

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Bronze reality: The artwork soon to adorn Farmington's City Hall is coming along, but funds are still needed. /3A

'Joshua' author: A retired Catholic priest who has written several books will speak at Mercy High School next month. /3A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Looking good: Estee Lauder's "More Than A Make-over" program pays a visit to Twelve Oaks Mall and serves up some stylish tips. /8A

OPINION

Short end: Columnist John Telford recalls how education has continually been on the short end of the stick. /10A

COUNTY NEWS

Realtors angle: The governor's school finance plan is likely to hurt housing sales. /12A

TASTE



Homemade sausage: Dr. Howard Hamerick and his Aunt Josephine Molenda are smoking this fall, sausage that is. /1B

Dairy-brewed beer: Braumaster Tom Burns turns out 60 kegs of dairy-brewed beer a week. /1B

SPORTS

Cross country: The North Farmington girls and Farmington boys are one victory away from winning Lakes Division titles. /1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

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

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Merchants add 2 cents on plan



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Some downtown Farmington business owners express mixed feelings about a proposed special assessment. Details of the assessment to help fund the Farmington Downtown Development Authority have not been

worked out. The DDA is expected to discuss the issue at a special meeting 8 a.m. Tuesday.

While some question it, others such as Civic Theatre owner Greg Hohler support the special assessment being considered. "When you see what's been done in

the last seven years, if we do not maintain funding for the programs . . . the town will fall into the conditions it was in from the past," Hohler said.

Small price to pay

Books Abound and Books for Less owner Skip Rosenthal thinks the assessment is a small price to pay.

"As far as the taxing goes, we have no objection at all," said Rosenthal, whose two book outlets are in the Central Business District. "They have reduced the property tax overall.

The big taxes (property tax for schools) have gone down to nothing. The DDA needs to raise some money . . . It's very small. It's no big deal."

But, added Rosenthal's next door neighbor John Cowley, owner of Cowley's Village Inn: "I don't know what the hell it is, but I can't afford it."

DDA officials say a special assessment is needed, though. The DDA will lose \$130,000 in tax increment financing revenue for the 1994-95 budget. That's 54 percent out from its \$240,000 projected budget.

See MERCHANTS, 4A

Home schoolers on a field trip



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMIREUX

Science project: Lita Hoyer and her children (from left) Amy, Bob and Michael study a water bug from the branch of the Rouge River that runs through Shiawassee Park.

Parents home in on children's schooling

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The bell never rings in Bob and Amy Hoyer's school. And the principal's office, cafeteria and lavatory are well within a few feet of each other. So is their two-year-old brother, Michael, who sits at a table drawing pictures while they learn about science.

The Hoyer children are getting their education home delivered. The teacher is their parents.

While schools of choice and academies are buzz phrases in education circles, the Farmington Hills family is trying the oldest alternative of all — home schooling.

"You know how you'll make. 'We'll never' statements?" said Lita Hoyer. "We said we'd never home school. It was too much."

When private schools didn't seem to be making the grade, though, Lita and her husband Mark Hoyer decided to give it a try.

Parents had concerns

She teaches reading, history, spelling and language. Her husband, who works during the day as a sales manager for a medical supply company, handles the children

See HOME, 6A



Down to the river: Amy Hoyer plays with river water during the project.

Lorelli sees ways to trim spending

Vincent Lorelli is one of six candidates, including two challengers, running for the Farmington Hills City Council. Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills is wasting a lot of money by not relying on more privatization of services and its costing taxpayers, says council candidate Vincent Lorelli.



"I think the taxes are high for the services we're getting," said Lorelli, 26. The attorney, who has a sole practice in Farmington Hills, said the slow response to snow removal and other department of public works

functions made him take a hard look at the city's policies and conclude that there must be a change.

"You've got \$9,000 being spent on a radar trailer that tells people how fast they're going," he said. "That's what your speedometer's for. You have \$40,000 being spent on sidewalks and bike paths (on Farmington Road) that nobody wants."

Lorelli criticized the tendency to

See LORELLI, 6A

Candidates coming

Attention Farmington Hills voters: The candidates in the upcoming city council election will air their views at a candidate forum at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, in the Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

The forum is the seventh-annual Council of Homeowner Associations' Town Crier Candidate Night.

The six candidates — incumbents Jon Grant, Aldo Vincozzi, Larry Lichtman and Ben Mirks, and challengers Cheryl Oliverio and Vincent Lorelli — are expected to attend.

Panelists will be Farmington Observer editor Tom Baer and COHA past presidents Gail Haynes and Marty Kroner. Moderator will be Jack Rajkovich.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The event will be cablecast live on Metro-Vision's Channel 8. A viewer call-in telephone number will be shown on the TV screen.

Rep. Dolan to speak

State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, will discuss politics and local issues at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon at noon Friday, Oct. 22, at the On The Tee Restaurant in San Marino Golf Course, 26634 Halsted Road. The public is invited.

Cost is \$13 for chamber members and \$20 for non-members. For reservations or for more information, call the chamber at 474-3440.

Neighborhood folks needed

Neighborhood House of Farmington/Farmington Hills is putting out the word: The organization needs some helping hands.

Neighborhood House, at 20415 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills, helps needy families in the area. Anyone who would like to volunteer should call 474-7680.

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.