

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Regulum for incinerator: Communities say no to burning, but want Oakland County to play a role in getting rid of trash./5A**

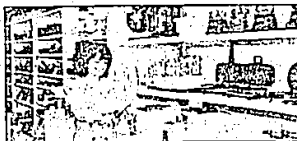
**Cutting Coleman out: Regional water and sewer plan is designed to treat suburbs more fairly./5A**

## STREET SCENE

**Lone writer: Butch Hancock, like many Texas songwriters, has a sort of mystic quality about him despite creating traditional, forthright music that is largely inspired by the likes of Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan./6A**

**Dash of Dust: Director Julie Dash makes her cinematic debut with the enchanting film "Daughters of the Dust," showing at the Detroit Institute of Arts, which offers an intriguing look into an African American family at the turn of the century who live on islands off the coast of Georgia and South Carolina and have their own language and customs./7A**

## TASTE



**Always a bridesmaid: Treat yourself to some of "life's little luxuries," time-saving kitchen gadgets./1B**

**Wine enjoyment: Columnists Ray and Eleanor Heald explain the difference between a red wine glass and tulip or flute. Learn how the proper glass can enhance wine enjoyment./1B**

## SPORTS

**Soccer final: Farmington Hills Mercy tried to win its second straight Catholic League title in girls soccer Saturday when it played Birmingham Marian in the championship game./1C**

## CABLE TV WEEKLY

**Hal Linden returns: The star of "Barney Miller" returns to TV in a romantic comedy-drama "Jack's Place," Tuesday, May 26, on ABC.**

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# Hills eyes recycling tax bid

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Asking Farmington Hills voters if they want to pay for the year-old recycling program with an ad valorem tax is a strong possibility.

Some council members, however, are still interested in a "true user-fee" or a special assessment district. Yet another councilman thinks the tab should be picked up within the city's charter millage limit, which would result in a tax increase.

No doubt a final decision hasn't been made despite a May 26 deadline to put a proposal on the Aug. 4 primary ballot.

If the majority of the 12 people who spoke on the issue Wednesday night are any indication, people don't want to pay

## RECYCLING

the quarterly fee the city has charged since shortly after the program began last July.

"I think these people are representative of a lot more people. I think you ought to have a chance to vote for it," councilwoman Joanne Smith told the 25-30 people who attended the recycling fee discussion.

The council agreed city attorney John Donohue should write proposed ballot language asking voters if they want to pay for the \$1.9 million price tag with an ad valorem tax levied against property tax assessments.

The council will meet again to review

a proposed ballot, as well as other possible means of paying the recycling tab at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 21, in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

City finance director Charles Rosch figured that to pay the \$1.9 million tab, a rate of .45 mill would have to be levied. On a house with a market value of \$300,000 (assessed at \$150,000) a homeowner would pay \$67.50. On an \$80,000 house assessed at \$40,000, the homeowner would pay \$18.

You can use an ad valorem tax as a deduction on your income tax. The person with the \$300,000 house, for example, who is in the 15 percent tax bracket, would get a return of \$57.39, Rosch said.

See TAX, 4A



Patrick Anderson: The Alexander Hamilton official addresser of the Farmington Hills City Council.



Educating the voters: Farmington school board challengers Joe Svoke (left) and Richard DeVries (center) and incumbent Helen Prutow field questions at Wednesday's candidates' night. The program is expected to air seven times before the June 8 election.

# Open meeting offenses charged



Richard DeVries, a challenger in the Farmington Board of Education race, came on strong at a recent candidate forum, charging that the board sometimes makes decisions outside the open meetings

BY CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

A candidate in the three-way race for the Farmington school board is taking the current board to task, alleging that they do not always comply with the state's Open Meetings Act, and that the

board needs more trustees with children in the schools.

Candidate Richard DeVries, who is making his third attempt at a board seat this June, made the charges at a candidates' night sponsored by the Farmington Chapter of the American

Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters, Oakland Area, last Wednesday.

DeVries, challenger Joseph Svoke and incumbent Helen Prutow are vying for two open seats on the board this June.

The two top vote-getters will win four-year terms. Current trustee James Abernethy is stepping down when his term expires in June.

"There does seem to be a conspicuous lack of questions" during board meetings, DeVries said, which leads

him to assume some sort of "confrontational decisions" are made before the meeting. He also accused the board of violating the law prior to a posted weekend in-service meeting and in June of 1989 when a quorum of the board was together at a residential home.

Incumbent Prutow discounted the remarks, saying if the board was together "it must have been a social function" and added that the Farmington board was the only board in the state to openly support the Open Meetings Act.

See MEETINGS, 4A

# Board doing things he pushed, critic says

BY CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

Richard DeVries is pushing for many of the same things he has in the last two years, and said he is pleased to see the Farmington school district moving in those directions.

"Better program assessment, financial accountability, goal-setting and accountability for the district are his campaign cries. Often a critic of school programs and policies, DeVries said he wants to "call the good (programs) and get rid of the bad" and believes "there's no such

## CANDIDATES

thing as a 'one size fits all' program for education."

The 42-year-old Ford Motor Co. engineer is making his third run for a seat on the Farmington school board this June. DeVries, challenger Joseph Svoke and incumbent Helen Prutow are vying for two open seats on the board. The two top vote-getters will earn four-year terms on the non-partisan board.

He believes the school administration, not the school board, are the professionals paid to offer suggestions and programs, but "that the school board plays an important policy role."

"I cannot, as a school board member, micro-manage the schools," he said. "I don't think it's the school board's job to run the district, but it is their job to demand accountability."

DeVries often speaks out at school board meetings, for which he is criticized. He defies his attackers to look at his stands on the issues. "You can't attack my qualifications; you can compare them," he said. "Because I've been a tough critic of the school system, you get some of that."

Just what does he support? He wants to set high goals for the district in curriculum and standardized testing which will now be linked to high school diplomas. He said he will not support any teacher raises which go above the cost of living, he supports merit pay for teachers preferably tied to student performance. He wants more money to go to instructional programs

See BOARD, 1A

## About forgetfulness

"All Forgetfulness is Not Alzheimer's: Recognizing Diseases of the Memory," a free education program, will be 7 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at Charter House of Farmington Hills, 21017 Middlebelt.

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Roth, chair of the Department of Family Practice at Southfield's Providence Hospital, will speak. The session "will help family and friends of older adults tell when forgetfulness becomes more than just a normal part of aging, and what to do about it," said a Charter House representative.

## Community Band tunes up

Strike up the band . . . the Farmington Community Band, that is. The band will perform four concerts this summer

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

In the Farmington area. Opening the program will be "Summer in the Park" at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 21, in Farmington Hills' Heritage Park.

On June 25, the FCB will present "Jazz in the Park" at 8 p.m., also at Heritage Park.

To help celebrate the Farmington Founders Festival, the band will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 10, in the Downtown Farmington Plaza.

Rounding out the summer season will be another "Summer in the Park" program at Heritage at 8 p.m. July 23.

The Community Band, directed by R. Paul Barber, includes more than 60 members from 20 communities. Many are professional musicians.

## Memory Lane

From the May 22, 1952 issue of the Farmington Enterprise:

• Art Holmes, a Farmington police officer, suffered bruises and head injuries and a city patrol car was wrecked after a high-speed chase of another auto. At Grand River and Middlebelt, Holmes' police car crashed into the fleeing car and went out of control, rolling over three times. The officer was treated and released from the hospital — but not before he captured the other driver and his companion. The police car, a 1950 Ford, had to be replaced.

• About 500 boys and their parents turned out for the opening practice of the Farmington Little League at City Park.

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