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# Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

**TODAY**

**Thanks, vets:** *The Farmington area has been designated as a World War II Commemorative Community. There's a flag to prove it.* /3A

**Lights out!** *A power outage left much of the Farmington area in darkness Thursday night.* /2A

**For a song:** *State Senate hopeful Vicki Barnett used to sing for a living. Last week, however, she was crooning for votes and campaign contributions.* /5A

**Shot down:** *A bond issue was soundly defeated in the Walled Lake School District, which includes part of Farmington Hills. Residents tell why.* /4A

**MALLS & MAINSTREETS**



**Window shopping:** *Annie Green has the enviable job of creating works of art around the works of art at Tiffany's in the Somerset Collection.* /6A

**Folding fits:** *Meet a West Bloomfield woman whose quest for the perfect closet leads her to create the amazing Pro Fold.* /6A

**TASTE**

**Great pumpkins:** *Carve out some time to pick out your Halloween pumpkin. Go to the Pumpkin Festival in South Lyon.* /1B

**Wine column:** *Affordable wines from southern France are tasty sips.* /1B

**SPORTS**

**Five for FHS?:** *Farmington battled perennial football power John Glenn while trying for its fifth-straight win Saturday.* /1C

**Hawks on a roll:** *Harrison charged past Walled Lake Western to stay unbeaten in girls basketball Thursday.* /1C

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## Jonna plan awaits judgment day



Wednesday could be a big day for the Farmington Hills residents who oppose a development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt. That's when a decision is expected on an injunction that could halt the project.

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

An injunction filed by four residents opposing the Timbercrest project at 12 Mile and Middlebelt could throw another monkey wrench into the development if it is upheld in Oakland County Circuit Court.

A decision is expected Wednesday. The residents — Marian Norman Zamczyk, Sharon L. Zamczyk, Robert Jurczyk and Gail Jurczyk — are seeking an injunction to stop the project through attorney Alan Applebaum.

has angered residents, who are trying to recall the six council members who voted for it.

The injunction alleges, among other things, that the Farmington Hills City Council approved the project at its Sept. 12 meeting without reviewing a revised site plan or drawings of the revised development and "without having the opportunity to secure estimates for the new costs to be borne by the Defendant (Jonna Realty Ventures) and without having the opportunity to obtain an appraisal of the portion of the property that

would be subject to the options."

At the Sept. 26 council meeting, Applebaum asked the council to delay approval of the contract with Jonna until the court ruled. The council voted 6-1 to sign the contract.

The injunction also states that the character of the plaintiffs' neighborhood will be changed, there will be increases in traffic flow without adequate road expansion, there will be an increase in population and the lot sizes in the new subdivision will not be

See JUDGMENT, 4A



A good read: Volunteer Max Kravitz reads a story to teacher Mary Gottschalk's third graders at Eagle Elementary School in the Farmington District.

## Man, 88, still kids around

BY MARY ROQUIEUX  
STAFF WRITER

Every weekday, Max Kravitz drives to Eagle Elementary School where he works from 9 to 3.

That may seem pretty ordinary until you consider that Max Kravitz is 88 years old and doesn't get paid for his work. This volunteer extraordinaire was honored recently by the Farmington Board of Education.

"He's so wonderful. He's part of our Eagle family," said school principal Susan Johnson. "The staff loves him. The kids love him. He's a great role model. He's so helpful."

"It's wonderful when people who retire can still give so much to education. He's still very young. He is a very gentle man."

The school board citation also stops his "volunteer status" in the home he shares with his daughter, Lenore Kingston, a social worker who also works at Eagle.

"I started this about four years ago, after my wife died," said Kravitz, a tall, well-dressed man who looks far younger than his years. "I try to come every day."

Kravitz works in the copy room where he performs tasks ranging from duplicating papers, to cutting and preparing projects or typing. One recent morning he was correcting test papers. Later he read a story to a class.

If work gets slow, he'll walk down the hall and ask teachers what he can do to help. Inevitably, there's something.

"They have a music class here. I play violin. I go join them sometimes," he said.

His daughter points out that her father has short-term memory loss and wears a hearing aid. Thus teachers write down instructions for him.

"I think that's important because

See 88-YEAR-OLD, 4A

## Dolan sees need for regional approach

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

State Rep. Jan Dolan says she sees a role that Lansing can play in the changing needs of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Dolan, seeking her fourth term as the 37th District representative, will be opposed by Democrat Richard Dailly and Libertarian Yoram Derwenthan Nov. 8.

Dolan, who narrowly defeated GOP challenger Andrew Raczowski in the August primary, said the two cities

**STATE HOUSE**

she represents have undergone changes that require a different approach.

"Over the last 14 years, the Farmington schools had a strong tax base," she said. "That was by design. Farmington Hills aggressively developed that way. But that system (with schools funded by local property taxes) has changed in its funding."

Although it has resulted in a strong

tax base, a more regional approach to development is now in order, said the Farmington Hills resident. Without a more regional approach, controversial developments like the Timbercrest project on 12 Mile and Middlebelt and a Super Kmart shopping center, proposed near Northwestern, south of 14 Mile and east of Orchard Lake, will anger many residents.

And at the same time, the outlying communities, such as West Bloom-

See DOLAN, 4A

## Family finds Northville move oversteps school boundaries

BY MARY ROQUIEUX  
STAFF WRITER

Melanie Gabry thought her family's recent move to Northville wouldn't affect the status of her son Joe, a junior at Farmington High. She was wrong.

Even though she was willing to pay \$3,000 tuition to let Joe remain in familiar surroundings at Farmington High, Gabry was told her son must leave the school by Friday, Oct. 7, because the family no longer lives within district boundaries.

"We never would have moved to Northville if we knew he couldn't continue at Farmington High," said Gabry, who lived in the Nine-Mile/Rosedale area for 11 years.

Gabry says she called the school district office in Farmington in April to inquire about this tuition program. Someone there told her that Joe could

stay at Farmington High if tuition was paid, she said, so the family went ahead with moving plans.

"It's hard to imagine someone saying that. We've had a clear school board policy for a number of years," said Don Cowan, director of building and student services for Farmington Schools.

Tuition students are accepted only if one of three conditions is met, Cowan said. Either the family is buying a home in the school district and can show proof, or one of the parents is a full-time employee in the district. The only other exception is made for senior year of high school.

Unfortunately for Gabry, her son just started his junior year.

"I know it's traumatic," said David Bolitho, a spokesman for Northville schools. "Obviously there was a misunderstanding and now this stu-

dent has to change schools. At that age, it's tough leaving friends."

"The policy is more than a plan thought out by the school district, Cowan said.

"It's state policy," he said. "With the new way the state is funding schools, it becomes more imperative. We get reimbursed per student. Head counts are extremely important."

"The policy of the board has not changed. Normally we give them a week to adjust to the news and make arrangements," said Cowan.

Because of the misunderstanding, school officials weren't aware the boy was living in Northville until last week.

"It's best for the young man to leave immediately

See MOVE, 4A