

IN THE PAPER TODAY

ARTS

'Eclectic': Mozart Clarinet Quintet K. 581 and Surfer at the River Styx? No they're not new rock groups, just two vastly different dance pieces that showcase the "eclectic" choreography of Twyla Tharp.



Twyla Tharp

AT HOME

Flower power: The scent of more than 20,000 colorful tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other spring flowers will greet visitors at the 84th annual

GMC Builders Home & Garden Show at Cobo Hall in Detroit this weekend. /C1

HOMETOWN LIFE

In the family: Soldiers in combat get lonely. They get hungry. They write letters home, just like the family letters Lucille Lussenden used for 110-page book, *Civil War Letters of the Gantz Family.* /C5

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Shared time decision tabled



After hearing protests from a group of Our Lady of Sorrows parishioners, Farmington school officials voted to table a decision that would have put public school teachers in private school classrooms to teach art, music and physical education.

BY SUE BUCK
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Farmington School Board Members Tuesday delayed approval of their portion of the shared time agreement with Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School to plan and to meet with the OLS administration. Board member Priscilla Brouillette withdrew her motion for approval, which was supported by Gary Sharp. The board later unanimously approved

a motion to table by Pam Christian. "This goes completely against my feeling as a public servant that you haven't been heard," Brouillette said. "I'm not comfortable that I made this motion based on the fact that you have not been heard." The audience applauded. Farmington public school officials expect the next public discussion will be at the 7:30 p.m., April 23, board meeting held at the district board office on Shinawasse. About half of the 50 OLS parents

and parishioners who attended the board meeting Tuesday spoke in opposition to the plan. In some cases, their anger translated to threats of future action that would make it difficult for public school teachers to work at the school. Some also said they would vote against any board member who supported this plan. "It's disappointing to hear the threatening tone that parents made," said Board President Cathy Webb. "We do have to run for election. But let me assure you we are seven people, Moms and Dads, we put threats regarding politics aside to serve all children first." Sharp said he doesn't personally react well to threats. "Part of the democratic process is the process of election. If anybody wants to go out and campaign against me, that is your democratic right."

Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Macfield said after the public comments that he wasn't "ready to take this leap of faith." Just as the public made critical remarks about the plan and stressed separation of church and state, they also thanked the Farmington school board for allowing them an open forum to make comments. They said a similar forum hadn't been afforded them by Monsignor Walter Hurley. He didn't attend the meeting and he wasn't available for comment Wednesday.

The opposition
Randy Bergeron, a parent, said seven out of eight parents are against the one-year plan where public school teachers would handle art, physical education and music instruction for

Please see **DECISION, A8**



Life lessons: Teacher Linda Weh (at right) asks her students to compare life in their town to the Brodys' lives in New York City.



Family time: Nancy Brody and children Lucas and Caitlin talk about life in New York City.

NYC pen pal visits Hillside students

BY SUE BUCK
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A unique set of circumstances brought a Manhattan family to Hillside Elementary in Farmington Hills, where they recalled the events of Sept. 11. The Brody family — Bob, Nancy, Caitlin and Lucas — lives less than a mile from where the World Trade Center towers used to be. The tragedy brought Lucas new friends at Hillside, whom he met in person on March 15. When students from P.S. 234 were relocated from their building, which was three blocks away from the World Trade Center, care packages arrived from across the country. They included the heartfelt wishes of schoolchildren who expressed their concerns to others about the same age. In passing conversation, Lucas told his father that one package came from Michigan, a city called Farmington Hills. "What did you say?" Bob asked.

The Brody family — Bob, Nancy, Caitlin and Lucas — lives less than a mile from where the World Trade Center towers used to be. The tragedy brought Lucas new friends at Hillside, whom he met in person on March 15.

"What city? Farmington Hills? Your grandparents live there."

Meant to be
Lucas, 10, and Linda Weh's third grade class became pen pals. When the Brody family came to visit Phillip and Lois Bogun, Nancy's parents, they included a special visit to Hillside Elementary. "It was like it was meant to be."

Please see **STUDENTS, A8**

City Councilman Bill Hartsock resigns

BY SUE BUCK
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Longtime Farmington Councilman Bill Hartsock, who has held his seat continuously for more than 28 years, announced his resignation at Monday's council meeting. His resignation becomes effective March 31. The council will vote to accept his resignation April 1. Officials have 60 days after that to appoint the person who will fill his unexpired term to November 2003, according to Mayor Jim Mitchell. "An era in city politics has come to

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Bill Hartsock
Farmington Councilman

an end," said Mitchell. Hartsock, 61, said he purchased a home in Farmington Hills, just outside Farmington city limits. He plans to

marry Carol Basile April 13, a co-worker he's known at Farmington for five years. Both Hartsock and Basile work in financial management. "My address is not a farewell because I'm not moving that far away, and it's certainly not a eulogy because I don't think I'm done yet," Hartsock said. His fiancée worried that people would blame her for his stepping down. "I assured her that people would understand that love and marriage have no time table," he said. Hartsock first filed a petition to run for council 30 years ago but was unsuccessful.

Please see **HARTSOCK, A7**

Safety officials request 200-foot monopole

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Farmington Hills safety officials are asking the city council to consider erecting a 200-foot monopole at Fire Station No. 5 in order to transmit signals for a new, high-powered emergency radio system.

Locating the pole in the city's center is vital to communications reaching the city's borders, said safety officials. Station No. 5 is next to city hall on 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. "We'd like to use the tower to deal with connectivity to all our facilities," Assistant Fire Chief Pete Baldwin told the council during a study session Monday.

He said the system, part of Oakland County's enhanced communication program for safety and rescue personnel, would transmit voice and data.

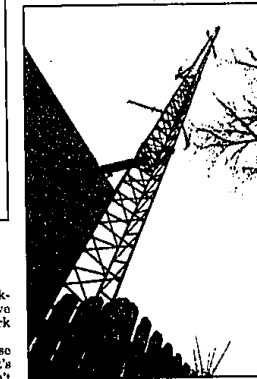
Patricia Coates, administrator for the county's department of information technology, said the new radio system will enhance safety. She said the current radio system most police and fire agencies use has weaknesses that can leave drops in transmission.

Dropped calls can be a matter of life or death, she said.

Coates said the monopole's height cannot be reduced.

"It's about height and power," she said.

Please see **MONOPOLE, A8**



Towering decision: Communications are transmitted from a 117-foot-tall tower located behind the Farmington Hills Police Department. Officials want to replace it with a 200-foot tower.