

IN THE PAPER  
**TODAY**

**And it smells:** Farmington officials have some new plans for the Masonic Temple area. /2A

**Pageant possibilities:** See who's in the running for the title of Miss Farmington in the annual pageant. /3A

**COUNTY NEWS**

**People person:** Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson brought in a mostly new crew, but one of those he retained has charge of the county's personnel. /5A

**State(d) facts:** A newly published Michigan almanac is valuable, but misses a few of our area's features. /7A

**OPINION**

**Basics battle:** The school establishment has been challenged. Let's hope officials can meet it. /16A

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Rock musical:** Witty, joyous "Godspell" begins a four-week run at an area theater today. /5B

**SUBURBAN LIFE**

## Tea-room plan brews downtown



Take tea with me, says a woman who wants to start a tea room in downtown Farmington. She hopes she can whistle up an approval from the city's planning commission. She has her eye on a renovated house on Grand River.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A woman has brewed up a plan for a tea room in downtown Farmington. Before the first kettle can be put on the stove, though, there are a few lumps that need to be worked out.

That's why Doris Lovill will appear before the Farmington Planning Commission Monday.

The entrepreneur will present plans to convert a house on Grand River Avenue into a Victorian-style tea room.

The house at 32905 Grand River is owned by undertaker Walter Sundquist, who restored it and is reportedly willing to sell it to Lovill.

"I saw the house (white) going down Grand River," said Lovill, who operated a Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy in Franklin Village, "and I stopped right in my tracks and said, 'There it is.'"

Everyone involved appears to agree a place to get a spot of tea would be nice. The only problem — as usual in downtown Farmington — is parking spots.

Ordinances require one parking

space for every 100 square feet of building space. For Lovill's endeavor, that would require at least eight parking spots.

That's a problem, Lovill said.

She can add five spaces. Beyond that, trees, flowers, and shrubs would have to be cleared and a gazebo on the property would have to be moved.

That would drastically alter the atmosphere, said Lovill, who plans to invest \$250,000 in the project.

See TEA, 8A

### Like father, like son



SHARON LEMIERRE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Family business: Mike Rebtov (left), a paid-on-call volunteer with the Farmington Hills Fire Department, would like to end up like his dad, Mike Rebtov (right), assistant to the fire chief.

## Kids follow in public-safety footsteps

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Despite bad hours, danger and pay that doesn't compare to other professions, police officers and firefighters often find themselves as role models — especially to their own children.

"Starting when I was 4, I used to go on (fire) runs with my father," said Stacy Swandorski, a 23-year-old Farmington Hills police cadet who will be sworn in as an officer

Friday. "I always wanted to go with him."

And if you look at police rosters, you will often find familiar names of the sons, daughters, uncles and spouses of other officers. There's good reason.

"You understand one another's feelings, the pressures of the job that someone outside of police work doesn't understand," said Swandorski, a former scholar athlete and a volunteer firefighter in Farmington

Hills when she is not on duty as a police officer.

For her father Carl, Stacy's foray into police and fire work was a surprise, but one he understands.

"I never, ever thought she would follow in my footsteps," said Carl Swandorski, a 20-year Farmington Public Safety officer. "Over the years I would tell her things about work. Now I tell her and we are looking eye to eye."

### Some added pressure

Growing up with a father who is a police officer or firefighter can mean extra pressure for those who choose to follow their parent's lead, but those children have a good idea of what they're getting into.

"I pretty much grew up with it," said Mike Rebtov, son of Bob Rebtov, assistant to the fire chief in Farmington Hills. "Sometimes I feel

See PUBLIC SAFETY, 8A



Helping hand: Cancer patients and their families reach out to each other, in a support group that meets at an area church. /1C

Urgent questions: Queries about cancer are answered quickly through a hot line at the Michigan Institute for Radiation Oncology that serves many patients in Oakland County. /1C

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## Hills talks trash over length of contract

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council is talking trash and high fives, but it doesn't have anything to do with basketball.

Farmington Hills will join other communities of the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, but has the option of signing up for a five-year or 15-year recycling contract.

Waste Management Inc. of North

America beat out Browning Ferris Industries in bidding for running a material recovery facility (MRF) for the authority's communities, which include Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, Wixom and Lyon Township.

Waste Management has negotiated a contract to build the facility on West Eight Mile at Evergreen in Southfield. The success of such a facility, which would process 300 tons of recyclables per day, depends on

participation by the authority communities, especially Farmington Hills and Southfield.

"Unless we go ahead with it, it doesn't go ahead," said Tom Blasek, director of public services, at a city council study session on June 24.

But although the \$7.175-million project, which will also be financed by Waste Management, will provide for the processing of more types of recyclables for the communities, council members will have to decide whether

to commit for five or 15 years.

"I'm going to recommend a five-year contract," city manager Bill Costick said. "Everybody in Lansing is now saying that we can build safe landfills and that incinerators are not as good. I think the waste industry is going to open up."

Costick said city residents would pay higher fees for the five years, but could renegotiate and not be locked

See TRASH, 8A

**Brooks who?**

Brooks Patterson, Oakland County executive, that's who. And now his cable TV program, "Patterson & Co.," can be seen by Metrovision subscribers on cable Channel 12 at 5 p.m. every other Monday.

Patterson will discuss economic development, community relations, animal control, demographics and other county issues.

**Another DDA Wednesday**

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority's summer program for youngsters continues Wednesday, July 14, under the tent on Grand River east of Farmington Road with a program entitled "Yo-Master Zemo." This program — to be held at 10:30 a.m., noon

**FARMINGTON FOCUS**

and 1:30 p.m. — includes a combination of lively music, juggling, magic and yo-yo tricks.

As part of the DDA program, children's matinees will be shown at the Civic Theater on Grand River most Wednesdays. Call the DDA (473-7276) or the Civic (474-1951) for more information.

**Flower show coming**

Three area garden clubs — Farmington, Hill and Dale and North Farmington — will combine to sponsor a flower show Saturday-Sunday, July 17-18, at the Visitor's Center at Farmington Hills' Heritage Park.

Gardeners may enter horticulture specimens in several classes by calling Charlotte Fortier at 478-0176. Young gardeners may enter special categories by calling Diane Dunn (489-5842) or Lisa Steinkopf (422-5277).

Specimens may be entered from 6-9 p.m. Friday, July 16, or Saturday, July 17, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. for display in the Heritage Park day camp.

The show is open to the public from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, July 17, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 18. Tickets at \$2 each may be purchased at the door. Children are welcome, but no strollers are allowed.

Heritage Park is on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

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