



IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**Voting:** Where do you vote on Election Day, Nov. 3? Find out by checking the precinct maps of Farmington and Farmington Hills./3A

### COUNTY NEWS

**Shootout for sheriff:** A soft-spoken, young attorney is up against the county's outspoken, oldest official who invited him in for a tour of the jail./5A

**ABC's of tax proposals:** More opponents than proponents showed up at The Community House in Birmingham to discuss Proposals A and C./12A

### OPINION

**More endorsements:** Who does the Observer support in the Congressional race in the new 11th District? The answer can be found on the editorial page./18A

**Readers write:** The Observer's op/ edit page contains letters on a variety of subjects./18A

### SPORTS

**Girls basketball:** Harrison tried for its eighth Western Lakes victory Tuesday against crosstown rival Farmington./1B

**Grid predictions:** The high school football season concludes this weekend for most teams, but some are looking ahead to the playoffs./2B

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## Ad sends judicial foes to court



By CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

An Oakland County Circuit Judge Monday denied an injunction sought by local judicial candidate John "Jack" McDonald, who attempted last week to block political advertising by opponent Maria Parker.

McDonald's campaign treasurer John Wierzbicki filed the complaint on Oct. 22 in the circuit court, saying the public is being misled with implications that Parker is an incumbent judge and asking that she be prohibited from appearing in magistrate's robes in advertisements.

"The continued use of such advertising threatens a fair election between the candidates, which should be based on their respective experience, reputation and qualifications rather than on misimpressions of judicial incumbency," the complaint said.

McDonald said this week he was opposed only to Parker's television ads, and not literature which she has been circulating since her campaign began.

McDonald and Parker are Farmington Hills attorneys vying for a seat

on Farmington's 47th District Court bench to replace Judge Margaret Schaeffer who will retire in December. Both were nominated in the August primary out of a field of seven attorneys who ran for the seat.

### It's 'frivolous'

Parker, one of three part-time magistrates for the court who also has a private law practice in the Hills, called the complaint "frivolous" and "an attempt to muzzle an election."

See COURT, 2A

### Winter's on the way



SHARON LEMUEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

First flakes: The weather may be warm and sunny right now, but winter's on the way. Cheryl Evans, who works at Mutual Financial Services in Farmington, pushes a grocery buggy through snow flurries last week.

## City clerks forecast record voter turnout

### Precinct maps, 3A



### Election 92

No one has to tell local city clerks and their staffs how busy it is during this presidential election year.

They can see it in the number of people applying for absentee ballots — something which often allows a prediction of election day turnout.

One week before the election, the numbers were running high compared with the last presidential election four years ago.

Election day is Tuesday, when polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathryn Dornan said this is the busiest election she has ever seen, and predicts the turnout may go as high as 85 or 90 percent this year.

"I think it's going to be much higher (than in 1988)," Dornan said. "They'll be setting records all over the country this year. I've never seen the interest so high."

As of Friday with little more than one week until election day, the Hills' clerk showed 10,157 absentee ballots returned compared with little more than 8,000 total absentee ballots cast in the 1988 election, Dornan said.

There are 61,878 active, registered voters in the city.

In the neighboring city of Farmington as of Monday morning, 1,562 residents had submitted completed ap-

lications for absentee ballots, compared with a total of 1,732 people who voted absentee in 1988.

"I would expect we might even exceed that," said Farmington City Clerk/Treasurer Patsy Cantrell. "It's pretty busy." Cantrell, who is coordinating her first election for the city, added that she has personally sensed "a lot more back and forth for this late in the game."

There are 8,212 active registered voters in the city of Farmington.

Residents of both cities are encouraged to apply for absentee ballots as quickly as possible, and to return them immediately. For voter convenience, both city clerks' offices will have special hours this Saturday to accommodate absentee voters:

■ In Farmington residents can come in from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and fill out a request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to their homes; a ballot will be sent out that day.

■ In Farmington Hills, the clerk's office will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is the last day voters there can obtain absentee ballots.

Voters who will not be in town to cast ballots Tuesday must have a "compelling" reason to vote absentee, Cantrell added.

Kathryn Dornan  
Farmington Hills  
city clerk

## Auditors give schools a clean bill (for now)

By CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

Details of the Farmington Public School's annual audit report were released Oct. 20, showing a district that is holding its own but anxious about future state cuts.

Fred Haller of the Plante & Moran accounting firm offered a "clean opinion" for the Farmington Public Schools for the 1991-92 school year which ended last June, but warned that state action beyond the district's control could have a major impact on future district operations.

"They could, on one hand, give you the \$30 percent shortfall, and then take other money," he said, discussing the ramifications of the district of Proposal C, the so-called "Cut and Cap" proposal to be decided by voters in Tuesday's election.

The Farmington district would ultimately lose \$30 million in the fifth

year of a phase-in plan if the proposal is approved, officials have said.

Despite state cuts in recent years and threats of more, the Farmington district remains in good financial shape.

Some highlights of the financial statement include:

■ The district took in \$83.9 million in the general fund, and expended \$81.69 million, leaving a \$2.3 million fund balance for the year. Added to the previous year's fund balance of \$10.4 million, the district shows a total fund balance of \$12.78 million.

■ Of that fund balance, \$3.37 million is designated or reserved for inventories, open purchase orders, vested termination pay, and finance reform contingencies, leaving the district an undesignated fund balance of \$9.5 million.

See AUDIT, 4A

### Now that's scary!



SHARON LEMUEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Getting a head: The sign is designed to give kids a scary good time at a subdivision haunted morgue in Farmington Hills. A group of teenagers are heading up the project. For a story and more pictures, please see page 13A.

### It's in the cards

And the winner is . . . the team of Joe Koehler and Leon Noel, Farmington Hills residents who compiled 72 points to win the recent Recreation Division's Euchre Tournament.

The winners came from being two points down to lead the runner-up duo, Wayne Hallquist and Mark Hankins, who had 69 points. A total of nine teams participated.

The winners earned a gift certificate to a local restaurant. The next euchre tourney will be held Dec. 11. For more information, call 473-9570.

### Oh 'sew' caring

The Mary Stoll Sewing Guild, a Farmington-area organization which makes clothing for needy

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

children, will present the garments to the Farmington Goodfellows during a ceremony Thursday, Nov. 19, at The Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

"We've been doing this for the last 20 years or so," said Pearl Kamin, chairwoman of the sewing guild. All material is donated, she added, and most of the sewing is done at home.

The group is named after its founder, Mary Stoll, who died about 10 years ago. For more information about the group, call The Community Center at 477-8404.

### Harvest Conference

Northwest Baptist Church of Farmington Hills will hold its annual Harvest Conference Nov. 6-8 at the church, 23845 Middlebelt Road.

Among the speakers will be Cindy Dull, who has taught in Panama the last five years; and the Rev. Roy Latta, who has just returned from Australia.

The Friday, Nov. 6, service will begin at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 7, there will be an international dinner at 6:30 p.m. with services starting at 7 p.m. Services on Sunday, Nov. 7, will be 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The public is invited to attend. Call 474-3393 for more information.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Observer & Eccentric  
**ELECTION LINE**  
**(313) 953-2024**

From now through election day you will be able to hear who is running for office and a recap of the endorsements made by our staff of editors by calling the Observer & Eccentric Election Line.

On Nov. 4, our Election Line will bring you the complete returns of local elections and state ballot issues. You'll also be able to find out how your hometown voted in the national sweepstakes for president.