



IN THE PAPER TODAY

Early classified: Thursday's classified sections 402-421, rental properties, are now available Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. Call 953-2297 or see the Reader's Service Index for more information. /2A

Volunteer plea: Former governor George Romney visited Farmington Hills recently and gave a rousing speech on volunteerism. /3A

Hills debate: Farmington Hills council candidates had another opportunity to discuss issues in a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. /3A

COUNTY NEWS

Charges viewed: Our county commissioners consider whether Sheriff John Nichols should step down. /5A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Retail shuffle: Winchester Mall will soon boast a new mix of stores. /8A

TASTE

Breadwinner: Evelyn Dugal has won lots of ribbons at the Michigan State Fair for her bread. /1B

Super Supper: Working mom Sally Sibthorp shares recipes for some quick, but delicious meals. /1B

STREET SCENE

Colour-ful: When the Living Colour tour for its most recent album "Stain" comes to town it will be a bit different than previous shows. /5B

SPORTS

Falcon football: Farmington High faced an extreme test Saturday afternoon when Class AA playoff contender Livonia Stevenson showed up for a Lakes Division game. /1C

Western sizzler: The Farmington Hills Harrison and Plymouth Canton football teams met Friday night. /1C

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Authority pursues downtown tax



The Farmington Downtown Development Authority is following through with a plan to establish a Special Assessment District. An assessment on businesses within the district would replace an expected loss of \$125,000.

By SUE BUCK STAFF WRITER

Farmington City Council approved an amendment to an ordinance that establishes a Special Assessment District to the Downtown Development Authority.

With the state's recent school property tax cut, the DDA loses 60 percent of its tax increment financing revenue.

This means that the authority needs to replace a projected \$125,000 loss from a \$210,000 1994-95 budget. The council's approval of the amend-

ment Oct. 4 is the first of many hurdles.

This amendment designates the boundaries of the current DDA Authority District as a Principal Shopping District and further designates the DDA board of directors as the board of the Principal Shopping District.

"This would affect property owners of commercial properties," said Judy Downey, DDA director.

Downey has mailed letters to everyone in the district — property owners, businesses and residents.

An informational meeting will take

place 8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, in Farmington City Hall. The regular DDA meeting, which was postponed Oct. 6, will be held 8 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19.

The DDA then plans to ask the council Nov. 15 to approve holding a public hearing which will probably take place in December, Downey said. "Some 106 parcels would be subject to the special assessment," Downey said. "Everyone is angered by what's happening in Lansing. We want to keep competitive in the marketplace."

See DDA, 8A

At the wheel



Road work: Debra Carver, who is a former X-ray technician, finds her job of transporting Farmington school children on bus No. 26 enjoyable.

Bus driver enjoys her workload

By SUE BUCK STAFF WRITER

Debra Carver is revved up about being a school bus driver.

Whether she's leading her charges from Alameda Early Childhood Center in a country music sing-a-long, as they hold imaginary microphones; making chitchat with

North Farmington High school students, or talking to Fairview kindergarten students and parents, Carver demonstrates her fondness for children.

Carver didn't plan to make bus driving a career. She's a former

See DRIVER, 2A



All aboard: Riders climb on for their twice-daily ride.



Little rider: Colleen Leikert, a hindergartner at Fairview, peers above her seat on the ride home.

Lichtman: No taxes for ice arena



Larry Lichtman

Larry Lichtman is one of six candidates, including four incumbents, running for the Farmington Hills City Council. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.

By BILL COULTANT STAFF WRITER

The Mercy Center and an ice arena study committee are two of the projects councilman Larry Lichtman sees as examples of his contribution to the city.

Lichtman, 35, is seeking his third



term after winning back-to-back two-year terms in 1989 and 1991.

"I think the last couple of years have been pretty productive," he said.

Lichtman, who found a lot of support for his interest in a local ice arena/multi-purpose facility, said no

other issue has made as much of an impact on people he sees in the community.

"More people come up to me and ask about the ice arena than anything else," he said. "It's been surprising."

Despite his enthusiasm and that of the 35-member ice arena committee he heads, there is no push to ask taxpayers to pay for an arena.

"I think the city is going to have an ice arena in the next few years," he said. "Nobody is interested in using

See LIGHTMAN, 4A

Winging It

Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills will have a dedication ceremony of its new East Pavilion 3-5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14. Some 200 to 300 people are expected to attend the event, which marks the opening of expanded emergency and surgical departments, clinical laboratory and new helistop.

Botsford president and CEO Gerson Cooper, board chairman Edward Hodges, and Michigan Hospital Association president Spence Johnson will speak. A tour of the facility and a reception is planned afterward.

Also, a fall family festival is planned 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, in conjunction with the opening

FARMINGTON FOCUS

of the East Pavilion. Free health screenings, refreshments and entertainment are planned as well as tours of the facility.

Gallery party

Pictures & More of Farmington will be hosting a gallery party, featuring casual auctions, previews of selected prints and professional advice on both home and office decor, Thursday, Oct. 14.

The party is by complementary invitation. Those interested in attending can call The Salvation Army at 477-1153.

Sculpture search

The Farmington Area Arts Commission would like to know if you have a sculpture on your property. The commission is putting together a brochure on interesting outdoor sculpture in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Residents are asked to send a photo of their sculpture, along with their name, address and telephone number to: Farmington Area Arts Commission, 31555 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48336-1165.