

IN THE PAPER TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

Loving hands: Pianist Michael Krieger brings music and joy to residents at Farmington Hills Hospice Home, local hospitals and nursing homes. See the story and photos in our Hometown Life section. / C7

Temporary adjustments?: Farmington School Board members cite budget trouble, state law and contract requirements as the reason for the layoff of 17 teachers, approved at their last meeting. The layoffs, they hope, will last only until fall. / A6

OPINION

Run too soon: We urge State Rep. Raczkowski to keep the home fires burning. / A10

ARTS & LEISURE

Theater: Zingers go back and forth in the Plymouth Theatre Guild's production of "Vaudeville: A Play with Music." / B1

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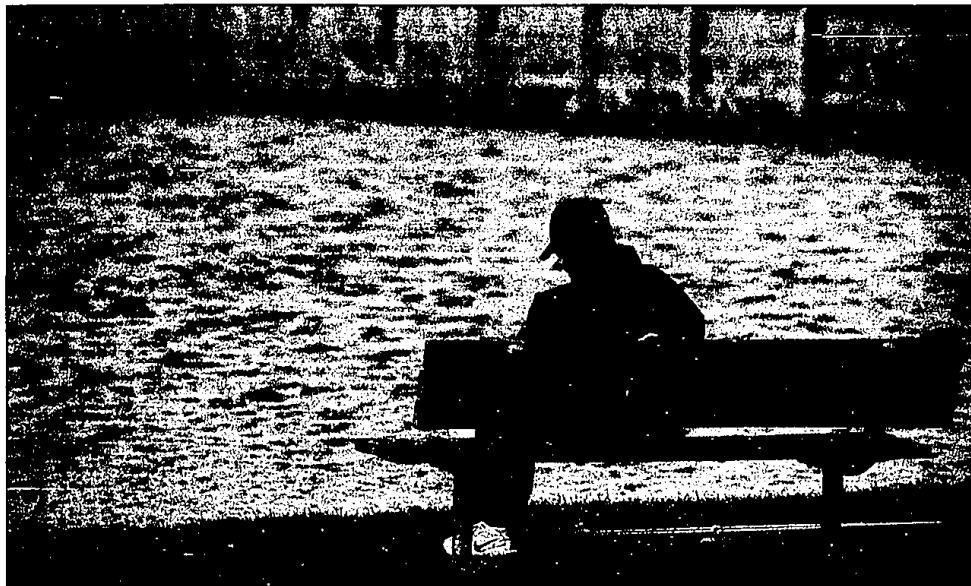
WE HIRE SOMEONE. WE ARE QUITE HAPPY WITH THE AD.

S.D. Plymouth

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Spring fever



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

A day in the park: Larry Pryor catches up on some reading while sitting by the pond in Heritage Park. Monday's 79 degree temperatures brought many folks out into the sunshine.

They've got the look

The Farmington Area Founders Festival board has unveiled a new logo designed by a local artist

BY JONI HUBRED
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A unique blend of tradition and celebration, the Farmington Area Founders Festival's new logo captures a burst of celebratory energy to promote the July event.

first talked to the FAFF Board about a logo, members wanted to combine the themes of heritage and the family-oriented nature of the three-day festival, held July 18-21 in downtown Farmington. A graphic artist, Green has a powerful sense of the community she calls

Creator Gail Green said when she
Please see LOGO, A2

farmington area
FOUNDERS FESTIVAL inc.

Hills library seeks business partner for coffee/juice bar

BY JONI HUBRED
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On its busiest days, a thousand patrons file through the doors of the Farmington Hills library and many spend quite a few hours there.

It's a trend executive director Bev Papai believes will grow after the completion of a 34,000-square-foot addition - and one that has fueled plans for a coffee and juice concession. The lounge would be located just inside the new front entrance, on the south side of the building.

"The (library) board's intent is that it's a public concession for the people who spend long hours here," Papai said.

While it wasn't promoted as part of the expansion plan tied with passage of a bond referendum, she believes board members had the idea of a concession in the backs of their minds. Library use has changed over the years; the expansion will reflect patrons' increasing need for data, audio-visual and children's resources, Papai said.

Some patrons come in and spend hours using library facilities at both the Hills branch on 12 Mile Road and the downtown Farmington branch, augmenting their home offices. New and existing tables in the study areas will be wired for both data and power, allowing people to use their own laptop computers, Papai said.

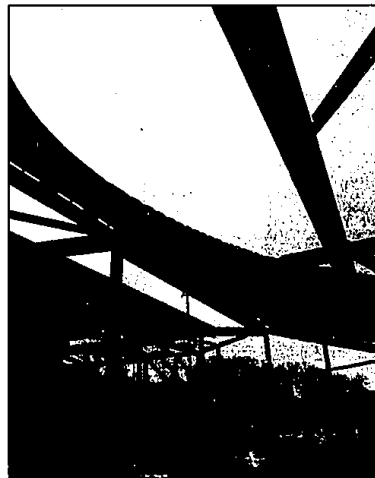
Parents bring their children in for library story-times and activities. And people new to the U.S. have taken advantage of the library's

Please see LIBRARY, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

Look-see: Bev Papai has her very own office peephole to help keep an eye on construction progress.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

Framework: The graceful curves of the new steel give a hint of what the addition will look like.

Hills police chief reports decrease in major crimes

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
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To say that the year 2000 was an interesting year for the Farmington Hills Police Department is an understatement.

Last year, officers and investigators were kept busy with high-profile cases involving a murder-suicide, serial burglar, enslavement of a teenage girl from Africa, a former Compware employee who planned a massacre at

his former workplace and a pedophile who preyed upon 1,200 young victims over a period of 35 years.

All high profile cases aside, 2000 was still a good year with drops in most areas of crime, said Bill Dwyer, Hills Police Chief. The crime statistics were presented Monday to the Hills city council as part of the department's annual report.

"Obviously we're very pleased with the major decrease in certain crime areas," Dwyer said. A mere 25 rob-

beries were reported last year, the lowest number since Farmington Hills was incorporated as a city in 1973.

Rates for the most serious "Category A" offenses, which includes 20 categories including murders, forcible sex offenses, robberies and larcenies, declined 5 percent last year.

The murder rate spiked because of a murder-suicide in which a man killed his wife and three children over Thanksgiving week last year. No other murders were reported.

Dwyer said with the weapons case, preventative efforts by police investigators helped stem what could have been a bloody rampage.

"We arrested him before he was able to fulfill his mission," Dwyer said of Kevin Olender, a former Compware employee who was arrested in his Wyandotte home after it was raided by police. During the raid, police recovered kits to build two rifles as well as

Please see POLICE, A2