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Good fortune

Seafood is always a festive dish celebrating the Chinese New Year. B1



FARMINGTON Observer

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Your hometown newspaper serving Farmington Hills and Farmington Hills for 116 years

THURSDAY
January 30, 2003
75 cents

VOLUME 116 NUMBER 30

Our Towns

District to offer senior project as elective

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The senior project concept is expected to be offered as an elective, one-semester class next year in the Farmington Public School District's high schools.

Educators say the project, unlike more simple projects during the senior year, can extend and deepen the connection between the school and community, pro-

mote student responsibility and accountability and add meaning, rigor and purpose to the end of the senior year.

An informational meeting open to the public is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, at the William Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

The meeting is aimed to provide information to the community and receive

input, said Jan Colliton, assistant superintendent for instruction.

A steering committee met twice a month since fall to study the senior project idea, which was approved only in concept as a graduation requirement last year. That committee includes teachers Laura Sparrow, Harrison High School; Armando Delicato, North Farmington High School; Jim White, Farmington High School; and Pat Karas, Farmington

Community School and Adult Education.

Parents include Kim Heath, Julie Devline, Sharon Bussell, Pat Miller and Patsy Adelson.

"The elective option allows the district to more fully integrate the senior project objectives into the curriculum and allows the staff opportunity to figure out how much of a commitment they are

PLEASE SEE PROJECT, A10

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Lori Auchterlone of Clarkston, winner of our second annual Lessons in Love contest. Lori's entry describing her husband Rob's romantic marriage proposal earned the couple a special night on the town. Lori and Rob won the following prizes:

- Two tickets to the Feb. 13 Red Wings game
 - Transportation compliments of J.R. Tours Inc. of Novi
 - Dinner for two at Little Italy in Northville
 - A dozen red roses from Wesley Berry Florist of West Bloomfield
 - Candy from Kitlin's in Birmingham
 - A \$250 gift coin from Orin Jewelers of Northville and Garden City
 - One night stay at Fraser Inn of Northville
- Meet Lori and Rob and read their winning entry, along with others, in the Eccentric section Feb. 13. Don't miss this special Valentine's Day feature.

Teachers honored

Congratulations to Jackie Klugman, a musical theater and broadcasting teacher at Orchard Lake Middle School in the West Bloomfield school district, and Anne Tobias, a first-grade teacher at Farmington Elementary School in the Garden City school district. Klugman and Tobias are the Observer's Eccentric Newspaper teachers of the month for January. Look inside at page C8 of today's Observer for more on these outstanding teachers.

Village Mall

The Village Mall in downtown Farmington is the essence of small-town entrepreneurship, said the mall's managing partner Dave



DAK BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Checking it out

The Farmington Area Public Library on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills held a dedication and celebration of its recent remodeling and expansion Sunday. About 2,000 people attended. Here, Dillon Borden admires the sculpture of a mine on a lightpole in the lobby. Story and more photos are on page A3.

Award-winning Hospice home cares 'like family'

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Richard Polk still visits the Farmington Hills Hospice Home on a regular basis even though his mother passed away there last May.

Since his mother, Edith, was there for a year and a half, the people became like family in the last months she spent struggling with a degenerative neurological condition.

"This is a remarkable facility," he said last week during one of his regular visits. "The care they provided was not just professional, but along with the staff and volunteers, it was extraordinary. Caring for people with terminal illnesses is what Hospice of Michigan is about."

Staff and volunteers not only help the patient, but also the

patient's family and friends.

The staff, along with the rabbi who visited, helped ensure the end of his mother's life was not filled with fear, Polk said. The day his mother passed away, "the entire staff came into the room. The tears were flowing and emotions were obviously felt," he said.

"I can't express how remarkable this organization is," he added.

The state of Michigan also has high regard for the Farmington Hills Hospice Home. It received the 2002 Governor's Quality Care Award for providing outstanding care to Michigan's most vulnerable residents.

Nestled in a peaceful park-like setting off Middlebelt Road, just south of 11 Mile, the hospice

PLEASE SEE HOSPICE, A7

Schools iron out MEAP glitches

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Some area school districts experienced either glitches or delays this week with shipments containing the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test.

The test is administered to students in grades four, five, seven and eight.

The problem is linked to a new

system and out-of-state vendors.

Botolph Elementary, located on 19515 Lathers in Livonia's Clarenceville Public School District, which has students from Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford, received a box with materials for Crystal Lake Elementary near Crystal Mountain in Benzie County.

"The label was right, but the

PLEASE SEE MEAP, A10

New Nature center dedicated

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Nature has a new address in Farmington Hills. To teach children more about the natural wonders and science of the city's Heritage Park, a dream of city leaders to open a Nature Center on the grounds is finally a reality.

The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission held a dedication ceremony Monday for the new building, attached to the Day Camp building in Heritage Park.

Finishing touches are being made to the addition

and a mid-February opening is planned.

Funding for the center was made possible through a collaboration among the city, Farmington Public Schools and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Steve Mitchell, science coordinator for Farmington Schools, said the center will serve the area's students well.

He said the schools' science curriculum matches up with field trips to Heritage Park to offer students hands-on science lessons.

PLEASE SEE NATURE, A7



DAK BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new Nature Center in Farmington Hills features examples of animals that can be found in the community.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Special beef
In Sunday's Taste section: American Kobe beef is expensive, but special, and the only place you can get it in Michigan is Papa Joe's.



Been surfing lately?

Wait until you see what's on our website—grab your mouse and check it out!
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