

## Fans invited to line up for Tiger's autograph

Jason Thompson, Detroit Tiger first baseman and representative on the 1978 American League All-Star team, will sign autographs and join in the Sunday-In-The-Park festivities at the close of Founders Festival.

Thompson will be in Farmington City Park, on Shawanawee near Powers, for the festival's day-long closing event. After the Tigers finish with their game on July 30, Thompson will head for Farmington, and sign autographs for his fans, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The ball player was called up from Evansville by the Tigers in 1976. He took over as the regular at first base, and started his major league career with a hit in 14 of his first 16 games. At the end of that season, he led the club with 17 home runs and was named to the Topps ML Rookie All-Star team.



JASON THOMPSON

## Mark Zehnder named top sales associate

Farmington resident Mark W. Zehnder has been named top sales associate of 1977 by Norwood No. 12, Inc. The announcement was made this week by the realtors' president, Joe E. Norwood.

The title is awarded annually to the sales associate achieving the highest total sales for the previous year. Norwood said, "Mark is one of the most enthusiastic and motivated people in our company. It's gratifying for me to see him grow with our organization."

Norwood No. 12 is the fifth largest of more than 200 real estate firms in the Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors Multi-List.

Zehnder joined Norwood in 1969, after four years in the U.S. Navy. He is currently an associate broker and has been the office's sales leader for the past three years. He specializes in used residential sales in the Farmington area.



MARK W. ZEHNDER

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## m.m.memos

The other member of our family who writes for a living, and the only one who works willingly at gardening, has been spending a lot of time this summer cultivating a vegetable garden and then writing about it for her newspaper.

"We've enjoyed all the reprinted 'Mary's Garden' columns she has forwarded to us, following her adventures through the selection of seeds, preparing uncooperative soil and pulling out Sneezy Wild Oats, apparently the No. 1 weed in North Dakota.

But I suffered an overdose of parental pride over a recent treatise on caring for her growing plants, so I hope no one will mind if I quote some of our daughter's reply to the suggestion that perhaps the garden was now a bit less work.

"Less work?" she expostulated in print. "Has my editor never heard of maintenance? Nurture? Support and guidance?"

"You don't just sprinkle a few seeds around, pull a Sneezy Wild Oat or two and figure the baby plants will automatically grow strong and tall, cheerful, obedient, brave and trustworthy, clean in thought, word and deed."

"I don't want my tomatoes growing up to be hooligans, you know. And heaven forbid that my beans should start looking, swearing and smoking as a result of hanging around that wild thistle bunch."

"No, if anything these vegetables

need extra care and patience now that they're old enough to have had a taste of the world, yet young enough to be steered away from its evil influences."

She commented then, on how her garden time is spent, making "frequent checks for the little black bugs which can be so irritating to a baby's leaves" and "loosening the soil around the infant and toddler plants to make them more comfortable and happy."

I had the most fun, though, with her description of the growing vegetables. "The peas are indeed growing into beautiful young ladies," she wrote on. "Their tendrils are just beginning to curl prettily, their soft green leaves developing lovely curves."

"Flanking the peas on either side are beans and gourds, which have just been growing like weeds; all leaves and stems they are. I declare, the way these boys sprout up—why just yesterday, it seems, they were in fertilizer. And now—well, last night Gourd Number Six asked for the keys to the hoe so he could take Wanda Watermelon out for a nitrogen soda."

"Not that I blame him. When Wanda and the other watermelon girls put on their frilly dresses, they're pretty hard to resist. Trouble is, they spend so much time giggling together in one bunch—I'm going to have to separate them soon."

She also described the pain of having to "send away" some of her crowded radishes, and the joy when her

tomatoes "presented me with tiny yellow flowers—I could hardly hold back tears of pleasure and gratitude at such an offering!"



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