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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Pop top drive: Miss Farmington hopes to get folks saving beverage top tabs to help kidney dialysis patients take trips or get treatment. /A4

OPINION

Grocer checks out: Downtown Farmington residents need to help convince a landlord to keep a grocer in town. /A16

COMMUNITY LIFE

Helping kids: Farmington Hills' St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Home hosted a Garden Party, raffled a Beanie Baby and raised lots of money for its children's programs. /B1

REAL ESTATE

Neighborhood slob: How to sell your house if the folks next door live in an eyesore. /F1

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Hills set to buy landfill to add 9 for golf course

A link to an 18-hole golf course in Farmington Hills is expected to be a lock by next week.

On Tuesday, Farmington Hills officials are expected to officially complete the deal for 92 acres of land on Halsted Road north of 11 Mile. The city is buying the Eleven Pines property for \$4.5 million in order to expand the San Marino Golf Course across the street, from nine to 18 holes.

The price is right, especially since it is near a residential area, City Manager Dan Hobbs said. The fact the area includes approximately 22 acres of landfill helped in the bargain.

"It probably did," Hobbs said. "It creates some question marks that we think we've answered."

Hills-based NTH Consultants did an environmental survey, which involved using a geoprobe to locate the landfill. Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi described the area as "pretty clean."

"There are certain things for us to do and we'll be doing them. The state pretty much said we could use it as a golf course," Vagnozzi said.

Some encapsulation of the former municipal landfill will need to be done where trash was dumped. The city is going to see if the state will help with land reclamation

Please see TEE, A2

Log lifts



Logging hours: Farmington Hills City Assessor Dean Babb takes action on a tree trunk, with the help of two others, during the Rouge River Clean-Up on Saturday in part of the river off Middlebelt, between Grand River and 8 Mile. For more views of the day's work, please turn to Page A3.

I-696 exit stuck on wish list

New federal road money for Michigan isn't likely to fund a new I-696 exit near Franklin Road. Hopes for an exit closer to Inkster or Tyler roads remain impractical.



To open up the flow on Farmington Hills' busiest intersections, traffic experts agree that the cork needs to be popped somewhere else on I-696.

Another interchange between I-275 and Telegraph is a natural corkscrew, they say.

In the recently-released Farmington Hills Mobility Study, engineers suggest an exit near Inkster Road would do volumes to help alleviate bottlenecks at Orchard Lake and 12 Mile roads.

Such an interchange would also eliminate a public safety nightmare on the freeway, which requires mutual aid agreements between Southfield and

Please see EXIT, A8

Temple opening to bring 3,000

5 days of worship, huge parade set

The opening of a religious temple in Farmington Hills will cause 21 trees to be cut down.

However, no estimate is being given on how much timber has been sacrificed for the mountainous paperwork the special event request to the city has generated.

At Monday's regular meeting, the Farmington Hills City Council granted the Jain Society of Detroit permission to have a parade July 5 as part of its grand opening ceremony. The council approved the permit 6-1 with Jon Grant dissenting. The festivities at the new temple on Middlebelt and 12 Mile are expected to draw 3,000 worshippers during June 27 to July 5.

Please see TEMPLE, A2

Voters stick with Webb, Inch on board

For Farmington resident Tom Eckstrom, the reason he voted for school board incumbents Jack Inch and Cathy Webb Monday was hanging on to his hand - his 18-month-old son, Alexander.

"I'm just comfortable with how the district is being run," said Eckstrom, leaving Precinct 1 at Longacre Elementary School after casting his ballot. "I have a growing family."

Apparently, most other voters felt the same way.

With 2,498 of 67,763 registered voters (4.3 percent) either coming out to the eight precincts or casting absentee ballots, Inch and Webb easily won reelection to the Farmington Board of Education, warding off three challengers.

Topping the five candidate field was Webb. About 95 percent of the voters returned her to the board for what will be a third, four-year term.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to do this once more," said Webb, basking in the afterglow of re-election after votes were tallied at Farmington Hills City Hall.

In his second spot was Inch, who won his sixth four-year term after capturing about 33 percent of the total votes cast.

Finishing in third and fourth place,

'98 School board vote

Jack Inch.....	1,479 *
Melody Jaske.....	565
Jackie Katz.....	352
Anwar Mahmood.....	556
Cathleen Webb.....	1,584 *

*Denotes winner



Webb

Inch

with only nine votes separating them, were first-time candidates Melody Jaske and Anwar Mahmood. Jaske and Mahmood both took about 12 percent of the vote.

Rounding out the field was first-time candidate Jackie Katz. She received about 8 percent.

Please see VOTE, A8

Ta-daaaah!



PHOTO BY RON POWELL

Great day for grads: Farmington High Graduate Sarah Martinez celebrates her commencement after the ceremony Sunday night at the Compuware Ice Arena in Plymouth Township. That day, graduates from Farmington's three public high schools - Harrison, North Farmington and FHS sent off their graduates to conquer the world. Read about their dreams and aspirations, and check out more graduation day photos on Pages A10 and A14.

Couple bound, robbed at gunpoint

A pair of burglars terrorized a Farmington Hills couple at gunpoint Wednesday morning.

The couple, who managed to free themselves and phone police afterward, were shaken but not hurt, police said. Robbers bound the couple at gunpoint while they went through the home in Copper Creek East subdivision near 13 Mile and Halsted looking for money.

Farmington Hills police are tracking possible leads, which Chief Bill Dwyer wouldn't comment on.

"This was not a random robbery or breaking and entering in the area," Dwyer said. "This is definitely an isolated incident. We're looking at links between the victim and possible acquaintances."

Around 11:15 a.m., the resident told police he pulled into his driveway and was met by a man

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Chief Bill Dwyer
- Farmington Hills police

pointing a gun inside the garage. The victim's wife, who was in the kitchen, met up with the gunman when she went to the garage after hearing the disturbance.

Robbers told the victims they wouldn't be hurt as

long as money was found. As of Wednesday afternoon, it was unknown what the robbers had stolen.

The bandit with the handgun is described as a heavy-set white male in his 30s. He is 6-foot tall and balding, and wore a Detroit Red Wings T-shirt.

His accomplice is also a white male in his 30s and 6-foot tall. He has blonde hair. He was wearing a blue shirt, baseball cap and, unlike the other robber, had something covering his face.

"One was wearing a mask and the other one wasn't, which is unusual," said Sgt. Tim Swanson, Farmington Hills police investigative Bureau.

A recent model light green pick-up truck was also seen in the area.

Anyone with information should call 473-9600.

