

## IN THE PAPER TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

**Reunion:** Sue Peck swam with Jewel when she was 9 or 10 years old. Sue's son Matthew joined in the celebration.

**Older and better:** Meet a record-holding swimmer and a golfer, able athletes over age 90, in our award-winning Home-town Life section / C7

**Special vision:** Students in the Farmington Schools' Visions program benefit from a partnership with businesses / A3

**Road decision:** City Council members let the majority rule when they approved a paving plan for Alycekey in northeast Farmington Hills. Unfortunately, the project split the neighborhood. / A5

## ARTS & LEISURE

**Family fun:** Traveling exhibit at Cranbrook Institute of Science features the "Atoms" family. / B1

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**OFFICE STAFF**  
Farmington bank entry level, full time and benefits.

The ad worked very well. I hired right away.

T.F., Farmington Hills

**HOMEOWNERS**  
SELL



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

Last act: David Gülkes, an 11-year member, and daughter Katie watch memories crumble.

## Barn razing

### Players make way for new home

BY JONI HUBRED  
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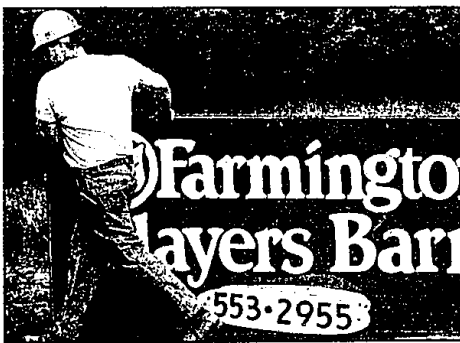
The dust of more than a hundred plays and the history of a close-knit acting troupe mingled in a warm, spring wind Saturday morning, as the Farmington Players Barn collapsed in a heap of wood and brick.

Razed to make way for a new theater, the big, white barn had been a 12 Mile landmark for more than 40 years. The stories produced on its stage, however, are just the beginning of the tales the building could tell.

"We brought our kids up here," said Jan Salisbury, a member since 1959. "It was like home, because it was a great group of people to work with. We did some very challenging theater in these days."

Her husband, Bill, is a past president of the Players and has directed about 10 shows. The couple lived

Please see PLAYERS, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

Closing: Jason Malady drags the building's sign away.

## Water, sewer rates up

Farmington Hills officials approved double-digit water and sewer rate increases Monday night, but not without making sure Oakland County's Drain Commissioner knows they're not happy.

BY ALICE ASHMORE  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills residents can expect higher water and sewer bills this summer as the city council approved a rate increase on Monday.

The move raises water rates by 18.4 percent and sewer rates by 16.8 percent effective July 1, 2001. Water will cost consumers \$16.92 per 1000 cubic feet with a minimum charge of \$26.47 per quarter.

The average household will see an increase of \$49.40 annually in their water bills.

Debate simmered over the issue as council members grilled Oakland County Drain Commissioner John

Please see RATE, A4

## Oliverio announces mayoral bid

BY JONI HUBRED  
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Add another name - and a familiar one at that - to the race for Farmington Hills mayor.

Bon Oliverio has collected the requisite number of signatures and filed his petitions last week. A former candidate for city council, he was once married to current Hills Council member Cheryl Oliverio; they are the parents of four boys.

But that's about as much as he wants said about their relationship, preferring to focus instead on the reasons he's running for office.

"Citizens deserve an honest and less-intrusive government," he said. "When government becomes more intrusive, it demands more in user fees and taxes."

Oliverio doesn't believe government will ever reform from the top down, so he's going at it on a grass roots level. Aside from his 1999 run for office, he has become well known among city officials and in the community for being outspoken on many issues.

He said his questioning regarding the city's purchase of the 11 Pines property - the development of which has also been under fire from residents - has led him to believe officials aren't telling the whole truth about the deal.

The more you dig into this, the more suspicious one gets. That's one of

Please see OLIVERIO, A3

## S&P school ratings go on line this weekend

BY JONI HUBRED  
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Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield spent Tuesday morning looking at an overview of Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services results, which will be posted on the Internet this weekend.

Initially, Maxfield said, S&P's said school officials would have two weeks to review them before they were made public.

"Somehow, two weeks turned into three days," he said, noting school staff would spend the rest of the week combing through results.

Maxfield acknowledged he found a "couple of areas of concern," one of the

biggest of which was how many results were tied to participation in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program, a state-wide evaluation test. S&P's used 1999 data; since then, participation in MEAP testing has risen from 30 to 99 percent.

"Unfortunately, it'll take use two years to get out of that," Maxfield said.

S&P's representatives have told school officials the study was not designed as "anaphot" comparisons of districts, but rather a data tool that can be used over time. Maxfield said they stressed their company's reputation is on the line.

"They don't want to be part of a

[www.ses.standardandpoors.com](http://www.ses.standardandpoors.com)

Please see S&P, A3

## Signs of spring



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

In bloom: Springbrook Garden offered many geraniums at Saturday's Farmers Market, held in downtown Farmington.