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Basketball results, 1C

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IF YOUR group is interested in taking part in the Farmington Veterans Memorial Day Parade and Services Monday, May 29, take note. Advise Farmington resident Walter Christensen, chairman, at 474-8554.

The 1½-hour parade, co-sponsored by American Legion posts 346 and 190 and Veterans of Foreign Wars post 2269, begins at 10 a.m. on Grand River in downtown Farmington.

It will honor "those men and women who have given their most precious gift to their country, their lives," Christensen said.

"It will always be the duty of those who have served to honor all who have made this supreme sacrifice. We must never forget those who did so much to uphold our American ideals."

This year, the Marine Corps will be honored. Services at the War Memorial will follow the parade.

Memory lane

50 years ago:

Suburban toll rates are being set by order of the Michigan Public Utilities Commission so that within a few months, it will be possible to call Redford Township, Livonia Township or Southfield Township for only five cents.

Who owns the Town Hall, Farmington Township or the city of Farmington, is scheduled for a hearing in Oakland County Circuit Court Jan. 30.

—Farmington Enterprise, Jan. 19, 1939

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Reminder

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

Planners stonewall office rezonings

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills planning commissioners and residents remain unmoved by requests to rezone areas near neighborhoods to office uses.

Planning commissioners have recommended to the city council that two requests to rezone single-family, residentially zoned property to office be denied.

The denials Thursday included a request from Michigan National Bank to rezone 8.8 acres adjacent to the bank's new corporate site just north of I-696, immediately south of the Forestbrook and Pebblebrook subdivisions west of Inkster.

A second request was from Providence Hospital officials to rezone

15.5 acres of a 21.3-acre parcel, on the southwest corner of Inkster and Northwestern Highway near Woodcreek subdivision, to office for an outpatient health care center.

Michigan National Bank officials wanted the property rezoned to make way for offices to house one of the bank's subsidiaries next to the new corporate offices, bank attorney James Williams said.

Homeowners, who talked about the presence of the bank's corporate offices adjacent to the neighborhood, vehemently opposed any more office zoning south of the subdivision.

"The vote from the subdivision is in opposition to the request," said Robert Harkness, homeowners association president. "I've given a lot of thought, the board has given a lot of

Planning commissioners defended the master plan and opposed continued intrusion of office zoning near residential areas.

thought, there is no upside. It does hurt us, and we're not getting anything in return."

OTHER RESIDENTS complained about the lack of privacy, increased traffic on Inkster, noise and drainage problems. The bank's zoning request does not conform to the single-family zone

for the whole stretch of property fronting I-696 listed on the city's master land use plan, said city planning consultant Claude Coates.

"It does seem to us to develop that as single-family residential," Coates said.

Planning commissioners defended the master plan and opposed continued intrusion of office zoning near

residential areas. "I believe this is an area where we must preserve the integrity of our master plan," commissioner Mary Avery said. A domino effect could occur along the I-696 frontage if the property is rezoned, she added.

Planning commissioners Paul Blizman and Lawrence Lichtman abstained from discussing and voting on the bank's request. Blizman lives in the neighborhood north of the bank property and his law firm represented earlier owners of the bank property. Lichtman's law firm represents Michigan National Bank. Commissioner Vincent Valvona was absent.

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MEAP scores send out big shock waves

Related story on 8A

By Pat Murphy staff writer

When area teachers talk about science proficiency, sooner or later the conversation turns to MEAP, or the Michigan Educational Assessment Program.

In one form or another, MEAP has been in most public and some private schools for almost two decades, giving tests to more than a million elementary, middle and high school students.

Thus, in September, when the national science report card concluded that students were not getting adequate training in science, administrators in Oakland and Wayne counties were not particularly surprised.

In Oakland County two years ago, 37 percent of 13,635 10th-grade students could not correctly answer half of the test's objectives.

In Wayne County, more than 60 percent of the 10th-grade students could not answer correctly on half of the objectives.



science: an educational MELTDOWN

On Page 3: A look at sample MEAP science questions and how Ford Motor Co. is promoting science at the high school level.

On Page 5: Students meet Pluto's discoverer.

On a statewide basis, about 44 percent of 119,247 students scored at comparable levels.

The results were cause for concern, educators said, because MEAP tests are intended to measure "minimal" or "essential" science knowledge. The questions weren't as difficult nor as challenging as those on the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) or

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MEAP science scores - Oakland County

	Yr.	4th grade	7th grade	10th grade
Avondale	86	42.7	25.0	47.1
	88	55.2	31.1	43.3
Birmingham	86	72.4	50.9	47.6
	88	74.8	55.3	52.1
Bloomfield Hills	86	63.2	59.1	53.4
	88	65.8	59.7	52.7
Clarenceville	86	48.9	36.7	14.7
	88	46.9	33.3	29.9
Farmington	86	59.9	45.2	35.2
	88	57.2	50.8	38.0
Rochester	86	65.7	49.5	37.0
	88	69.8	50.6	41.9
Southfield	86	66.2	29.0	28.4
	88	57.9	30.7	29.9
Troy	86	59.3	52.6	40.2
	88	67.8	57.4	45.0
West Bloomfield	86	65.3	43.0	31.1
	88	75.4	54.6	36.7
Walled Lake	86	43.7	33.6	19.8
	88	50.8	36.5	27.0

Figures are percentage of students scoring 75% or better.

Testing is here to stay

By Casey Hans staff writer

Educators don't like state-mandated skill testing, but realize it's here to stay and their districts will be judged on the test results.

And because of the comparison that's done between districts on Michigan Educational Assessment Program scores statewide, a district's curriculum does reflect some of the skills that are tested.

"It's a political reality, and that's exactly how I look at it," said Judith White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and staff development for Farmington Public Schools.

"We had better make sure we are covering the objectives. It's one yardstick, and definitely one the community's going to use."

The MEAP tests are given annually by local districts and monitored by the state Board of Education. They are currently given to fourth, seventh and 10th grades each fall, but grade levels and time of year may change in future years.

Science is a new part of MEAP. Only two non-consecutive years of

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File photo

The Eleanor Spicer estate house is still under the spotlight as Farmington Hills City Council members and parks and recreation commissioners debate the priority of a long-planned restoration project.

Hills views are split on Spicer renovation

Estate house as regional cultural center opposed, 4A

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Opinions continue to differ over the priority of restoring the 18-year-old Eleanor Spicer estate house as Farmington Hills officials consider applying for a state grant to help finance the project.

"I think we should exhaust our opportunities before we spend local tax dollars," Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever said. "There are some mixed feelings as to whether or not to go ahead and spend money."

But not all agree with Sever. "I'm not opposed to them trying to get what money they can. But you shouldn't stop what you're doing because you're not going to get what you think," councilwoman Jean Fox said.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi echoed similar opinions. "There are things if we don't do them now we will be forced to do or when we do it, it will be more expensive."

The city council authorized the city staff in November to proceed with needed improvements at the historical site. The house is part of the city's protective historical district and is designated as a visitors center for Heritage Park, on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

THE COUNCIL also approved a maximum budget of \$430,800 for the one-year restoration project. But some members of the city council and parks and recreation commission are now talking of possibly delaying the project's start date while studying requirements of the matching Michigan Outstate Equity Grant.

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Autopsy shows cyanide killed researcher

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Detroit police are investigating the cyanide-induced death of Marga Slys, the medical researcher and textileite from Farmington Hills and Seattle who died after collapsing in a restaurant near Belle Isle on New Year's Eve. The Wayne County Medical Examiner ruled the 43-year-old woman's death a homicide when lethal traces of cyanide were found in blood samples taken from her body after the

initial autopsy was inconclusive.

"In all non-trauma deaths, we routinely test for cyanide," said Dr. Marilyne Frazer, the assistant medical examiner who performed the autopsy and ordered the toxicology tests that revealed cyanide traces.

"We have no suspects and our investigation is continuing," said Detroit police officer Alene Ray. Homicide detectives are assigned to the case.

"We don't know the source of the cyanide," Frazer said. It's her opinion a person wouldn't

inadvertently come in contact with it.

Vice president and senior staff scientist at Bainbridge Laboratories in Bainbridge Island, Wash., and a healthy competitive athlete, Slys died in Samaritan Health Center in Detroit about 6:30 p.m. Dec. 31.

THAT WAS about a half hour after she became sick at the restaurant and about two hours after she and her husband, Allen Scafuri, a former Wayne State University economics professor now teaching at the University of

Washington, took part in a four-mile run on Belle Isle.

Slys didn't use cyanide in her work at Bainbridge Laboratories, said Max Lyon, spokesman for the biotechnical research company near Seattle.

"I was shocked to hear she was dead," said a neighbor of Slys and Scafuri at Village Green Condominiums, near Eight Mile and Grand River, in Farmington Hills.

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