

Stone age beauties  
turned into art, 1B



North goes  
to state, 1D

Preparation can avert  
tornado's fury, 4A

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 32303 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0500; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

**O**N the way. A communitywide appeal has brought \$26,000 toward a goal of \$44,000: the amount needed for a gazebo-pergola on a pie-shaped, city-owned parcel in downtown Farmington.

The centerpiece will be a cedar gazebo with seating and a slatted roof. It will be flanked by two pergolas (seating areas). Plans call for landscaping, trees and lighting.

The site is north of Grand River, between the Village Commons and Farmington Place.

Construction is targeted for spring.

To contribute, call Gazebo-Pergola Committee member Wendy Strip Sittamer: 473-7276.

**WHAT'S** the most popular cat breed in the Farmington area?

Domestic short hair, says John Richardson, a Farmington veterinarian who recently computerized his office records.

Other popular breeds are domestic medium hair, domestic long hair, Siamese, Siamese mix, Persian and Himalayan.

## QUOTE of the week

**I'm an animal lover. When I saw something that pretty, I said there's no way I'm going to leave him.**

— Jim Harrison, a cable TV technician who came upon an injured red-tail hawk in Farmington Hills (see story this page).

## what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 4B  
Business . . . Sec. C  
Cable connection . . . 11C  
Classifieds . . . Secs. C, E-H  
Index . . . . . 9G  
Auto . . . . . Sec. C, H  
Real estate . . . Secs. E, G  
Employment . . . Secs. G, H  
Creative living . . . Sec. E  
Crossword puzzle . . . 5F  
Entertainment . . . 5-9C  
Obituaries . . . . . 10C  
Opinion . . . . . 14A  
Points of view . . . 15A  
Police/fire calls . . 10A  
Recreation news . . 10C  
Sports . . . . . Sec. D  
Suburban life . . . Sec. B

**SPRING FASHION**  
AND  
**INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS**  
**HOME FLOWER FURNITURE SHOW**  
SPECIAL SECTIONS IN TODAY'S ISSUE

## Sibling priority

### Schools adopt it for common campus

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Incoming first graders with brothers or sisters already enrolled at Highmeadow Common Campus will be given preferred enrollment to the alternative elementary school in the coming year.

Tuesday, the Farmington school board approved a sibling preference policy for the 1989-90 school year, clearing the way for enrollment of 30 incoming first graders who already have siblings attending Highmeadow.

Another 22 students will be selected through a lottery system from the attendance areas for Flanders, Longacre, Larkshire and Wood Creek elementary schools to fill the remaining first-grade slots at Highmeadow.

Elementary overcrowding at these schools will continue to be a problem, until a new school is designed, built and opens in the fall of 1990, said school officials.

Parents with children enrolled at Highmeadow asked the school board to adopt a sibling rule two weeks ago. But others said they never had a chance to enroll their children last

year, called the position "elitist" and said it would foster cliques.

"I FEEL real strong about this," one parent said. "I think it would create a private school environment in a public school domain. It would be contrary to what Highmeadow is set up for."

The board does not view their vote unanimously approving the measure as a permanent policy for the two-year pilot, which began this year as an alternative to massive elementary boundary changes because of overcrowding. Trustee James Aber-

nethy was absent for the vote.

"I understand you wanting stability," trustee Susan Rennels told the parents, who had also requested the policy be permanent. "I would not be comfortable adopting a permanent attendance policy for a two-year pilot program. The new (elementary) school (on 11 Mile, east of Halsted) will change boundaries and may affect where parents want their children to go."

THE BOARD also set policy Tuesday.

Please turn to Page 6

## Trustees to weigh request

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The Farmington Board of Education has agreed to consider a request from a Farmington Hills company that was denied access to a written legal opinion.

Please turn to Page 6

## Neighbors tell concerns with school design

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A new elementary school is quickly taking shape in Farmington Hills. Schematic designs show multiple levels, gabled roofs, a special area for early elementary students and extras like outdoor exploration areas, and science, art and gifted resource rooms.

But residents of the neighboring Hunt Club subdivision are watching carefully to ensure architects use acceptable measures to separate their back yards. Schematic plans presented to the school board Tuesday showed a 6-foot-high wall separating the properties.

Five residential homes about the 12-acre school parcel, which residents overlook from their back yards.

"You conveniently put the noisy area towards us," complained one.

"I'd like to know about the sensitivity that was to be given to the neighbors," added another, referring to an informational meeting last fall where trustees promised community involvement.

THE NEIGHBORS said they had sent two letters to the district asking for input but never received a response. In those letters, they said they preferred a berm and landscaping to a wall.

School officials said Tuesday's review of schematic drawings was the first of several steps to bring the school plans to fruition, and assured

Please turn to Page 6

## 44 years later, pilot honored

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Victor Smalls, a Farmington Hills resident for 33 years, crucked a big smile when a China War Memorial Medal from the Republic of China came by mail March 3.

The 44-year-old decoration salutes the valor of Americans who flew over the jagged peaks of the Himalayas — "the Hump" — while fighting in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater in World War II.

"I was really elated," said Smalls, 76, a former Army Air Corps flier and a retired Ford Motor Co. Power Division electrician. "It looked so

nice. To me, it's something special."

Called the "lost" decoration of World War II, the medal honors the U.S. forces that worked alongside Chinese allies to help defeat the Japanese empire. After the Communist takeover of mainland China in 1949, the Republic of China became known as Nationalist China, or Taiwan.

Smalls, who served for 55 months in the Army Air Corps, learned about the medal a month ago from a fellow ham operator in Kentucky.

"He sent in my name and I received an application form from the CBI Hump Pilots Association,"

Please turn to Page 6

## Rare grant hike slated for Hills

Maximum income eligibility for housing rehabilitation

For a family of:	1	\$22,350
	2	\$25,500
	3	\$28,700
	4	\$31,900
	5	\$33,900
	6	\$35,900
	7	\$37,900
	8	\$39,900

□ \$150,000 in rehabilitation funds available through program, 12A

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

In a decade of declining federal help, Farmington Hills will receive a slight increase in Community Development Block Grant money for housing repairs and capital improvements in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

"That's a rare exception," said Richard Lampi, community development coordinator, referring to the annual increase.

In 1989-90, the city expects to

Please turn to Page 12



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Canton Township resident Gary Odendahl is caring for the injured red-tailed hawk while its broken wing mends.

## Hawk eye

### Bird, found injured, being nurtured

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

When Jim Harrison saw the injured red-tail hawk hobble across Hills Tech Drive, west of Halsted in Farmington Hills, there was no way he was going to drive by.

"I'm an animal lover. When I saw something that pretty, I said there's no way I'm going to leave him. I thought maybe he could use a hand. It was just going to sit there and suffer," said Harrison, a cable technician for MetroVision of Oakland County.

Harrison's decision to stop and help the bird saved its life. With a broken left wing, the hawk most likely would have fallen prey to other hungry wildlife and been unable to soar and swoop on prey — mostly rodents and rabbits — for its own meals.

But the hawk will soon fly again thanks to Salem Township resident Gary Odendahl, a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator, and Canton Township veterinarian Dr. Kenneth Harr.

Harrison called Odendahl, a bird lover, who takes in injured birds. The less than two-pound hawk will stay with Odendahl while its wing is on the mend. When the time



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Because of their powerful beak and razor sharp talons, hawks or other birds of prey shouldn't be handled without protective clothing.

Please turn to Page 8