

## Something to 'grow' about



**Plump-kins:** Gavin Smith, 7, looks in wonder at the huge pumpkins that grew from a single seed in the back yard of his home on Wicklow Street in Farmington Hills. The largest pumpkin weighs 196 pounds and is 19 inches around.

JOHN STORMZAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## School finance the focus of area Town Hall forum

State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, and education representatives will discuss school financing and ballot proposals with area residents at a town hall meeting Wednesday, Oct. 28.

The 7 p.m. event will be at the Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 11 Mile Road. It will be telecast live on MetroVision cable, Channel 18 in Farmington.

"I've had many calls and letters about the ramifications of the current school financing situation, and the possible effects of the November ballot pro-

posals on our school district," said Dolan. "Because these issues are vitally important to our community, I urge everyone with concerns, comments or questions to attend the meeting."

Joining Dolan for presentations will be Bruce Barrett, assistant superintendent of finance and planning for the Farmington school district, and Rick Simonson, assistant superintendent of state and federal affairs for Oakland schools. An audience question-and-answer period will follow.

## Development efforts begin for new park on Eight Mile

What was a sod farm for Glen Eden cemetery is on its way to becoming a "major sports and family recreation park." Ground was broken for a new 85-acre park Monday night as residents and city council members gathered for the ceremony.

Mayor Jonathan Grant was the

first to put the shovel to the ground.

The groundbreaking kicked off the first phase of development of the park. The park, at Eight Mile Road between Gill and Metroview roads, will include three soccer fields, three baseball diamonds, and basketball and volleyball courts.

The entrance to the park will be across from the Glen Eden cemetery entrance and will match the entrance to Heritage Park on Farmington Road.

Officials said they hope the first phase, about one-third of the park, will be completed by next spring. A contest will be held later to name the park.

## VFW will award scholarships

Scholarships and other awards are up for grabs in the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Voice of Democracy competition for area high school students.

This broadcast scriptwriting competition is designed to give 10th, 11th and 12th-grade students an opportunity to speak out

on a patriotic theme . . . and possibly win scholarships and awards. Top prize is \$20,000.

Participants write and tape-record a short broadcast script expressing their views on "My Voice in America's Future."

"One of the greatest benefits to young people who take part in the program is that by thinking, writ-

ing and speaking up for their country, they gain a better appreciation of their obligation and freedom in America," said Pete Kuhlaba of VFW Post 2269 in Farmington Hills.

Students should see their high school counselors if interested in the contest. Deadline for entries is Nov. 15.

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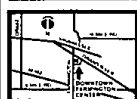
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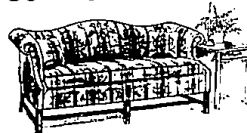
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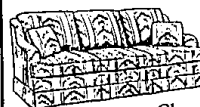
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