

## Bullard gets GOP nod



By WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

State Senate hopeful Terry Sever started seeing the handwriting on the wall a week before finishing a distant third state Rep. Willis Bullard Jr. in Monday's special primary election.

"I started to get the notion that I

was in trouble during the last week of the campaign," said the Farmington Hills city councilman. "When I was going door-to-door, I was finding that a lot of people were not interested in the election."

Sever, who finished with 3,308 votes, had the consolation of beating Bullard by 17 votes in his own back

yard, Farmington Hills. And since the former Hills mayor is making a run for the 37th District House seat now occupied by Jan Dolan, who is not running, winning here is important.

"I'm filing," he said, "I was encouraged by a lot of my supporters to run. And I've always liked public service. I want to move on to the next level."

Bullard won the election in the giant 15th senate district with 8,168 votes compared to runner-up Barbara Dobb, who finished with 6,215.

See BULLARD, 2A



Willis Bullard Jr.



## Changing

**Along the Rouge:**  
Tremendous restoration efforts focused on the Rouge River are helping the river start to make a comeback. The situation is examined in a special section inside the newspaper, in an editorial, and in a personal column.

## SPORTS

**4-peat attempt: Farmington Hills Mercy tried to win its fifth consecutive championship in Catholic League girls golf Tuesday. /1C**

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## House hopefuls crowd field

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

One's running unopposed, two are facing off against each other, and four is the score in one party. Election season is in full swing.

Tuesday's filing deadline for the Aug. 6 primary and Nov. 4 general election produced few surprises.

No one wants to take on incumbent 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris, whose current six-year term expires this year.

The race for an open seat on the Farmington Hills City Council features council member Masako Kurzeja against challenger Jerry Ellis. Ellis is chairman of the Hills Parks and Recreation Commission. Kurzeja was appointed to fill the council seat vacated when Aldo Vagnozzi was elected mayor last November.

"I don't know if it's an advantage," Kurzeja said. "You really haven't been there that long. You really haven't gotten your feet wet yet."

A foursome of Republicans want to take over when state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, retires. Linda Jolicœur of Farmington Hills, Andrew Raczkowski of Farmington Hills, Terry Sever of Farmington Hills, and Cathleen Webb, who has a Northville mailing address in Farmington Hills, will square off in the Republican primary Aug. 6.

Raczkowski ran unsuccessfully against Dolan in the 1994 Republican primary.

"We're going to win," Raczkowski said. "We have the only true conservative message."

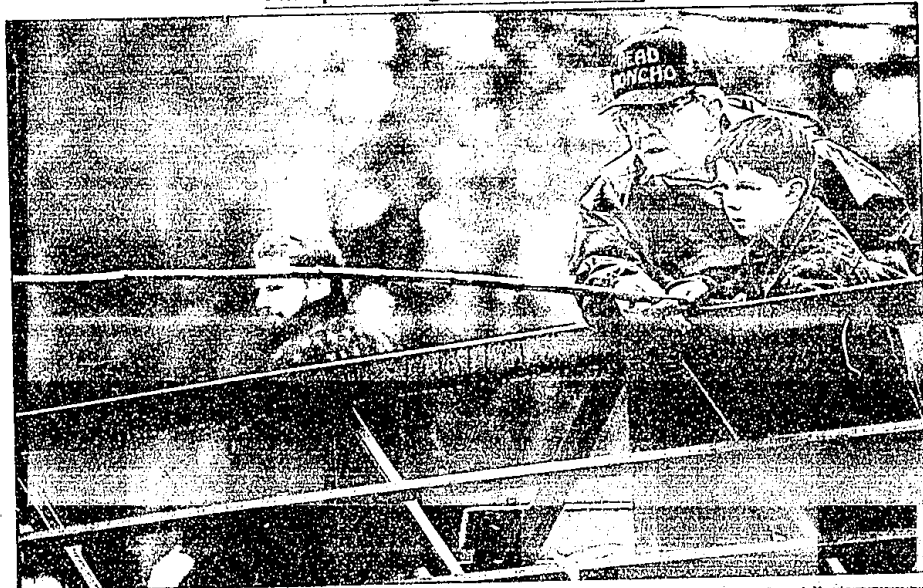
Sever is a Farmington Hills council member. He finished third in the specially-called May 13 Republican primary for the state Senate seat vacated by David Honigman.

"The bigger the field, the bigger the pool of voters that will turn out," Sever said.

Webb, who is in her second four-year term on the Farmington Board of Education, is making her first run for state office.

Two Democrats have filed for the 37th District state House race: Carl Christoph of Farmington Hills and Stephen Dibers of Farmington.

## Principal Al Lanigan makes last camp



By ALAN MANNING STAFF WRITER

Dropping a line: Al Lanigan helps David Pinkowski put a line in the water at Proud Lake, where the retiring principal took his last group of kids from Larkshire.

## 'It's been a good 31 years'

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Larkshire Elementary Principal Al Lanigan can't keep a roomful of 10-year-old children, kids a world away from his "Proud Lake" fishing camp, from talking about his 31-year career.

"I've never felt a need to move," Lanigan said. "I've never felt a need to move," he said.

what is tantamount for him an outburst about the inclement weather that has sent the group of fourth graders inside.

"Jimmy Cricket" or "son of a Moccit eater" are used in particularly blustery moments.

In the perpetual corporate locomotion, anyone who has remained in place for 30 years is either a tyrant or an owner, if not both, Lanigan is neither, pre-

ferred to rule by gentle hand rather than an iron fist.

Quiet efficiency and unassuming demeanor has guided Lanigan as the only principal the elementary school has ever known. He's retiring in June.

"It's been a good 31 years," Lanigan said.

Thursday, May 23, has been designated as Al Lanigan Day in Farmington. The school will host

an open house 6-8 p.m. with a special presentation at 6:30 p.m. Larkshire was built in 1965 and Lanigan has become its foundation.

Subdivisions have been built. Families have moved in and out, but Lanigan has not moved.

"I never felt a need to move," he said.

See LANIGAN, 3A

## Area students put Rouge to the test

### Supplement, editorial inside

By BOB NEWMAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Rouge River is carrying local students to places around the area and around the world.

As part of the Rouge Education Project, students in elementary, middle and high schools last Thursday studied and tested about 100 sites on the Rouge River, learning about

its condition and its importance. Schools included:

- From Farmington — Farmington and North Farmington high schools, Power Middle School.
- From Bloomfield Hills — Andover and Lahser high schools, Cranbrook-Brookside, Hickory Grove, Conant and Covington elementary schools, Model High School.
- From Troy — Troy Athens High School.
- From West Bloomfield — Ealy Elementary.

- From Birmingham — Groves and Seaholm high schools, Berkshire and Darby middle schools, Pembroke and Quanten elementary schools, Birmingham Alternative School, Marian High.
- From Beverly Hills — Detroit Country Day School.
- From Southfield — Southfield High, Schoenhals Elementary.

In Farmington Hills, residents can take part in the actual cleanup effort on June 1 beginning at 8 a.m.

behind Enterprise Rent-a-Car on the east side of Middlebelt south of Grand River and north of Eight Mile.

"We'll begin registration at 8 (a.m.) and have coffee, juice and donuts," said Jean Barrot, of Farmington Hills public services. "We hope to get started once we have enough people."

Farmington Hills is conducting its

See ROUGE, 2A

### Going to the dogs

SAM'S Club of Farmington Hills will host its inaugural Dog Show 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the warehouse, 24800 Haggerty Road.

Registration will take place that Saturday and fees will be \$5 for the first contest a dog enters and \$3 for every other contest in which the dog is entered. SAM'S Club membership is not required.

Contests will be held for the ugliest, prettiest, smallest and largest dogs, as well as for dogs for the best costumes, tricks and for the dog who looks most like his or her owner.

Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each contest. Proceeds will be donated to the Michigan Humane Society.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

For more information, call SAM'S Club at 473-8263.

### Paws With A Cause

The Farmington Area YMCA will conduct its fifth-annual walking pledge drive for Paws with a Cause at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, June 1, at the YMCA on Farmington Road north of 12 Mile.

Participants can walk their pets to benefit Leanne Keeler, a William Tyndale College student who suffers from from muscular dystrophy. All walk money raised will go to her so she can maintain an independent lifestyle with the

help of a specially-trained dog.

For more information on pledging and walking, call Sue Brooks at the YMCA at 553-4020.

### Honored at convention

Dan Boatman of Farmington was honored May 9 at the 117th-annual convention of the Michigan Funeral Directors Association for having earned the title Valedictorian and won the Beaver Edwards Restorative Art Award for the 1995 Mortuary Science Class at Wayne State University.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer lists, the Internet E-mail address: packy@oonline.com.