

IN THE PAPER TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENER

Artist: Junebug Clark is carrying on a family tradition.

Shutterbug honored: Photographer Junebug Clark is Farmington's Artist in Residence for 2001. His dad Joe Clark was Farmington's first Artist in Residence 25 years ago. See *HomeTown Life* / C5

Carpetbagger?: Local folks are steamed at a Livonia carpet store. / A12

OPINION

Write on: When there's something on your mind, your community newspaper wants to hear about it. Learn the ins and outs, the hows and whys of submitting letters to the editor. / A10

ARTS & LEISURE

Music: Michael Feinstein talks about his music and concert to benefit the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival. / B1

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GRAND AM 1997, SE, black, 4 door, cruise, ps, locks and windows, tilt wheel, ABS, 81K, \$5,500

I sold the car the first day with the first call. To very, very pleased!

HomeTown Classifieds Work!



Lawmakers take a D.C. break

Farmington pitches liner for sewers

BY SUE BUCK
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Farmington City officials made a pitch to both U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing) and Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills) Monday for federal assistance to help restore an aging Farmington sanitary sewer interceptor.

The linking interceptor runs for four miles from Farmington to Detroit. Stabenow and Knollenberg spoke to the Farmington City Council at separate times prior to the regular council meeting.

Please see LINERS, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

To the point: Sen. Debbie Stabenow discussed a number of issues with Farmington City Council members Monday night.

Hills officials share many concerns

BY TIM SMITH
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For first-term U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Monday night's fast-paced schedule must have recalled her hectic campaigning schedule of late 2000.

The Lansing Democrat discussed a major sewer renovation project with the Farmington City Council before heading a few miles north to Farmington Hills City Hall. There, during a council study session, Stabenow discussed key issues such as e-commerce, tax abatements, using public right of

Please see HILLS, A4

Judgment Day



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENER

Sentencing: North Farmington students Bethany Nestor and Ryan Seals listen to the court proceedings as Judge Marla Parker meted out justice for a day in their school's auditorium.

Justice

NFHS students learn about courts

This story marks another installment of *Today's Lesson*, an occasional series chronicling classroom activities in Farmington Public Schools.

BY TIM SMITH
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On this day, there were no concerts or drama productions gracing the auditorium stage at North Farmington High School. Instead, students witnessed actual court cases about shoplifting, drugs and deception. Students heard real testimony, saw real cross-examination,

observed court reporter Cathy Foster keep up with dialogue and appeared to listen real hard to the rulings made by 47th District Judge Marla Parker. "It's called Court in the Classroom and that says it all," said North government teacher Ed Davis about the program. "It allows kids to get an up-close and personal look at the local court, to see how cases are adjudicated. There's a real edu-

ational component to it." Probably the only difference from these and the proceedings in the actual courthouse facility on 10 Mile Road is that the judge left time at each of the two sessions to answer questions from North students. About 400 students attended each session.

On their way into the auditorium, Please see COURTS, A3



Is temp plant cast in stone?

Residents near Mercy High School will tell Hills planning commissioners tonight they don't like the idea of a concrete plant in their neighborhoods.

BY TIM SMITH
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Farmington Hills residents who live near Mercy High School hope the idea, of putting a temporary cement batch plant near their homes is not cast in stone yet.

Some of those residents, such as Elaine Fitzpatrick of the Kimberly Hills subdivision, expect to attend a 7:30 p.m. Thursday Farmington Hills

Please see CONCRETE, A1

Volunteer's contributions remembered

BY TIM SMITH
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Right up to the end, Jerrelyn Van Houten cared about Farmington Hills, the community she served as a planning commissioner for 12 years.

Van Houten, 60, who was on the Hills planning commission from 1986-98, died Sunday following a lengthy battle with metastatic breast cancer.

"I saw Jeri two months ago on an issue that the planning commission and city council were dealing with," said Dale Countegan, director of Planning and Community Development. "She came in to a meeting about the issue after she read about it in the newspaper. She was always engaged... very community

Please see VAN HOUTEN, A2

Rocky contemplates Congressional campaign

BY JONI HUBBED
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State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski looks a little like the cat who'd swallowed the canary as he talked this week about a recent trip to Washington, D.C.

After the last election cycles, the term-limited Republican had made plans to return to private life. But the 2000 census and potential for a new congressional seat landing in Oakland County changed his mind. If redistricting does what he thinks it will, Raczkowski has a hat he's ready to toss into a much larger ring.

"This is an incredible opportunity to put Farmington and Farmington Hills

on the map," he said in an interview Monday. "Plus it allows me to achieve the community goals we've set together... It allows us to have a voice and a seat at the table."

According to Paul Weldon, chief of staff for 11th District Rep. Joe Knollenberg, the 2000 census cost Michigan a congressional seat, because although the state grew, it didn't grow as fast as others to the south and west. The



State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski

result will be a "wholesale" redrawing of legislative lines.

Instead of 580,000 constituents, each congressional seat will represent more than 662,000, Weldon said. Federal law protects the state's two minority seats, held by Carolyn Kilpatrick and John Conyers, both of Detroit. Each district

must represent the same number of people and the state has adopted standards to choose the plan with the fewest breaks in local government boundaries. To do this, Knollenberg's district will likely move north and east, to include cities such as Clarkston, Lake Orion and Troy, Weldon said.

"Most of the speculation centers on the creation of a new district that may include a very good portion of Oakland County and part of Wayne County," he said. The 95,000 or so people in Farmington and Farmington Hills could be included in that district, along with Plymouth and Canton, he said.

Weldon isn't surprised to see talk Please see CONGRESS, A3