

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Public hearing: Hills Planning Commission members want more information about a proposed Lowe's Home Improvement Center planned in the 14 Mile area before a June 21 public hearing. / A4

ATHENA award: This year's Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce ATHENA award winner is LOC Credit Union employee Bernice Brandon. She'll be honored at a luncheon and fashion show on May 23, at the Farmington Hills Manor. / A9

EVENTS

Poppies: The city of Farmington has proclaimed May 13-19 as Poppy Week. American Legion Post 346 will sponsor the sale Thursday-Saturday. Support local veterans and buy a poppy.

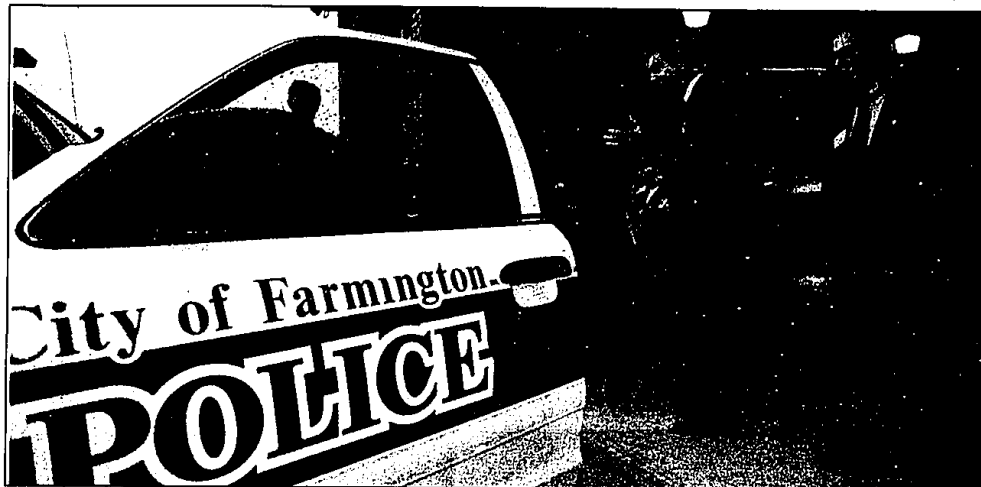
ARTS & LEISURE

Festival: The Forbes Brothers are playing at prime time during the 19th annual Hoedown on the riverfront this weekend. / B1

Dining: You don't have to climb Mt. Everest to enjoy a taste of Nepal. But you do have to be careful not to drive past the Everest Express in Farmington. / B6

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Car show: Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss shows off Farmington's police vehicles to Huntington Woods officials, including Mayor Ronald Gillham, during Mayor's Exchange Day this week.

Mayors exchange brings guests to town

By SUE BUCK
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The annual Mayor Exchange Day brought Huntington Woods officials to Farmington Tuesday and Farmington officials to Huntington Woods Wednesday.

"It's been a long time since we've been here, maybe in the '70s," said Huntington Woods Mayor Ronald

Gillham.

Gillham, who's been mayor for 20 years, brought a contingent of 11 officials to Farmington on a day of constant rain, dubbed "dust control weather," by Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock. While in Farmington, the visitors toured city hall, the public library and the pump station/retention basin.

"They have been very thorough in

their planning with everything they do," Gillham said.

Following a luncheon at Marco's Restaurant in Farmington with area officials, the group toured the city-owned Civic Theatre on Grand River and listened to a discussion about the renovation.

A PlayScape tour followed at Shawnee Park and ended with refreshments at the Governor Warner Man-

sion.

Gillham subscribes to the adage that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and doesn't mind copying the best practices he sees in other cities like Farmington. He also complimented city officials and employees for the hospitality they showed during the day.

"You are a nice group of people," he said.

Hills changes focus, opts out of Rouge Rescue

By TIM SMITH
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For the first time, Farmington Hills won't be sponsoring a Rouge Rescue clean-up event. But that does not mean the city suddenly is indifferent to the cause.

According to Thomas Biasell, director of the Hills public services department, one reason why there won't be a Rouge project within the city this year is the focus has changing from removing debris to managing what is called "woody debris," such as branches.

The city recently sent letters to vol-

unteers who have been very dedicated to the Rouge Rescue, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary.

"We tried to tell people that we are redirecting the effort," Biasell said. "You don't want to tell people they were bad, because they did the best they could."

Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills will sponsor a Rouge stream clean-up, however.

In the letter from Jean Barrett, assistant public services director, vol-

Please see ROUGE, A2



Watching the river run: Parts of the Middle Rouge tributaries still look quite scenic, but some need a little work, like this stretch west of Drake at Howard Street. The city of Farmington Hills has opted out of the Rouge River Rescue this year. The city plans to redirect its focus and work on managing woody debris.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER

School Board Election 2001



Terence Elsey
Age: 47
Occupation: senior systems analyst, Henry Ford Hospital; business owner
Education: B.A. U of M, master's work at Eastern Michigan, Lawrence Technological University



Phil Neuman
Age: 42
Occupation: attorney, with experience in contract law
Education: B.A. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Juris Doctor, University of Wisconsin Law School



John Goshorn
Age: 52
Occupation: planning and distribution manager for recreational and commercial vehicle sales at Ford
Education: West Point grad, master's degree, Boston University

Six vie for Farmington board seats

Two open seats on the Farmington school board have drawn interest from six candidates, three of which are profiled in this issue of the Observer, and three in our Sunday, May 20 issue. To meet the candidates in person, plan to attend a forum being hosted by the Farmington Area PTA Council at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 24, at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shawasssee.

Elsey stresses service to gifted students

By SUE BUCK
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Terence Elsey believes the Farmington Public School District's top academic students deserve as much attention as those who may not achieve as well.

"They will give 100 percent back," Elsey said of high achievers.

Elsey, 47, and wife, Joanne, are Greenacres Street residents who have lived in the district for 14 years. They

Please see ELSLEY, A3

Neuman's ready to ask tough questions

By SUE BUCK
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Phil Neuman would ask the "why" question as often as necessary if elected to a Farmington Public School board seat.

"The school board will have to make tough decisions on revenue and spending," said Neuman. "Last year the Farmington School District's expenditures exceeded its revenues."

While doing door-to-door campaign-

Please see NEUMAN, A3

Goshorn wants more communication

By SUE BUCK
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"Knowledgeable, informed and committed" is the mandate John Goshorn cites in his election campaign for school board.

"As a parent, I didn't feel the board was concerned with me as an individual," he said. "They are not as approachable as they can be. I feel like they are too much at arm's length. Part of the success of the whole pro-

Please see GOSHORN, A3

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