

One man's meat is
another's yuck, 1D



On the right
track, 2C

Bill calls for changes
in court funding, 8A

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Grand River, Farmington
48324. To call: news line, 477-
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HOW fast did you say?
In the midst of a
heated discussion at
the Farmington
Hills City Council meeting
April 25 about holding down
speeds on soon-to-be-paved
Drake Road, north of 11 Mile,
councilman Aldo Vagnozzi
injected a bit of levity.
"We're going to go one better
(than 25 mph)," he said. "I think
I'm speaking for the entire
council. Once construction
starts on that road, we're going
to get the speed limit down to 0
— at least for a few months."

LIFTING their spirits.
The Basket Works by
Downing Street in Farmington
Hills mailed a \$150 gift basket
to the once-proud Baltimore
Orioles, who won their first
game of the season Friday
night after losing 21 straight
American League games.

"We're fans of the Tigers but
we've been following the
Orioles," said owner Steve
Faulhaber of Livonia. "Even
their manager, Frank
Robinson, made some
comments they can't hit, they
can't field, they can't pitch.
Nobody should have such a
lousy start. We want them to
get back on a winning way."

The hand-packed basket, sent
to Baltimore's Memorial
Stadium on behalf of Downing
Street and the 1987 Eastern
Division champion Tigers,
included peanuts, crackerjacks,
gourmet cookies, Bazooka
bubble gum, chocolate
baseballs, a Mickey Mouse bat
and striped Band-Aids.

It also included a mitt with a
ball and a bottle of Elmer's
Glue "to help cut down on
errors," and a get-well kit "to
help patch up the players'
bruises," Faulhaber quipped.

what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 6B
Business briefs . . . 3A
Campus news . . . 4C
Classifieds . . . Secs. C, E, F
Index . . . 1F
Auto . . . C, F
Real estate . . . 1E
Employment . . . 1F
Creative living . . . Sec. E
Crossword puzzle . . . 3E
Entertainment . . . 5D
Obituaries . . . 6A
On the agenda . . . 7A
Police/fire calls . . . 7A
Sports . . . Sec. C
Street scene . . . Sec. D
Taste . . . Sec. B



**CREATIVE
LIVING** REAL ESTATE
GUIDE

IN EVERY
THURSDAY EDITION

Values up, taxes to rise 7 percent

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Property taxes will rise an average of 7 percent for Farmington residents this year, although city officials propose to maintain current millage rates.

The mill tax will simply be worth more, and officials hope to capture the needed money from increased property values to make up for a projected 3.7-percent increase in expenses and revenue decreases in other areas.

The city will levy 10.65 operating mills and .99 mill for debt retirement, according to the proposed budget. The city council has until the first Monday in June to adopt a budget for the new fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Trends this year show an emphasis on local tax revenues, and the city's dependency on them, according to city manager Robert Deadman.

Local taxes and state revenues will support 73 percent of the city's general fund revenues this year, for example, compared with 66 percent the previous year. Other revenues, including permit and service fees, are expected to decline by 23 percent this year.

FEDERAL SHARED revenue is "virtually non-existent," Deadman added.
"For the most part, this community has to rely more on local property taxes," he said.

But Farmington plans to keep current rate

And, although state revenues are dependent on economic trends, local services cannot flex too far.

"We don't have as much flexibility," he said. "You don't pick up garbage one year, and not the next."

The city is proposing a \$4.17 million general fund operating budget. It has actually increased from last year's \$4.2 million budget, but accounting practices were changed this year, removing Highway Fund expenditures from the general fund.

Deadman said.

The city has also added several new funds this year, including a Capital Improvement Fund, a Special Assessment Debt Fund and the budget for the Downtown Development Authority.

"AT THIS level of funding, the city can maintain its current level of services to the community," Deadman said.

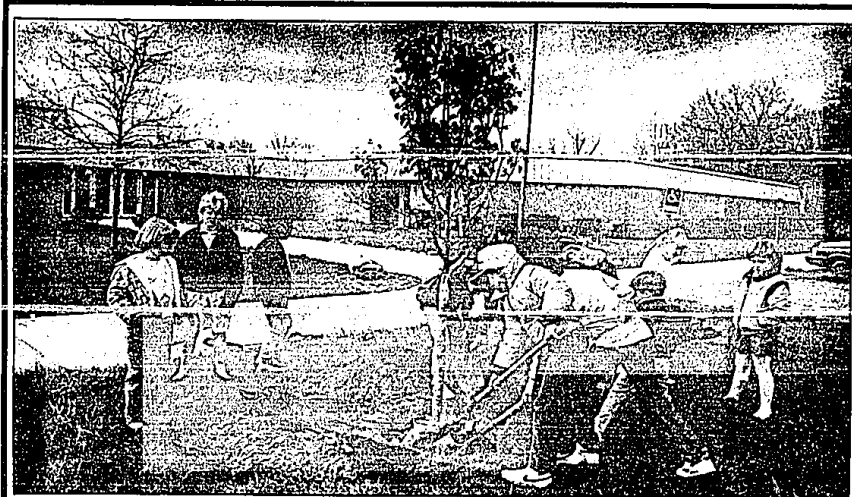
The city also has budgeted several

major projects for 1988-89, which will be paid through a variety of city funds.

General office areas at city hall will be remodeled, a new roof put on the building, and the countywide E-9-1-1 emergency dispatch system will come on line through the public safety department.

The public safety department — combined police and fire protection for the city — again comprises the largest portion of the budget with \$1.3 million. This is followed by \$939,000 for general government, \$652,600 for insurance and fixed expenses and \$642,500 for public services. These are all higher than last year's figures.

Please turn to Page 2



Kindergartners through fifth graders help plant a Bradford pear tree at Woodcreek Elementary.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A tree grows at Woodcreek

Students and parents who serve on Woodcreek Elementary's PTO beautification committee planted a Bradford pear tree and prepared a flower bed in front of the Farmington Hills school Friday — Arbor Day.

Parents Sharon Vincent and Mary Dylinger joined 15 kindergartners through fifth graders at the morning observance. Each child took a shovel and helped turn dirt.

Late in May, after the school-wide flower sale, each Woodcreek student will plant one annual "to

watch bloom through the summer and fall," said Barbara Novatis, principal.

The committee recently conducted its annual school cleanup. Litter was picked up; flower beds were turned, and classrooms were cleaned.

A new beautification project is undertaken every six to eight weeks. Projects have included hallway posters, classroom speeches and public service announcements.

"It's really an ongoing effort — something the kids have enjoyed over the years," Novatis said.

Father finds son dead, is stricken

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Both Thomas and Matthew Ruwart of Farmington Hills were looking forward to their futures.

Within six months, Thomas, 55, was to be ordained as a permanent Roman Catholic deacon. Matthew, his 24-year-old son, was preparing to announce to his close-knit family he was planning to marry his girlfriend, Michelle Kramer.

Father and son were buried Friday in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Thomas died in Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, April 24, 24 hours after finding Matthew dead in his bedroom, clutching a textbook he was studying for final exams at Oakland Community College (OCC), where he was taking pre-engineering courses.

Thomas died following a heart attack suffered, friends and family believe, from the shock of finding his youngest son dead. "This has been terribly tragic," said the Rev. Norbert Kosciderski, pastor at St. Felix, a Catholic Church, Farmington Hills, where Thomas Ruwart was hoping to serve as a deacon.

Please turn to Page 6



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Lois Frederick wages her battle against child abuse whether at home or on the job in Novi Optics on Haggerty in Farmington Hills.

Hills woman crusades against child abuse

By Loraine McClellan
staff writer

Lois Frederick works at Novi Optics in Farmington Hills surrounded by an unusual number of plants and cut flowers that she'll deliver to Veterans Administration Medical Center in Allen Park before the week is out.

The walls and adjacent tables are decorated with plaques and framed awards given to her from groups, clubs and the state. Some are even on the floor, waiting to find a permanent spot in the office.

On her desk is a glass jar marked, "Parents Anonymous of Michigan." It's partially filled with coins and bills, which gives a clue to the first-time visitor about the flowers and awards.

"The nearby merchants have 15 of my jars out now, and I was able to send a check for \$1,500 last week," Frederick said of her neighbor merchants in the 10 Mile-Haggerty area.

"We have to stop this cycle of child abuse. I do this for the children. They can be helped only when their parents are helped. This group helps the parents stop their mistreatment."

Frederick became known statewide when she went into debt paying for the funerals of eight youngsters who died as the result of

people

abuse. "They lived indignant lives. I wanted them to have a funeral with dignity," she said.

HER ACTS have made her known throughout the state. With interviews she has given to Life and People magazines this spring, she hopes that the work of such child abuse prevention groups as Parents Anonymous can be made known across the country.

When Frederick was asked what prompted her to take on the responsibility for the funeral costs, she said: "The Lord led me to do it."

A member of the Church of the Nazarene, she has followed that lead all of her life, she says. "He has built a hedge of love around me."

Her husband had committed himself to mission work in Puerto Rico, but died before he could fulfill that commitment. She then took his place.

Please turn to Page 2