

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**A together class:** One observer noticed that Farmington High School's graduates seemed to applaud and support each other during the recent ceremony. /3A

**Suspense:** Clarenceville trustees want to know how many students were sent to an on-site suspension room during its pilot year and how many were repeat offenders. /4A

**On the run:** Police officers from Farmington Hills and elsewhere ran for the Muscular Dystrophy Association recently. /9A

## OPINION

**On their terms:** Some angry Farmington Hills residents have come up with their own ground rules for a proposed development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt. /12A

**'They will be heard!':** Guest columnist and Hills resident Sharon Stein pulls no punches as she explains why she's upset about the development. /13A

**Write on:** Letters, we get letters, we get lots and lots of letters... on a variety of subjects. /12A

## SPORTS

**Soccer standouts:** Farmington schools are well-represented on the All-Observer girls soccer team this year. /1B

**Golf greets:** Two of the seven players on the girls all-area team hail from Mercy High School. /2B

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Movies:** Tell us why your team needs an angel to win tickets to "Angels in the Outfield." /8B

## SUBURBAN LIFE

**Beautiful bables:** The Farmington Founders Festival's Beautiful Baby Contest is sponsored by a local shop that sells used and new baby clothing. /1C

**Good advice:** Lt. Mike Garr of the Farmington Hills Fire Department has a message about fire-works safety. /1C

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# Year later, bike path not in gear

The big signs — "Stop the 8-foot bike path" — are still up on the front lawns of some houses along Farmington Road where a bike path has been proposed. City officials are looking at several alternatives.

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

It's been a year, but residents who live on Farmington Road between Heritage Park and 10 Mile feel like they're not getting anywhere with the city over a proposed bike path.

"Most of the people in the area are

not against putting in some type of bike path," said resident Pat Zacharias. "What we are opposed to is something that's 8 feet wide and up on our property 50 feet."

After the city proposed such a path for the east side of Farmington last year that would eventually help link

Farmington and Farmington Hills in a network of bike paths, the affected residents balked at the idea.

The city then agreed to meet with representatives, get input, come up with alternatives and report back to the city council with a recommendation.

"We're planning on making a recommendation this summer," said Tom Blasell, the city's director of public services. "The issue is really east side, west side."

Most residents were not opposed to the path if it were built on the west side of the road, Blasell said. After

meeting twice with a committee representing the residents over the winter, Blasell, city manager Bill Costick and assistant city manager Steve Brock, presented five alternatives:

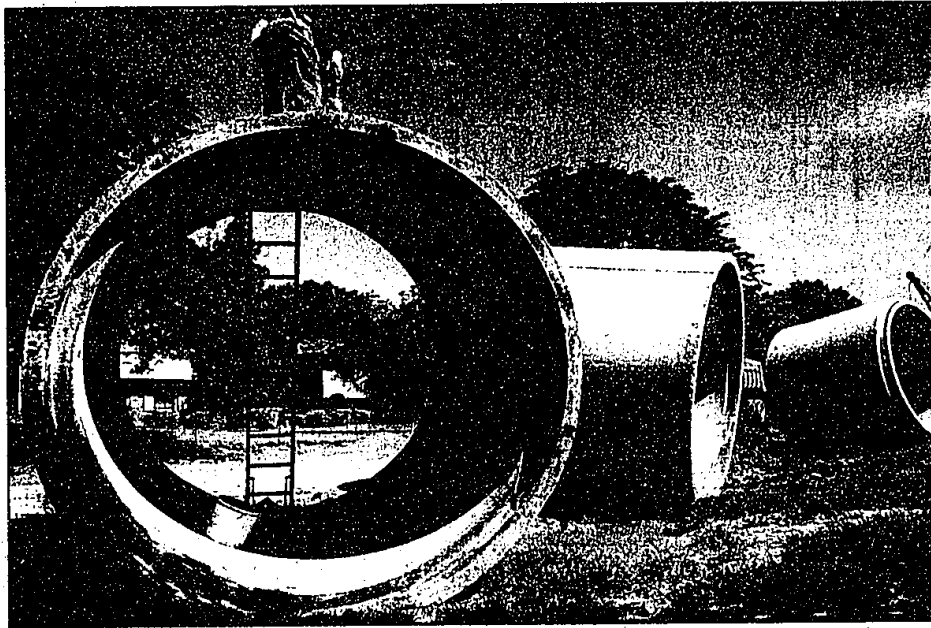
■ Put the path on the east side from 10 Mile, crossing to the west side at the Heritage Park entrance.

■ Have the path run on the west side to the Heritage Park pond, then crossing to the east side and going south to 10 Mile.

■ Route the path from the park entrance to the pond on the west side

See PATH, 5A

## Pipes aplenty in Kendallwood



ANN HALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Going down: Construction worker Paul Malnar looks small as he stands atop one of the huge pipes that will be placed under the Kendallwood subdivision in Farmington Hills as part of a flood control project.

## Big pipe doesn't drain on residents' patience

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

The mammoth Minow Pond drain project is on schedule, on budget... and, so far, not on too many people's nerves.

The project includes an 8.5-foot diameter storm drain under Kendallwood Drive in northwest Farmington Hills.

The biggest public works undertaking in the city's history, it will cost between \$5 million and \$6 million and will bring the total spent on storm and sanitary drains, roads and other infrastructure improvements in the Kendallwood subdivision between Farmington and Orchard Lake and 12 and 13 Mile roads to about \$20 million in the past five

years. Farmington Hills city manager Bill Costick said because residents affected by the project had met with city officials for the past two years, they were prepared for the disruption.

"We've had a couple of years to prepare them for this," Costick said. Project engineer Gary Zorza said

residents have been understanding and helpful in speeding the project along.

"These people have been excellent," Zorza said.

The project, which involves a retention basin, widened culverts and other improvements has as its largest

See PIPE, 6A

## Company pumps up for feet of shoemanship

BY TOM BAER  
STAFF WRITER

Famous Footwear has put a lot of hot air into its latest advertising campaign, as Farmington-area residents may have noticed Tuesday morning.

A huge athletic shoe — multicolored with the Famous Footwear logo prominently displayed on it — drifted over Farmington before coming gently to the ground in Heritage Park about 8:15 a.m.

The shoe was actually a hot air balloon, 110 feet tall, with a tiny wicker basket dangling from its side. In the

basket were pilot Jim Ryan and assistant Janet Justus, manager of the Famous Footwear store in Livonia's Wonderland Mall.

They'd ballooned up from Livonia's Bicentennial Park that morning. The idea, of course, was to promote Famous Footwear, which sponsors the balloon and its attendant team.

"It's something on the order of the Goodyear Blimp," said Ryan, of Indianapolis. "We're here because the World Cup soccer games are here. We're at Super Bowls and big events

like that." "Big Foot," as the balloon is affectionately known, also helped promote the opening of a Famous Footwear in Novi. An outlet on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills has been in business about three years.

Tuesday morning was a perfect time for hot air ballooning, Ryan said, and Heritage Park is just the spot for a safe landing.

"Big green spaces like this are ideal," he said, indicating the treeless meadow. "There's nothing to hit and the place seems to be devoid of power

lines. "It's rare that you find parks like this in urban areas. These big green spaces are easy to spot from the air. Hey, we've landed in a lot smaller places. We've landed in people's back yards."

In the park, Ryan's crew of seven — all local Famous Footwear employees — got the 617-pound balloon rolled up and stuffed in its bag.

"It's a great experience and a wonderful ad for our store," Justus said.

See SHOES, 2A

### Any nice places?

Members of the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission are looking for a few nice places in the city... appealing, well-maintained and landscaped outdoor areas. Object: to recognize them in the annual competition. Sites to be considered include places of business, industries, apartments, condominiums, public buildings, offices and organizations.

The final judging is set for August and the winners in each of several categories are to be recognized at a breakfast on Oct. 27.

Residents who wish to have the Beautification Commission consider a building should call 473-9483 or write to the commission c/o the Planning Department, City of Farmington Hills, 51555 W. 11 Mile road, Farmington Hills 48336.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### Memory Lane

From the July 1, 1954, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:  
 ■ Gerald Grace was elected president of the Farmington Exchange Club at a meeting at the Universalist Church.  
 ■ Wendell Brown was voted president of the Farmington Township Board of Education for the fourth consecutive year. Samuel Turner and Bayard Tupper were re-elected to secretary and treasurer, respectively.  
 ■ About 500 youngsters were registered for Farmington's summer playground program, according to Warren Piche, director.

### Celebrate the sounds

The Sounds of America concert series continues at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 1, with "Old Time Mountain Country" by the Real Happy Swing & Swing Band under the gazebo on Grand River in downtown Farmington.  
 A week later, July 8, "Michigan Through the Eyes of Song" will be presented by folk singer Neil Woodward.  
 A concert note: "Chicago Jazz," scheduled for June 24 was cancelled and moved to Aug. 5.  
 There is no charge for the performances. Concertgoers should bring blankets and lawn chairs. The site is located next to the Village Commons shopping center.  
 Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21896 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336; faxed to 477-9722.