

# Farmlington Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Goodfellows galore:** Direct mailings have replaced "old newsboys" standing on street corners, but the Farmington Area Goodfellows are still very active this time of year. The group needs donations. /A3

**Trial begins:** After more than a year since the crime, a man accused of murdering a Farmington Hills mother and daughter will go on trial. /A7

## SPORTS



**Record set in loss:** Harrison QB Kevin Bambenek passed for a state record 282 yards, but the Hawks lost to Grandville, 24-17, in the Class A football finals Friday. Walled Lake Western was to play Sterling Heights Stevenson in the Class AA finals Saturday. /C1

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# Schools ponder bond issue



**The committee has spoken:** The Farmington School Board should seek a millage renewal and a \$110 million bond issue. The board accepted the study, but will discuss the matter further.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

The name is bond . . . school bond, and Farmington Public Schools officials could be asking taxpayers to approve one soon.

A financial strategies committee recommends the district seek a millage renewal and approval of a \$110 million bond issue for technological

and building improvements.

The panel — comprised of administrators, teachers, residents, parents and students — presented its proposal at the Farmington Board of Education meeting Nov. 26. The board accepted the study, but will discuss the proposals further before acting on them.

Recommendations culminate a 10-

month study of the district's financial future and how it affects long-term goals.

"As parents and community members, we have the ultimate responsibility to provide our children with the tools for the 21st Century," said Carol Luckschoiter, co-chair of the financial strategies committee and Farmington schools parent.

At Tuesday's study session, board members will discuss those suggestions that include:

■ Seeking a three-year millage renewal of the maximum hold-harmless rate of 13.8337 mills on home-

stends, although the full amount is not levied at present because of a rollback required by Proposal A. The current homestead rate is 12.882. A .06 rollback is projected for next year. A mill is \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of state equalized property value, which is usually half of market value.

■ Asking taxpayers — preferably at the same time of the millage renewal — to OK a \$110 million bond issue to help pay for \$92 million in building renovations and \$23 million technological improvements;

See BOND, A2

## 'With a positive attitude, it's possible'



## Blind actor has message for Sorrows youngsters

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A blind attitude makes a person with 20-20 vision see darkness. An upbeat outlook allows a blind man to see his dreams come true.

Rick Boggs connected on that point in several ways to Our Lady of Sorrows students Tuesday, which included sinking a basketball free throw on only his second try.

Boggs, 34, who is blind, is featured hitting one from the charity stripe in a current television commercial for AirTouch Cellular.

Boggs visited the Farmington parochial school with his wife Priscilla and leader dog Ico as part of a promotional — and inspirational — tour.

"What I'm hoping you'll remember is yes, I am blind, and yes, it is a problem for me," said Boggs to a congregation of attentive students in the school's gym. "But I have a choice in my attitude."

"For the next time when you come across things that are hard — and we all come up against things that are difficult — even though you can see, I hope you'll remember if you take a positive attitude, it's possible."

Boggs lost his sight at age 5 after a genetic connective tissue disorder left him with two detached retinas. Surgical attempts to repair them have not worked.

He didn't become discouraged or deterred. Instead, he defied his physical limitations by playing baseball as a child.

A catcher would pound his glove and Boggs learned to throw the ball to the sound. Before taking his free-throw attempts at Our Lady of Sorrows, he had a person bounce the ball off the basketball hoop.

He's gone onto ride a bike, surf, ski and skydive. He's continued to refine himself academically and professionally, earning a doctorate in music. He's also learned to speak French, Spanish and Portuguese.

At present, Boggs studies history and at UCLA. The musician and actor was one of 150 to audition for the AirTouch spot.

Such accomplishments are fostered by encouragement from others — mainly his mother and bride.

See BOGGS, A3

Something to shoot for: Rick Boggs, a blind actor with a positive attitude, lets fly a free throw during a presentation at Farmington's Our Lady of Sorrows.

## Hospice Home coming to Hills

BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills will soon become the first site in the state for a state-of-the-art Hospice Home. The construction is on schedule for the facility that will eventually have 40 beds in a 23,000-square-foot building on the southwest corner of 11 mile and Middlebelt.

**'The market has been asking for it. People want an alternative residence.'**

Glen Foldessy  
—Hospice specialist

Hospice, a non-profit health care provider that eases the pain and suffering of patients with terminal diseases, is building the facility on 11 acres that include a three-acre park on the corner that will be donated to the city.

"We noticed five years ago that more of our patients were choosing not to live at their own homes," said Lois Armstrong, Hospice of Southeastern Michigan executive vice president.

Hospice provides care to about 1,100 patients a day throughout the state. About 600 live in the Detroit area.

Armstrong said the number of nursing home Hospice patients had gone from 9 percent to 20 percent in the last 3 1/2 years.

"Older people do not live with their kids as much and family members are in a different part of the country," she said.

That, along with requests from many Hospice patients, led the organization to consider the idea of a Hospice Home, with care givers on site.

"The market has been asking for it," said Glen Foldessy, a communications specialist with Hospice in Southfield. "People want an alternative residence."

Hospice continues to treat patients at their homes or in other facilities, but the new Farmington Hills

See HOSPICE, A2

## Generous benefactors

The Farmington Area YMCA, recently renovated and expanded to include a teen center and a handicapped-accessible swimming pool, received two donations from the community.

"These are two great ways to cap off an expanded facility," said the YMCA's Mandi Skeegan.

Mike Harrison of Harrison and Associates donated a pool table for the new teen center.

" . . . it will be an integral part of the teen programming in the new center, which is in partnership with the city of

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

Farmington Hills," said Skeegan. The other donation — two wheelchairs — came from Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

"This donation will make it possible for our handicapped population to have direct access to the pool without a lot of trouble," Skeegan said.

The Farmington Area YMCA is located at 28100 Farmington Road, north of 12 Mile Road. For information about YMCA programs, call 563-4020.

## Free immunization clinic planned

The Oakland County Health Division will offer an immunization clinic for the Farmington area from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile.

Immunizations for measles, German measles, mumps, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and Haemophilus influenzae Type B (HIB) will be available.

A parent or legal guardian must accompany a child under 18 years of age. Parents are asked to bring any previous records of immunizations.