successful birth because we've been in labor for a long time."

Bates drew a round of applause when she asked, "Aren't you proud parents?"

Quite a turn-on: Mayor Nancy Bates is helped by many smiling children as she turns the wheel to start the fountain last night at City Hall.

SHARON LEMERIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Meeting set after man is robbed in home

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Safety Department has scheduled a Neighborhood Watch meeting this Thursday at City Hall in the aftermath of a brazen armed robbery June 23 at a Slocum Street home.

Two men entered the home through an unlocked door at 11:25 p.m., police

said. The homeowner, who was watching TV, had a gun pulled on him and was left tied up in his basement while the residence was ransacked.

The robbers also drove off in his red 1989 Ford Probe, which was later recovered in Redford Township along with some of the stolen items.

The incident has left some resi-

dents shaken in the normally placid, tree-lined neighborhood.

"We think it's terrible," said Ruth Williams, who has lived on Slocum for 37 years. "It's getting closer to home."

Public Safety Director Gary Goss said the meeting will be informational, but also may help quell any fears. The meeting is at 7 p.m. in the coun-

cil chambers at City Hall.

"Again, it's the usual precautions," Goss said. "This type of crime is unusual for this city. In fact it's the first of this type in the 15 years I've been here."

"I don't want to create a feeling of paranoia."

See **ROBBERY**, 2A

Photos on display

A part of Farmington Hills' 20th anniversary of cityhood celebration, the Historical Commission has assembled a collage of milestone photos taken over the past two decades.

The display is in the showcases just outside the city council chamber in the lobby of the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, through Sept. 3. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Bob Sklar, a Historical Commission member and former editor of the Farmington Observer, assembled the display. Many of the photos are from the Observer files.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Congressman coming

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, whose 11th Congressional District includes the Farmington area, will visit the Farmington Hills Senior Center from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 6.

The center is located in the Mercy Conference Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Knollenberg of Bloomfield Township will be in other parts of the district through July 12.

Special readers take note

Crolole Hund, director of the Oakland County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which is located in the Farmington Hills Branch Library, reminds residents that the service is always open to new users.

A variety of "talking" books and magazines and machines on which to play them are offered.

"We have most of the best sellers available soon after the print book comes out," Hund said. "Of course, we can't offer a recorded version of every book printed, but we do our best to meet reader's informational and recreational reading needs — including summertime fun reading."

For more information, call 563-0300 or visit the Hills Branch Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Road.