



IN THE PAPER

TODAY

No names! They're all millionaires thanks to luck and the lottery. And these Farmington Hills folks do not want their names published. /2A

Give us the tools: Community leaders let it be known what they needed to fight crime in suburbs like Farmington Hills. /9A

A long career: Executive Lt. Norman Kilmer was named Farmington Hills Police Officer of the Year just as he retired. /8A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Wedding wonders: Jacobson's bridal fair launches new computerized registry service. /4A

Bridal bosses: Two women, one from Southfield, another from Livonia, describe how they make their living as bridal consultants. /4A

OPINION

Double standard: A fair system of justice takes a sidestep when it comes to the rich and famous. At least that's the opinion of columnist Tim Smith. /10A

COUNTY NEWS

Taxing questions: Reporter Tim Richard answers your queries about the March 15 school funding ballot proposal and the homestead affidavit that property owners must file by March 1 to declare their principal residence. /10A

TASTE

Gourmet marinades: From their kitchen to yours, meet the founders of American Connoisseur. /1B

STREET SCENE

Different sounds: Once you get past the national acts in the music-store bins, you stumble on the lesser-known groups that may provide some good — and some not-so-good — regional stylings. /4B

SPORTS

Hoop tourney: Farmington and North Farmington were among the field of eight teams starting the Western Lakes basketball playoffs Friday. /1C

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They're off: Schools race is on



The Farmington School Board election isn't until June, but a Hills resident announced that he intends to run and both incumbents say they're up to the challenge.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The thump-thump-thump you hear is the sound of hats being thrown into the ring for the Farmington Board of Education.

Swiatkowski said he intends to run for the board this June. The filing deadline is April 11; the election is June 13.

Whether more candidates emerge between now and then depends on if anyone is willing to take on two incumbents in an election for two open seats.

Board president Cathleen Webb said she's going to run for a second, 4-year term. Treasurer R. Jack Inch said he's going for a fifth.

"The fact there are two incumbents doesn't dissuade me from running," Swiatkowski said. "I teach American history, and I have seen colorful stories where underdogs have been successful."

Swiatkowski, 28, has been at the

forefront of a back-to-basics movement in the district and has called for a return to the traditional grading scale in Farmington. He's spoken out at board meetings and has met with Assistant Director of Curriculum Judy White to discuss fundamental education issues.

Webb said there's no hesitation on her seeking a second term. Her first was an event-filled one, including two

See RACE, 2A

Chowing down at Greene's



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LE MEUX

Night crowd: P.J. McDonald (left) and friend Erik Meyer test the food at Greene's Hamburgers, a favorite with the Farmington-area's late-night crowd.

Late-night cooks as Greene's fires up the grill

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The battle cry at Greene's Hamburgers is not "Where's the beef?" Instead, they want to know: "Where's Hazel?"

The waitress doesn't work there anymore. Heart problems and diabetes have forced Hazel Lapeer from behind the stainless steel counter at the venerable coterie on Orchard Lake and 10 Mile Road in Farmington.

Her absence gives customers something to reminisce about between shark-sized bites of their burgers and fries at 1 a.m.

"I was here one time with one of my buddies," said Erik Meyer. "He was kind of short on cash. . . . So we said to everyone, 'If he stood on his head, would you buy him a cheeseburger?' There he was with his two feet in the air against the wall. . . ."

Was his athletic stunt rewarded like Pavlov's dog with a grilled treat? Actually, no. Hazel booted them all out.

"Hazel was always kicking out people," Meyer said. And that in-

See GREENE'S, 3A



Late night oasis: Greene's Hamburgers has been a Farmington institution since 1957.

Governor gets an earful on 'A' at Hills forum

BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Jerry Johnson has his reservations. Yepram Dervahanian is against it. Ben Marks, Terry Fobbs and Andy Raczkowski are outspoken supporters.

Those Farmington Hills residents and others spoke their pieces on school finance reform — especially Proposal A — Saturday at a forum, and Gov. John Engler was on hand to hear what they said.

Engler, chief proponent of Proposal A, spoke and listened at the Mercy Center gathering attended by about 35 residents.

Proposal A, if approved in a March 15 special election, would raise the state sales tax from 4 to 6 cents on the dollar to fund public schools.

If voters say nay to A, then a backup plan would raise the state income tax from 4.8 to 6 percent.

Each plan is supposed to raise \$10.2 billion for schools for the next school year.

In any event, long gone is the property tax as the method of financing schools.

Johnson said he felt "somewhat deceived" by Proposal A.

"There have been tax proposals over the years," he told Engler. "I've voted for some, against others. This one, I don't think I have a choice."

"Living in Farmington Hills, my tax decrease is not going to be anything to write home about. I also own a cottage, which means my taxes will be going up on that."

Engler — whose political future may hinge on the March 15 tax vote — had to dance around that question. Truth to tell, there won't be much of a

tax savings in high-spending districts like Farmington.

Still, he urged them to support the proposal anyway, reminding them that a cap on property tax assessments is part of Proposal A.

"Could it be better? Sure," Engler said. "But is it better than the current system? Yes, I think it clearly is."

Dervahanian, who said he recently sold a business and wanted to leave Michigan, called the state "overrated" and objected to schools that graduated people who can't read or write well enough to fill out an employment application. He's against Proposal A.

"Don't run off," Engler told him after some

See FORMS, 11A