

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Council 'preserve' us: The word "preserve" had Farmington Hills City Council members in a jam Monday. /2A

Hardhat needed?: American Steel Fabricators plan to move to a 14,700-square foot facility on Nine Mile in Farmington. /4A

OPINION

Family Day at WSU?: They jammed the freshly painted (and air-conditioned) halls of Wayne State University's new extension center in Farmington Hills Sunday. But what, no library? /10A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Treated in kind: A Farmington employee tells of how a stranger helped her over a rough time. /14A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Motown magic: Multi-media exhibit at Henry Ford Museum is bringing Detroiters and suburbanites together. /1B

SPORTS

National champs: Farmington players helped the Fury women's soccer team win the over-30 national championship. /1C

FTC rules court: Farmington Tennis Club earned a berth in the women's Western USTA Sectional by winning the state title. /1C

AT HOME

Timeless beauty: A suburbanite renovated his house in a way that expanded space and combined contemporary and traditional styles. /Section D

LOTTERY

The Wednesday Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$3.8 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Wednesday, Aug. 16, are:

■ DAILY 3: 437

■ DAILY 4: 2915

■ CASH 5: 7, 18, 23, 24, 25

■ LOTTO: 3, 13, 22, 33, 41, 47

INDEX

Cable 7C	Pets 7-8H
Classified . . . C-E-H	Real Estate . . . 6-10P
Announcements . . . 5H	Rentals 10P-2H
Arts 6H, 1C	Community News . 13A
Crossword 7F	Entertainment . . 1B
Employment . 2C-4H	Obituaries 6A
Home-Service . . 5H	Opinion 10A
Index 6F	Personals 4E-B
Merchandise . 6-8H	Petals 8A
	Sports 1C

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 313-477-8480
 Newsroom Fax: 313-477-6723
 Sports: 313-477-3141
 Reader Comment Line: 313-477-3042
 Classified Advertising: 313-477-3000
 Display Advertising: 313-477-3000
 Home Delivery: 313-477-3000
 Cable/TV Weekly: 313-477-3182

Day-care centers sprout in city

Some say Farmington (city of) has an aging population. But there's sure to be plenty of very young faces around thanks to a recent decision by the Planning Commission.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington is turning into Romper Room. Two child care facilities are planning September openings in the city. Both owners were granted special acceptance use permits by the Farmington Planning Commission Monday.

Another Farmington day-care center, Country Hills Montessori Center for Children, received site plan approval for an outside recreation area at its Orchard Lake Road site.

With two new centers, Farmington will have four licensed day-care facilities.

The flurry of activity involving day

care is unusual, but may signal a larger trend: Farmington, known for its senior population, is getting a younger face as couples with preschool children are moving in.

"It seems to me there must be a need (for day care) if three centers are near or at capacity," said Vicki Palmer, owner of Rhymes and Reasons, which will move into the Farmington Professional Pavilion in September.

"The fact that three of us were sitting there is not a coincidence. I think it's a community of family."

Palmer and her husband, Doug, have operated Rhymes and Reasons

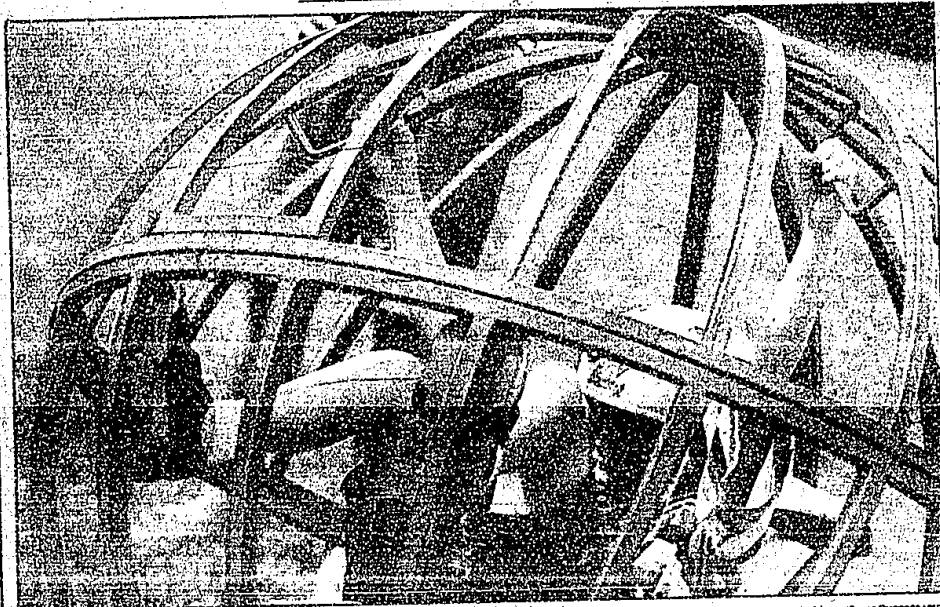
out of a rented space at the Universalist Unitarian Church on Halsted in Farmington Hills since 1993. Rhymes and Reasons is licensed for 30 children and will operate in Building F at the office center. An outside playground is included at the new site.

While Rhymes and Reasons is already in business, Hills resident Jeanne Niemi and Heather Nordmark are starting from scratch.

They plan to open Rainbow Block at 32456 Grand River, east of Power

See CENTERS, 5A

Family Day's a ball for young Erin



SHARON LAMBERT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

She bows 'em over: Ten-year-old Erin Held of Farmington Hills becomes a human bowling ball to knock down air-filled pins during Family Day at Heritage Park Sunday.

Day in Heritage Park's all in the family

By ALLEEN WINGELAND
STAFF WRITER

Given the heat and humidity last Sunday, perhaps the best seat in the house — or the park — belonged to recreation staffer Malcolm MacQuibban, whose post for the afternoon was the dumb link during the third annual Family Day in the Park.

"I didn't volunteer for this. I was sitting out, passing to and from someone else the largest and dropped the ball a few times."

Comedian standing back and unconvincing to watch himself. "I was glad I was turned out to enjoy Family Day at Heritage Park."

Presented by the Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families in cooperation with the Farmington Hills Recreation Division, the free event offered plenty to see and do for festivalgoers of all ages who loved the cooling mercury.

Harman Smith, recreation programmer for Farmington Hills, noted this year's Family Day was presented not through a grant from the Farmington Hills Target zone rather than the city of Farmington Hills, as it used to past years, giving the event a whole new flavor.

"As compared with last year and the year before, we've somewhat moved away from the traditional

games and races like the balloon toss or relays and that type of thing. Because of the sponsorship, we're able to offer more expensive types of entertainment and things to do," he said.

Activities included a moonwalk, an arts and crafts tent, a tractor-driven hay ride, and "Balloon Typhoon" — a large inflated clown head for youngsters to enter and chase dozens of whirling balloons which were yanked inside.

A petting area — featuring a cow and calf, a sheep and her month-old lamb, roosters, a goat, piglets and other animals from Upland Hills Farm — was a popular spot, especially among the younger set.

Those 12 and over had the chance to try "Human Bowling," in which they were seated and strapped inside a large metal sphere and rolled across a mat into a target of vinyl bowling pins.

Entertainment included stage shows featuring Mr. Wizard's Supermarket Science, "Be-Boo-Boo-Boo," a rock 'n' roll music revue presented by Oakland County Parks, Marc Thomas' "Max the Musician" musical program for kids, and an audience sing-along.

And while many families brought a picnic lunch, Taste Farmington Special Olympics was on hand to

See DAY, 3A

Marks brings experience to race

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Ben Marks has been a fixture of Farmington Hills politics since before it became a city 23 years ago.

Now he wants to return to the Farmington Hills City Council again after losing his post in the 1993 election.

"I didn't run a hard enough campaign," said Marks, 72, of his fifth-place finish in a six-candidate field in 1993.

FARMINGTON HILLS COUNCIL CAMPAIGN

Although Marks and Shirley, his wife of 33 years, enjoy spending their golden years with their grandchildren, he is not ready for the easy chair . . . although he does smoke a pipe.

"I think the city council has lost its sense of history," he said.

And history is a subject the former builder and developer knows and has been part of, in Farmington Hills.

Marks was a member of the city's Charter Commission and has lived in Farmington Hills for 28 years. A proposal to locate a new Tiger Stadium at Inlander Road and 11 Mile prompted Marks to get involved in local politics, and he's rarely been far from it since.

See MARKS, 3A



Ben Marks

Hills approves public safety ballot language

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills city officials said they will do everything possible to educate voters about a ballot proposal that would raise taxes to improve the police and fire departments.

The Farmington Hills City Council unanimously approved ballot language for the November election. If passed, the proposal would increase the tax rate by 1 mill for a 10-year period.

The approved ballot language says:

"Shall the City Charter of the City of Farmington Hills be amended to permit the levy of an additional tax not exceeding 0.10 percent (1 mill) of the state equalized value for a period of ten (10) years, the taxes to be used only to increase fire and police staffing, equipment, and to construct and operate a central fire station to improve the public safety function of the fire and police departments of the City?"

The tax would raise an estimated \$2.7 million a year for each of its 10 years and would raise taxes on an average homeowner, with a house with a market value of \$18,000, by \$78.30 a year.

"We will go in teams of three (one city administrator, police representative and fire representative) to homeowner associations, condo associations and service agencies in the city to explain the propo-

See BALLET, 2A