

### Look for coupons today

• Cut your weekly grocery bill an average \$20 to \$30 a week clipping coupons that are inserted in today's issue of your home-delivered Observer newspaper.

• Don't miss out on the savings. To have the Observer delivered to your home, call 591-0500.



### Special announcements

Starting next week, local wedding and engagement notices will become part of your Farmington Suburban Life section. The move is an effort to better serve our readers by getting these important personal announcements into the Farmington Observer in a more timely manner. Farmington and Farmington Hills residents should send their wedding and engagement information along with a photograph to Diana Galo, suburban life editor, at 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington, Mich. 48336. Preprinted forms that outline the information needed for your announcement are available in the Farmington office. If you have questions regarding your announcement, call Diana Galo at 477-5450.



### IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**Carriers collect:** Just a reminder that your Observer newspapers carrier will collect for the month of March this week. The monthly home-delivery charge is \$3. Thanks for your cooperation.

### OPINION

**Transit truth:** Can you get there from here on the bus when here is Farmington and there is, say, Plymouth? /18A

### SUBURBAN LIFE

**Case closed:** A Farmington-area mystery writer puts the finishing touches on a local caper. /1C

**Bunny business:** Guest columnist Beverly Cornell warns against giving a "cute bunny" as a gift for Easter unless there are plans to care for it when it matures. /1C

### SPECIAL SECTIONS

**Stylish ideas:** Our spring fashion supplement is included with the inserts in today's newspaper.

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### HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 477-5450  
Newsroom Fax: 477-8722  
Sports: 953-2141  
Reader Comment Line: 953-2042  
Classified Advertising: 591-0500  
Display Advertising: 591-2300  
Home Delivery: 591-0500  
Cable/TV Weekly: 953-2182

## Judge weighs age suit



An Oakland County judge will decide Tuesday whether an age discrimination suit against the Farmington Public School District should go any further. Harrison High assistant principal Norman Dickson maintains he was passed over for a younger man.

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

An Oakland County Circuit Court judge is expected to decide whether an age discrimination suit filed by a Harrison High School assistant principal should go to trial. Judge Robert Anderson will make

his decision Tuesday regarding the suit filed by Harrison assistant principal Norman Dickson.

A tentative trial date has been set for July 18, though a motion has been filed by Dickson's attorney to reschedule it to June or September when school officials are not on vacation. A

invasion has also been filed in Federal District Court.

Dickson, 55, alleges he was passed over during the interview process and was not hired for the Harrison principal's position because of age. Rande Horn was hired last summer by the district to replace Clayton Graham, who retired in June.

An attorney for the school district called Dickson's assertions "unfounded."

"There's not a scintilla of evidence to support any of his claims," said at-

See LAWSUIT, 4A



Norman Dickson

### Making good at First Impressions



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Circus circus: Carrie Murphy (left) and Andrea Schiff work on a project with a circus motif during a recent open house at the new First Impressions preschool on 13 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. The event was called "Big Night Under the Big Top." Jill Margolich is the director of the school, which has several locations in West Bloomfield.

## Flooded property really drains Hills resident

By BILL COLBERT  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills resident Leonard Zak worries that the flooding his property came under after Monday's light rainfall is just a hint of what could come along with April showers. Zak, whose house and property on

Sallebury in the city's south end are next to the Botsford Commons development, has complained to the city about flooding on the eastern part of his property and the adjoining lot that he also owns.

The city offered to provide the engineering and Botsford, which dug a

trench for a drainage pipe of its own, offered to dig a trench for Zak. The 23-year resident declined the offer, saying he wanted a more extensive enclosed drain around his property.

In November, Zak told the city council about his concerns, especially considering the city's installation of a

drainage pipe to relieve flooding problems on Bangall Street (to the west of Zak's property) and Botsford's development of a drainage pipe northwest of his property.

City officials countered that the

See FLOODED, 3A

## City aims to be in park for improvement grant

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Shutout once, the city of Farmington is hoping it scores a second time in applying for a grant to improve Shilawasee Park.

The money, if awarded, would help pay for a plan that calls for new bas-

ketball and volleyball courts as well as additional bleachers.

Buildings would be repaired and decorated and tennis courts resurfaced.

Last year, the city submitted an application for a similar improvement project but was denied. This

time, the city is asking for help to pay for a \$47,921 plan.

The project submitted was pared down on the advice of SEMCOG and the Department of Natural Resources, which accepts grant applications. Instead of new tennis courts in last year's application, the city opted

for the less expensive option of resurfacing them, saving \$40,000. Assistant city manager Robert Schultz is cautiously optimistic the project will receive DNR money.

"We're ever hopeful," Schultz said,

See PARK, 4A

### 'Farmington Sings'

Harrison High School will host more than 600 young singers Saturday, March 28, at the inaugural "Farmington Sings '94" gets under way.

"This new program offers an opportunity for singers at all levels to participate in large massed choirs with guest conductors," said Paul Barber, music coordinator for the Farmington Schools.

In addition, guest vocal music clinicians from outside the community will work with middle and high school students in rehearsals for specialized voices.

The event begins at noon. An "informance" for parents and friends of the performers is scheduled for 3 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

Guest artists include Margaret Kolts and Maurice Wildt, retired music faculty members from the

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

Farmington Schools; Dr. Leonard Riccinto, Eastern Michigan University; Bruce Snyder, Bloomfield Hills Schools; Larry Wolf, Oak Park Schools; and the Eastern Michigan University Chamber Choir.

Some of the Farmington Schools vocal teachers to participate are: Jan Branchel, Farmington High School; Catherine Bennett, North Farmington; and Tom Schroeder, Harrison. Teachers from the four middle schools and several elementary schools are also expected to be on hand.

"The day will be most inspiring to students and parents," Barber said. "It clearly demonstrates how important the arts and music specifically are

to the quality of our lives. Students will gain skills and knowledge which they can apply to all their future musical expressions."

Harrison High School is on 12 Mile, just west of Middlebelt.

### Memory Lane

From the March 25, 1954, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

A Westinghouse refrigerator could be purchased on installments of \$4.99 a week from Richardson Appliance and Heating on Grand River in Farmington.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, faxed to 477-8722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.