

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Oh doctor! Two Farmington Hills physicians tell how they'll do business under the new world medical order. /3A

D-Day coming up: That's D for deadline, as Farmington High's marching band raises money for a trip to France. /3A

COUNTY NEWS

Eight Mile Road: Take a walk with us along the border between Detroit and our suburbs. /8A

OPINION

It's a tax, folks: And another tax isn't what downtown Farmington needs right now. Here are some things it does need. /18A

Butt-basher: Anti-smoking sentiment, especially at the Farmington Hills senior center, lights up this guest columnist's ire. /19A

SPORTS

Girls basketball: Harrison High battled perennial Western Lakes power Plymouth Salem Tuesday. /1B

County swimming: Mercy High had a number of fine individual swims and placed sixth in the Oakland County meet. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Thrilling movie: Sylvester Stallone and Wesley Snipes star in "Demolition Man." /8B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Job-sharing moms: Whether their kids are small or grown up, some area mothers like splitting the office scene with a job-share co-worker. /1H

Breast cancer awareness: Local women tell how they detected their own breast cancer through a self-examination. /1H

INDEX

- Building Scene . . . 1F
- Business . . . 12B
- Classifieds . . . C-G
- Auto . . . F,G
- Employment . . . E,F
- Real estate . . . D,E
- Creative Living . . . 1D
- Crossword . . . 8D
- Entertainment 7-10B
- Obituaries . . . 8B
- Opinion . . . 18-19A
- Police, fire calls 15A
- Personal Scene . 11F

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newroom: 477-5450
 Newsroom Fax: 477-4722
 Sports: 953-2141
 Reader Comment Line: 953-2042
 Classified Advertising: 591-0900
 Display Advertising: 591-2300
 Home Delivery: 591-0500
 Cable/TV Weekly: 953-2199

County to move library for blind



A library serving the blind and handicapped, currently located in Farmington Hills, will be moved to Pontiac next year. The move worries staff and patrons.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A move by Oakland County to cut costs and consolidate library operations could reduce the ability of many blind and handicapped patrons to use the facility.

Since 1974, Farmington Hills has housed the Oakland County Library

for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the 12 Mile Road main library. But a longtime struggle to move that facility and staff to the county building on Telegraph in the new court annex has some patrons angry and library officials concerned.

"It's very disturbing," said Beverly Hills resident and library patron Ger-

ald Johnson. "They do a wonderful job. I don't think it's fair to the staff." The county will consolidate its law library, reference library and blind and handicapped library at the Pontiac location. But there have been problems.

The staff from the Farmington Hills branch was supposed to be transferred. Although the county pays their salaries, their county seniority is in doubt. Adding more confusion to the situation is a countywide hiring freeze imposed by Executive L. Brooks Patterson to offset an anticipated \$21 million budget shortfall.

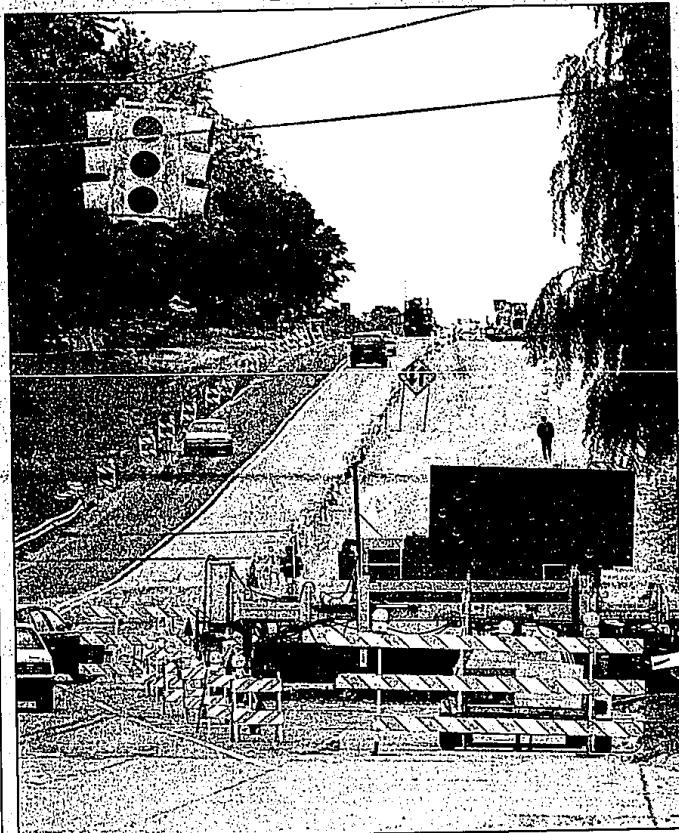
"It has worked excellently," said Carole Hund, director of the blind and handicapped library, where she's worked for the past 12 years. "I'm going to be leaving in four days and they (county) haven't even thought about training new people."

The library started with about 380 patrons in 1974 and now serves 2,500, most of them in the southern part of the county, said Farmington Community Library director Bev Pappal.

"I have a personal bias," said Pappal, the first director of the blind and

See LIBRARY, 2A

On the border



STAFF PHOTOS BY GUY WARRER

Diversity: Eight Mile Road in the Farmington vicinity is a whole different world from Eight Mile Road in Detroit. Above, road construction sallies forth to widen the artery. At right, reporter Ralph R. Echtenaw considers buying an item from the Finnish Center's gift shop. See Page 8A for the whole nine yards on Eight Mile.



City hails Mercy land buy

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington City Council members all had something to say about the purchase of the Mercy Center — and it was all good.

The council unanimously voted to acquire the 27-plus acres of property from the Sisters of Mercy including 67,000 square feet of building space for \$3,050,000. The decision had to be made by Oct. 15 for the deal to go through and only after a public hearing. Except for some concerns about dedicating space in the building for senior programs, there were few ready to quarrel with the decision that several called "a bargain."

"This is the most gratifying action I've been a part of (as a council member)," said mayor pro tem Larry Lichtman. "So often the council has to choose between competing interests. This time we're on the same team. We did something that government isn't always able to do: We got a good deal."

Council members were not the only ones bubbling over with joy about the deal, which will give a permanent home to senior programs and provide space for other cultural and community activities.

"I'm your elder," said Kathleen Nylm, 80, with some good-natured chiding. The 27-year Hills resident who has been involved with efforts to acquire a permanent home for senior programs congratulated the council. "As always, when I come to thank you for something, I want to ask you for something."

That something was the promise, which she got from council members, that space for senior programs would be dedicated, rather than temporary. She added that seniors are happy to see the facility used for youth programs and cultural events, such as Farmington Area Philharmonic concerts, but they want to see their programs offered in the same space, not moved around.

"We want first dibs," she said.

The council agreed to buy the facility and property Sept. 3 and worked on the details of financing at a study session Oct. 6. The city agreed to pay for the property over 12 years, rather than 15 or 20 years. The shorter term will save the city an estimated \$691,500 (for the 15-year term) to \$1.5 million (20 years). That estimate is based on borrowing at 6 percent. City officials think the actual rate of interest will be lower.

The city will borrow \$4 million — the purchase price plus \$850,000 for renovations and improvement. The council also voted to use \$200,000 originally planned for Woodland Hills Park development, \$500,000 budgeted for expansion of the San

See MERCY, 2A

Tupper: Keep city neat, clean, safe

Richard Tupper is one of four candidates, including two incumbents, for Farmington City Council. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

No one would ever accuse Richard Tupper of sitting on the fence.

The longtime Farmington councilman is on one side or the other, telling the owner how high and wide it can be. When it comes to city ordinance, Tupper is the self-appointed guardian.

Fences, signs and recreational vehi-

cles and any other possible encroachment on city codes draw the watchful eye of the councilman. Often, they are a point of contention.

"The message we want to convey around here is we want a community that is neat and clean and people can be proud of," said Tupper, 60, who has lived in Farmington for 66 years, "and you can't be proud of something

If you have junk all over the place."

Tupper is proud of Farmington. He praises its public services, defends its return on the tax dollar and, obviously, wants the city to stay that way.

Some codes were allowed to slip, Tupper said. As a result, the city looked tacky 15 years ago, he said.

He points out the ordinance concerning storage of light industrial equipment was allowed to slip, taking two years to rectify and clean up.

"If we let these ordinances slip in enforcement, we have to go back over again and spend four or five years to

See TUPPER, 8A



Richard Tupper