

So you want to be a pinup girl, 1B



Collegiate baseball, 1D

Summer fun starts at activities center, 3A

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STEPPING down. After 10 years as a Farmington Hills firefighter, Dan Arblitter retired May 31 to pursue other interests. Arblitter started his career as a part-time firefighter in 1978. He advanced through the ranks, rising to captain at Station 2 (Middlebelt) in 1984. "Dan exhibited tremendous dedication as well as ability and will be sorely missed," Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.

MEET the candidates. The four Republican and two Democratic challengers for the 69th state House district seat will appear at a Birmingham/Bloomfield and West Bloomfield/Farmington Area League of Women Voters candidates forum at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, in Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile. Michael Bouchard, Jan Dolan, Mike Sarafra and Paul Welay are vying for the Republican nomination in the Aug. 2 primary. Kenneth Murray and John Dolan are seeking the Democratic nomination. The general election is Nov. 8.

Quote of the week

The feminization of power takes time. It takes awhile to get people into the pipeline.

— Marian McCracken, third-term Michigan chapter president, after NOW's annual convention (see story this page).

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Due to the July 4th holiday, we will be closed Monday. To place your in-column "Liner" ad in our Thursday, July 7th edition, please call Tuesday, July 5th between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Have a Happy & Safe JULY 4
Freedom Observed by ALL

NOW leader says now is time

Public office is final goal toward ERA

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Marian McCracken makes no bones about it. More women must be elected to political positions if the Equal Rights Amendment is to become a reality. "The feminization of power takes time. It takes awhile to get people into the pipeline. But we will have to elect, in two, four or six years, people in Congress who are supportive of the ERA," said McCracken, Michigan NOW chapter third-term president. NOW is the nation's largest feminist rights organization.

"The chances of it (ERA) passing realistically with the existing Congress and with an abortion amendment, is unlikely," the Farmington Hills resident added. As NOW looks to the future, particularly with the door closing on the Reagan administration, the thrust continues to be "to bring women into the mainstream," said McCracken, who attended NOW's 21st annual convention in Buffalo, N.Y., last weekend. Joining the abortion issue and the ERA as top priorities are pay equity, child care and surrogate motherhood. While there is expected to be a renewed fight for the ERA, Michigan NOW members are turning their attention to a campaign against a November ballot question to outlaw Medicaid abortions. "OUR POLLING shows that Michigan folks are pro-choice. It's an issue of fairness. It affects poor women. Women have a choice," said McCracken, recently elected to NOW's national board. Data showing money spent on Medicaid abortions vs. welfare costs of raising children will inevitably be used. But "the thing we'll sell is the fairness issue," she said. Anti-abortion forces are preparing to spend big dollars to succeed in the November referendum. But McCracken is confident NOW and other members of the "People's Campaign for Choice" will be successful in their battle to maintain taxpayer-financed abortions. NOW members are satisfied that ERA support and a pro-choice stance on abortion are part of the Democratic Party's platform. "Everybody was concerned that ERA and choice wouldn't be in it," McCracken said. "But (Gov. James) Blanchard had told me not to worry."

Now supports legislation for government-subsidized child care. "We had child care in World War II. Western Europe has it. And we need subsidies for poor women. The child care must be licensed and educationally sound," McCracken said. "This is absolutely a major need." NOW has not taken a position on surrogate motherhood. But the organization does have its concerns. One of them is upper middle class couples paying a less economically fortunate woman money to bear a child. Another concern, and an important one to McCracken, is the right to privacy. **DESPITE THE conservatism of the Reagan administration, McCracken said there have been victories for women in the courts for abortion and affirmative action, for example. "But like all civil rights and progressive groups, we have been lucky because we have maintained the status quo," said McCracken, serving in**



'All the things we stood for have moved into the mainstream.'
— Marian McCracken

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Caution is urged for safe July 4

What's legal, what's not, 6A

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

So you think fireworks are harmless harbingers of the Fourth of July? On July 7, 1988, a bottle rocket launched from Branchester penetrated a screen and window at a house on nearby Arden Park, igniting a fire that gutted a second-story bedroom, causing \$30,000 in damage. "It was probably our largest loss as a result of fireworks," said Deputy Chief Peter Baldwin of the Farmington Hills Fire Department. Drought conditions have made June a month of grass and brush fires. They also have made use of fireworks of any kind a significant danger.

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Farmington Hills firefighter John Wells (left) and inspector Al Ellis inspect the legal fireworks on display Monday near the

checkout lanes at the Great Scott! in the Mid-Eleven Shopping Center, 11 Mile and Middlebelt.

Hills weighs call for new tax credit ceiling

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Increasing the homestead tax credit is an option the Farmington Hills City Council is expected to ask the state Legislature to support. A resolution, drafted by councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, that requests the state Legislature to consider an increase in the maximum \$1,200 tax credit for taxpayers, particularly senior adults, will be considered July 13. Action on the resolution was postponed at the request of councilman Ben Marks, who wanted more time to consider it.

Vagnozzi's resolution followed presentation of a report by city assessor Dean Babb on the property tax assessment system and how to make it more equitable. Vagnozzi requested the report after the council's annual budget adoption June 13. The issue of property tax assessments surfaced at the city council's budget public hearing June 6. Senior citizens and residents who bought their homes before the age of inflated prices told the council that upwardly mobile young couples able to pay top dollars for their homes were making it difficult for them to keep pace, particularly with their property assessments and tax bills. Vagnozzi's resolution asks the state Legislature to increase the maximum amount of the state property tax rebate "to a figure that is based on the increases that have taken place in property values and assessments."

INCREASING THE tax credit is one of the specific items suggested for improvement in Babb's report to the council. "This ceiling has never been increased throughout the history of the program. Most hard hit by this are senior citizens whose fixed incomes are such that the \$1,200 is not enough to offset the property tax bill. The ceiling should be increased and indexed to keep pace with rising taxes," Babb said in his report. "For the average person out there,

the \$1,200 is sufficient because it doesn't maximize," Babb said. "It's the senior citizen who's got the problem."

The 1973 Homestead Property Tax Relief provides a way for taxpayers to link property tax to household income as a means of making the tax system more fair. Known as the circuit breaker, it is a device through which taxpayers can receive credit for an amount of their property tax.

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For Murray, pros damage politics

This is the fifth in a series profiling candidates for the 69th District state House seat. Their positions on specific campaign issues will be detailed in upcoming coverage.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Ken Murray is taking a no-nonsense, common sense approach to his candidacy for the state House. A Democratic contender for the 69th District seat, the 50-year-old Murray places a special priority on revamping education and bringing government back to the people.



"I'm tired of professional politicians," he said. "I've gotten away from the guy that works for a living." Murray said he will work to simplify state government if elected. "We seem to be going into so many gray areas, we don't know which way is out anymore. I will try to look at it more black and white."



Ken Murray 'common sense'

"It's not a big, heavy-duty job — it's common sense," he said.

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WWII vet finally gets POW medal

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Nearly 43 years after Russian troops freed him from a Nazi prison camp, a Farmington man has received a Prisoner of War Medal from the U.S. government.

"I was pretty darn pleased after all these years," said Russell Hines, 87, a retired sheet metal worker.

A sergeant in the Army's 242nd Infantry Division, Hines was captured in December 1944 at Alsace Lorraine, situated on the Rhine in a

triangle dividing France, Germany and Belgium. He was imprisoned in Stalag IV-B at Mulburg-on-Elbe, 30 miles south of Berlin, until Russian troops freed him in July 1945. This past June 9, the U.S. Department of Defense awarded Hines a POW Medal, recently authorized by Congress for former POWs in armed conflicts. "Your medal recognizes the special service and sacrifices that you have given for this country," wrote John Marsh Jr., secretary of the Army.

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