

IN THE PAPER  
**TODAY**

**Business problem:** Road construction in the Orchard Lake Road/Grand River area of Farmington has left some longtime businesses hurting./3A

**Inaugural hoopla:** The public can participate in a number of events surrounding the inauguration of Oakland University's first woman president./7A

**Watching for potholes:** County executive-elect L. Brooks Patterson paves the way for a relationship with the semi-autonomous road commission by appointing its director as one of his two deputy executives./5A

**STREET SCENE**



**Two years preparing:** Saturday, the Hope Orchestra will celebrate the release of their first CD. And there's good reason to celebrate, since they've spent the past two years honing a vibrant intellectually invigorating music and a dynamic stage presence./9A

**TASTE**

**Turkey options:** There's more than one way to cook a turkey. Some people cook their birds the old-fashioned way, over an open fire on a barbecue grill, pit or in the fireplace./1B

**Winner Dinner:** Warm up with country chicken and barley soup. This easy to make, hearty soup is low in fat and has only 111 calories per serving. Romaine salad with dried cranberries rounds out the meal./1B

**SPORTS**

**Grid playoffs:** Catholic Central participated in the state football playoffs Saturday with a first-round game against Detroit Mumford./1C

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## Schools eye combined tax vote



The Farmington Public Schools are discussing a vote this winter that would combine several years of school tax renewals. Officials say this plan would save taxpayers' time and money.

By CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington school officials are considering a winter election in which they would combine three years of tax authorizations in one proposal, while adding a second proposal to allow unvoted property taxes to rise faster than the rate of inflation.

The second ballot issue would likely be earmarked for the district's building and site fund to be used for improvements and renovations.

Officials said the move would save both district and taxpayers time and money by holding fewer elections.

"We believe it would be financially responsible in this case, to consoli-

date," said assistant superintendent for finance Bruce Barrett.

Without the consolidation, he said, residents will have to vote on school taxes five times in the next six years. He said in a report to the school board that he believed it is the district's responsibility to "reduce financial variables" especially in these uncertain times.

Barrett has recommended a Feb. 3 election be held asking voters to re-

new:  
■ 4.1355 mills that expired in 1992,  
■ 4.1365 mills that will expire in 1993, and

■ 3.4624 mills that will expire in 1994.

These amounts reflect the effective rates after reduction by the Headlee Amendment.

The board is also expected to consider a separate ballot issue asking voters to allow taxes to rise faster than the rate of inflation through a Headlee override. That money will be used exclusively for capital improvements.

Voters originally approved 5 mills to expire in 1992, 5 mills to expire in

See VOTE, 6A

## At 79, grandmother learns the keys

### Senior center organist

By MARY LOU SONG  
STAFF WRITER

Doris Flesher can strike up the band with the best of them.

But until recently, this 79-year-old grandmother couldn't play a note of music. Now for the first time in her life, Flesher is learning to play the organ at the Farmington Hills Senior Center.

"As a child, I didn't have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument," said Flesher, a Detroit Baptist Manor resident. "But I love all kinds of music and instruments and bands. And I love dancing."

Flesher has been using her granddaughter's Yamaha keyboard to practice. And she confesses that she hopes they don't ask for it back.

After a few months of lessons, Flesher's hefty repertoire includes holiday carols, love songs, pop and folk songs, and lullabies.

"I like them all," she said of the songs. "I like the swiny ones."

Flesher can swing, too.

Three years ago while on vacation cruise in Hawaii, Flesher made two significant purchases: a muumuu and a ukulele.

The cruise ship offered ukulele lessons and Flesher, who said she discovered a love for Hawaiian music during this vacation, bought a ukulele and learned how to play.

Before long, she was performing for other passengers.

■ 'As a child, I didn't have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument, but I love all kinds of music and instruments and bands. And I love dancing.'

Doris Flesher

Back in Michigan after vacation, Flesher took ukulele lessons at the Mercy Center. And Detroit Baptist Manor held a Hawaiian Night, and naturally Flesher donned her muumuu and taught the girls to hula. Some of the "girls" were in their 80s, she said.

Before retiring, Flesher worked as the office manager for J.L. Hudson Co. and as a teller for the National Bank of Detroit.

She said she keeps up with her financial experience by working as the treasurer of Epsilon Apartments, a section of Detroit Baptist Manor.

Last year the Epsilon council held a bazaar and proceeds from the fund-raiser helped pay for new blinds on the lower level of the building.

Asked if she does anything else to keep busy, Flesher replied with a chuckle, "Isn't that enough?"



In practice: Doris Flesher, learning the organ at age 79, practices at the Farmington Hills Senior Center.

## Sees his picture on TV, man surrenders

Earl Bruce Williams: Detroit man arraigned on several charges in connection with an Oct. 9 carjacking.



By MARY LOU SONG  
STAFF WRITER

The man police sought in connection with the Oct. 9 carjacking and kidnapping of a Bill Cook Nissan salesman turned himself in to Farmington Hills police Thursday after seeing his picture on the evening news, according to police.

Earl Bruce Williams, 19, of Detroit entered the Farmington Hills police station with his mother and told police that he had seen his picture on a Channel 7 newscast earlier that evening, a police report said.

A warrant for Williams' arrest had been issued earlier on charges of armed robbery, kidnapping and unlawfully driving away in an automobile. Williams was placed under arrest for that warrant, police said.

At the arraignment in 47th District Court Friday, Williams stood mute to those charges and a not guilty plea was entered on his behalf. Williams is being held on a \$50,000 cash bond. An examination is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 13.

According to police, at about 11 a.m. Oct. 9, salesman Dan Wagner of Bill Cook Nissan took a man, who had made an appointment, for a test drive of a Nissan 300 ZX Convertible valued at about \$40,000.

During the drive, the man pointed a chrome-colored handgun at the salesman's head and ordered him to remain in the vehicle while he drove the car to Eight Mile and Inkster roads, police said.

There the man ordered the salesman out of the car and drove away with the stolen vehicle.

The car was found on Oct. 23 in the Six Mile/Gratiot area of Detroit.

Hills Chief William Dwyer said Farmington Hills police are also seeking another suspect in connection with the Sept. 16 carjacking involving a Sunshine Acura salesman and an Acura Legend valued at \$38,000.

"We're pleased that Williams is in custody," Dwyer said. "And we're confident that we'll be able to arrest the other person involved in the September carjacking in the near future."

**Public input needed**

Anyone out there have knowledge of lawn chemical applications?  
The public is invited to provide input to the citizen Toxic and Hazardous Materials committee during a meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road.

**How about breakfast?**

The Inter-Agency Council, an umbrella group for Farmington-area organizations, will host a light breakfast beginning at 7:30 p.m. at The Community Center of Farmington/Farmington Hills, 24705 Farmington Road.

**FARMINGTON FOCUS**

Guest speaker will be Sandy Hermanoff of the Hermanoff & Associates public relations firm. The topic will be "How to Get Your News Noticed."  
These involved in area clubs and groups are invited to attend. Participants should bring brochures, flyers and pamphlets regarding their activities. Also needed are lists of events for December and January for a calendar that the Inter-Agency Council puts out.

**Seniors take note**

Smile, senior citizens of the Farmington area. An Oakland-Livingston Human Services Agency

(OLHSA) photographer wants to take your picture.

Photos, to be used on ID cards, will be taken 10:30 a.m. to noon on Friday, Nov. 20, at the Farmington Hills Senior Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

The ID cards will be needed for participation in the OLHSA senior discount program. County residents at least 60 years of age may apply for the cards, which show photograph, name, address, birth date, Social Security number and signature.

For more information, call the Farmington Hills Senior Center at 473-1822.

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