

# Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

**TODAY**

**Video visits:** A Farmington district elementary class really gets around thanks to a TV monitor and a telephone. /3A

**Airing it out:** Farmington Hills and other southeastern Michigan communities will reap a reward for taking care of the area's air quality. /3A

**Airport Economy:** Farmington Hills resident Stephen Economy is picked to head operations at Detroit's Metro Airport. /7A

**COMMUNITY LIFE**

**Take ACTION:** A local support group meets monthly to help with the job of finding a job. /9A

**Keep it simple:** Kids today miss out on life's simpler pleasures says columnist Leon I. Schoichit as he remembers his childhood. /9A

**OPINION**

**They remember:** Some ordinary people recall the murder of a 9-year-old girl 40 years ago, even if a few officials from that time couldn't remember. /14A

**LET'S GO!**

**Let's Go!** Plymouth Theatre Guild's presentation of "The King and I" is a jewel. Talented cast sparkles in this popular musical. /1B

**Music:** The Plymouth and Livonia Symphony Orchestras are presenting concerts on March 11. With a little planning, you can attend both. /1B

**SPORTS**

**Swim winners:** North Farmington and Farmington combined to win four events and fare well in the Western Lakes finals. /1C

**Mat champion:** Farmington High wrestler Matt Michalski is headed to the state finals after winning a regional title. /1C

**CREATIVE LIVING**

**Way to grow:** The Community House will be the site of a spring garden seminar featuring speakers and plant sales. /1D

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## Hills cautiously eyes hospice



An official for the Hospice of Southeastern Michigan thinks he has found "an ideal site" for a new hospice at 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads.

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Although a hospice development proposed for the southwest corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills has plenty of support, City Council members tempered their enthusiasm with caution.

Norman LoPatin, Hospice of

Southeastern Michigan chairman, made his pitch for the campus that would include four single-family residential buildings for hospice patients and a two-story office building on the 11.8-acre corner parcel.

"This is an ideal site," LoPatin told council members. "It's heavily wooded, it's in a beautiful setting,

and it's a tranquil setting."

A hospice is an establishment caring for the physical and emotional needs of terminally ill patients.

Several residents showed up to support the proposal and several more phoned in their support. But although council members liked the look of the project, they wanted to make sure neighboring residents knew about the project before too long.

LoPatin said the facility, which would have 80 units and total 89,000 square feet, is less than a previously

planned senior assisted living facility proposed for 180,000 square feet. A consent judgment had been filed, but that facility was never begun.

The plan would include 1 1/2 acres at the corner to be given to the city as a passive park, LoPatin said. "We would want to give something back to the city," he said.

Councilman Terry Sever said he liked the plan, but wanted to make sure residents nearby would not be surprised by it.

See HOSPICE, 2A

**Ace of bass**



An Orchestrated visit: String bass player Larry Hutchinson has some tips for eighth-grader Charlotte Blashfield. During a recent visit to Warner Middle School, Hutchinson was one of five Detroit Symphony Orchestra members to drop by the four Farmington District middle schools recently to conduct clinics and rehearse with music students. Area residents and DSO members participating included Ron Fischer, Velda Kelly, Paul Wingert, and Hutchinson.

## GRIP's message clear, but perhaps not heard by those who need it

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Bill and Barbara Mihalic were enthused about Saturday's "Get a GRIP" program at North Farmington High. But first, they had to get a grasp on their son's reluctance to attend.

"My son didn't want to come," said Barbara Mihalic about Joe, who attends O.E. Dunckel Middle School. "He's a typical sixth grader . . . He wasn't crazy about going."

"As parents we have to make the final decisions for our children. I felt it was important for us to be here."

More than 600 people shared similar views on the Generations Responding to Issues and Problems (GRIP) session, which was sponsored

by Farmington Public Schools and Farmington Families in Action.

Parents and children alike learned about conflict resolution, averting peer pressure and other bits of wisdom. Intended purpose is to stop drug and alcohol abuse.

Motivational speaker Michael Karpovich addressed both groups together and separately. Students from Warren Mott High talked to kids about how to resolve conflicts.

Students from three Farmington High School SADD chapters used songs and skits to tell fourth and fifth graders how to avoid peer pressure when it comes to drugs and alcohol.

See GRIP, 5A



On stage: Jason Beek, a Hillside elementary fifth-grader, whoops it up during the GRIP program at North Farmington High School.

## District's test scores up, down

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Despite tailing off in some areas district-wide, Farmington Public School students continue to score well above the state average on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test.

Michigan Board of Education released 1994 statewide results at its Feb. 21 meeting. M-STEP tests fourth, seventh and 10th grade students in math and reading. Fifth-, eighth- and 11th-graders are tested in science.

Farmington scores declined district-wide this year in fourth grade reading, seventh grade reading, seventh grade math and seventh grade science.

See M-STEP, 2A

**About employment law**

Members of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce who are looking for information on fast-changing developments in employment law should mark Friday, March 10, on their calendars.

The sixth-annual Employment Law Update, co-sponsored by the 19 Detroit-area chambers of commerce, will be held that Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Walsh Conference Center on Rochester Road between Beaver and Washtenaw in Troy.

Workplace violence, sexual harassment, hiring/firing, overtime laws and development of employment handbooks and policies are among the subjects to be covered.

Attendees will also hear employment lawsuit perspectives and prevention prescriptions from a

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plaintiff's attorney and a judge. Cost is \$90 per person for chamber members. To register or for more information, call 474-3440.

**Pack an Observer**

Attention Observer readers: When you pack for vacation or a weekend getaway, don't forget the front page of your Farmington Observer. We can't wait to see pictures of your family and friends skiing, soaking up sunshine, and having a grand old time.

Snap a photograph of your family holding the newspaper in a scenic spot and send it to: Keely

Wygonik, Let's Go! editor, Observer Newspapers, Inc., 90281 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. For information, call 1-313-953-2105.

Then look for your picture in Let's Go! We'll print as many photos as space allows each week. If you'd like your photo returned, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

**'Enchanting Folktales'**

Speaking of the DDA's Winter Fun Series (see above item) for youngsters, it continues at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 4, with "Enchanting Folktales" at the Civic Theatre on Grand River.

Judy Sims and Linda Dey, professional storytellers and members of the Detroit Story League, will present humorous folktales from around the world.