

Challenger joins race

By THE SMITH
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Farmington Hills resident Mark Mergener filed for the upcoming school board election, meeting Monday's 4 p.m. filing deadline.

SCHOOL BOARD

Mergener, who would be a first-time candidate for the Farmington school board, is the third individual to file for the Monday, June 12, election.

He has until 4 p.m. Thursday to officially withdraw from the race, as do the others who filed - Farmington Board of Education incumbents Priscilla Brouillette and Gary Sharp.

The three candidates would be squaring off in the race for two available four-year terms, currently held by Brouillette and Sharp.

There are no other local issues to be decided at the polls, said Judy Steinhobel, executive secretary for

Please see RACE, A4

A frosty opening day



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Love of the game: Linda (left) and Meghan Young of Farmington were all bundled up high in the last row of the upper deck to watch the Tigers play on opening day of the new Comerica Park. These are the seats that are farthest from the playing surface in the right field corner of the upper deck.

County to study 12 Mile

Oakland County road officials will study 12 Mile to see what needs to be done to improve safety, especially in front of Harrison High School.

By TRACEY BIRKENHAUER
STAFF WRITER

Responding to parental requests, the Road Commission of Oakland County will conduct a traffic study in front of Harrison High School.

"We'll see if it justifies a left-turn signal," said Craig Bryson, the commission's public information officer. Parents of HHS students have been complaining about the area on 12 Mile in front of the school for years. They would like the road to be widened and/or a left-turn signal added.

The March 31 accident that killed student Daniel Lee ignited parents' passions. About 30 concerned parents discussed the traffic issue at an HHS parent forum Tuesday evening.

Lee family friend Marilyn Kluka was

Please see STUDY, A4

IN THE PAPER TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE

Passover: The Jewish Community Center hosted groups of youngsters Sunday for matzah baking sessions peppered with the story of Passover, which begins next week./B1

Sharing: She survived cancer and now Mary Plato spends time with young patients in the cancer ward at Mott Children's Hospital./B1

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Businesses, church plan to expand

By TRACEY BIRKENHAUER
STAFF WRITER

Two Farmington businesses and a church plan to expand in upcoming months.

The Farmington Planning Commission approved site plans, with a few contingencies, for the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club, Dimitri's Restaurant and the First United Methodist Church of Farmington.

The hunting and fishing club will add almost 2,400 square feet to the west side of its main building, which will house offices and increase kitchen space. The building also will get an enclosed, heated entrance area made from wood and glass to match the existing structure.

Planning commissioners told architect Robert Allen that he must get a

The Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club, Dimitri's and First United Methodist want to expand their facilities.

variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals for a setback variance for a small portion of the expansion area.

With its expansion, Dimitri's Restaurant will get another 1,500 square feet and almost double the number of seats, from 76 to 146.

Architect Michael Van Loon said he plans to bring the restrooms up to the handicapped barrier code and bring the building's look up to the level of sur-

rounding buildings.

Built in 1969, Dimitri's, Van Loon said, still looks somewhat like the Burger King it replaced. He said the plan calls for brick, new windows and a copper roof.

"We'll bring up the class of the overall building," Van Loon added.

Through a contract, Dimitri's will use six of neighbor United Jewelers' parking spaces. Farmington requires businesses to have one parking space per 100 square feet of usable space. Dimitri's will meet that requirement with the additional spaces.

City Manager Frank Lauhoff said the parking contract will still stand if the jewelry store is sold.

The commission approved the site plan, provided it includes restriping

Please see EXPAND, A4



Planning to expand in Farmington

- Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club
- Dimitri's Restaurant
- First United Methodist Church

Political activist remembered as gentle 'dynamo'

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
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Noted feminist Marian McCracken was known to appreciate honesty. And she wouldn't back down from offering her own opinion. She could be tough, gentle and modest. Above all, she was determined to fight injustice whenever she encountered it.

"She was scrappy, opinionated and sometimes infuriating," said Virginia Nicoll, president of the Farmington chapter of the Older Women's League. "She was a pint-sized dynamo."

McCracken, 79, of Farmington died Sunday at Sunrise Assisted Living in Farmington Hills, following a long career as a politically active feminist, Democrat and teacher in the Farmington Public Schools.

"She was an ultra feminist," Nicoll continued.

McCracken was a long-term president of the Michigan chapter of NOW, the nation's largest feminist rights organization. She also co-founded the Michigan Women's Political Caucus.

"She was a person of high principles and she fought for those with tenacity and vigor," said fellow Democrat Aldo Vaccaro, former Farmington Hills mayor. "Her issues were public education, women's rights and human rights. Marian was in the forefront. And battle she did."

ERA

When an effort to pass the ERA was under way in

'She was scrappy, opinionated and sometimes infuriating. She was a pint-sized dynamo.'

Virginia Nicoll
—Friend



Remembered: Friends and family warmly recalled life with Farmington resident Marian McCracken, a leader in the women's rights movement.

1988, McCracken was interviewed by the Farmington Observer for her thoughts.

To pass the ERA - which Congress never reapproved

Please see MARIAN, A10

Residents will pay for dust control

By JONI HUBBED
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All's fair in love and war, but dust control in Farmington Hills appears to be another matter.

Residents who spoke at Monday night's hearing to establish a special assessment district for liquid calcium chloride applications on 2.1 miles of gravel roads throughout the community believe dust control is simple maintenance, like street sweeping or snow removal. They don't feel they should be taxed for it.

Still, city officials approved a special assessment district on a split vote, with council members Jerry Ellis, Cheryl Oliverio, Chris McKee and Jon Grant voting in favor, and Mayor Nancy Bates and council members Vicki Barnett and Barry Brickner against.

The city's Council of Homeowners Associations, which represents more than half of Farmington Hills' subdivisions, agrees. In a letter to Bates, the organization supported repealing the tax assessment in the interest of equity.

"We're made up of an awful lot of subdivisions," said President Ed Spring. "Some have paved roads, some don't. We look at this as being a maintenance issue."

Whitlock resident Jodi Swider doesn't feel she should have to pay for dust control, especially when officials won't salt the gravel road in the winter months when ice builds up. She said the summer applications don't last long either, as speeding, reckless drivers and commercial vehicles just dig the

Please see DUST, A18



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