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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

C'ville keepers: Voters in the tiny school district put a Farmington Hills man on the board — and OK'd two millages. /2A

All smiles at OCC: A "very grass roots" campaign resulted in the passage of a millage for Oakland Community College. /3A

A little help, please: Some Farmington Hills residents have said they expect Oakland County to pay for their road repairs. /5A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Quits job, goes to work: Area nonprofit organizations tap on a local resource that stays on the job until the job is finished. Penny Sage is applauded for her hard work and dedication. /13A

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Try again! Walled Lake school officials should consider putting another bond issue before the voters. The district needs help. /10A

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On the run: Who runs . . . and why? Reporter Bill Coutant pondered these questions as he laced up his Brooks running shoes before the annual Cops For Kids run Saturday. /11A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Fine festival: Local artists are among those who will be displaying works in a variety of media at the first West Bloomfield Art Festival. /1B

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Diamond duel: Redford Catholic Central played Plymouth Salem in an all-Observerland quarterfinal baseball game Tuesday. /1C

Track stars: The Observer recognizes the top boys track-and-field athletes with the presentation of its 1995 all-area team. /1C

AT HOME

Rediscovering character: A renovation project by Carnovale Associates of Troy updated some rooms of a Bloomfield Hills house while keeping the original character and charm of the residence.

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Voters pick Enberg; OK OCC tax



The Farmington Board of Education has a new trustee — Linda Enberg, a Farmington resident who won an easy victory over Jennifer Levin in Monday's school election.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

She was the first to file . . . and she won by a mile.

Voters said a resounding yes by a 2-to-1 margin to Linda Enberg for a four-year term on the Farmington Board of Education in Monday's school election. Enberg collected

2,829 votes to Jennifer Levin's 1,439.

Farmington-area voters also gave a thumbs up to Oakland Community College's 0.8-mill tax proposal, 3,016 to 1,721.

Ballots cast numbered 4,792. Enberg, 49, was the first candidate to take out a petition after trust-

tee Susan Lightner announced she was not seeking re-election. Her campaign never suffered so much as a hiccup.

She had overwhelming support in school circles, and was perceived to be a heavy favorite from the onset.

With five of nine precincts in, though, Enberg looked uneasy receiving congratulatory hugs from supporters at Farmington Hills City Hall. She waited until the last precinct — Precinct 2 at William Grace Elementary — was in before acknowledging the victory.

"This could never happen without

your help," said Enberg, surrounded by her husband, Bob, and sons Mike and Shaun.

"You are all my kitchen cabinet. I want you to keep telling me what you're hearing and what you're feeling."

Levin, a 25-year-old attorney, wasn't deterred. She mounted an intense door-to-door campaign and, despite a lack of name recognition, generated a groundswell of support.

The resident of Olde Franklin Town subdivision won her neigh-

See VOTERS, 4A



SHARON LAMER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Something to read: To the winner goes . . . the school board packet. New Farmington trustee Linda Enberg (left) accepts it Monday from Cathy Webb, board president.

'With a little help . . .'



SHARON LAMER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At NHS commencement: Graduate Eric Gutman and his band perform the class song. For more, see 3A.

Turnout for OCC vote shows money matters

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

An appeal for funds, rather than candidate appeal, turned out the voters for Monday's school election.

Oakland Community College's 0.8-mill request played a role in a better-than-usual 8-percent turnout in the Farmington District. The millage request passed in the Farmington area by 3,016 votes to 1,721, with 4,792 total voting. OCC's proposal passed countywide.

"It's a good turnout because there is a money issue on the ballot," said Precinct 3 chairwoman Carol Penkas, who had 471 voters by 7 p.m. at East Middle School. "Usually, it's lower."

Said Precinct 4 chairwoman Jean Denary: "It's been a steady trickle all day. I think that's helped with the two board (candidates) and the OCC question with the different language."

More people voted for challenger Jennifer Levin than showed up for last year's election.

Only 2 percent — 1,068 registered voters — took part in last year's school board election, when trustees Cathy Webb and R. Jack Inch were both re-elected. Levin garnered 1,439 votes in her unsuccessful bid for a

board seat. Linda Enberg won with 2,829 votes.

"I think both (OCC millage and school board) are important," said Hills resident Bill Smith, who was voting at East Middle School. "There's only two candidates running."

"And the other one — I'm always interested in. I'm aware the college needs money. I'm convinced."

Several voters shared Smith's view on OCC's appeal. The college scaled back its unsuccessful March proposal of 1 mill to \$ mill.

"It makes sense," said Hills resident John Kern. "Education is a good thing to spend money on. I like this version better than the last one."

While people had strong opinions on the OCC millage, the two school board candidates on the ballot caught a few off guard.

There were 32 write-in votes. More than 500 voted on the OCC request, but didn't bother in the school board race.

"I was just not in sync with what was going on there," said Hills resident Mike Shepherd. "I did not vote for either candidate."

See TESTS, 4A

Spring dates for state exams to test students

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Along with almonds and flowers, spring will be the season of the MREP and the new high school proficiency test.

Farmington Public Schools students normally take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests in the fall. The new high school proficiency test will be used instead of the MREP as the method to receive a state-ordered diploma.

Each test will be taken in the spring.

Students should be benefit from six months of

'There's a lot of testing for one grade (fifth) to absorb. I think we'll have to re-evaluate that.'

Carolyn Mahalak
coordinator of evaluation and assessment

additional instruction, said state Department of Education officials.

However, some Farmington students will likely be put to the test. New writing and science tests for

grades 5, 8 and 11 and new reading and mathematics tests for Grade 11 will be given during the last week of February and first two weeks of March.

The district already administers the Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills to grades 3 and 5. Eighth graders are tested in January.

"There's a lot of testing for one grade (fifth) to absorb," said Carolyn Mahalak, coordinator of evaluation and assessment. "I think we'll have to re-evaluate that."

See TESTS, 4A