

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Best band:** The Harrison High School marching band, directed by Mark Phillips, has strutted and played its way to another state title./3A

**Songsters:** Sing-a-Song, a business operated out of a Farmington Hills apartment, is bringing tears of joy to its customers./13A

## COUNTY NEWS

**Making it official:** New Oakland University president Sandra Packard isn't waiting for her Friday induction to give the Rochester-based university added horizons./9A

## OPINION

**To the losers:** Thanks for running, all you candidates who weren't celebrating the day after the election. Please, try again./20A

## SPORTS

**Cross country:** Farmington runners fared well Saturday in the boys and girls state championship events./1B

**Grid preview:** Two undefeated football teams, Redford Catholic Central and Troy, meet in a Class AA regional final Saturday./1B

## SUBURBAN LIFE

**Skin deep:** Area facial salons are dedicated to making you feel and look great./1H

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## New page takes you to the center of it all

On the premise that a pulse of our suburbs in our malls & mainstreets, on Monday we begin a new kind of news page.

On it, we will tell what's happening in these town centers — indoor and out — where we gather to shop, meet friends, eat an ice cream cone or a whole meal, where we go as whole families, and where our young people socialize.

These centers are also where special and cultural events occur. Santa Claus hangs out, community organizations meet, people walk or jog in the off hours, or take in a movie.

Staff writer Susan DiMaggio will journey to the malls & mainstreets you frequent to keep you up to date on what's going on. She will be aided by columnist Linda Bachrack, who will track retail trends in a special way.

The weekly page will include a calendar of events.

Our purpose is to provide you with information you can use. As always, we welcome your comments.

Steve Barnaby  
managing editor

## Parker savors, McDonald ponders



Marla Parker is basking in her victory in the race for a local judgeship. Opponent Jack McDonald is still wondering what went wrong.

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

To judicial victor Marla Parker go the spoils — a prestigious, well-paid judgeship in Farmington's 47th District Court.

To stunned and defeated Jack McDonald goes hindsight . . . and picking up the pieces.

Parker begins serving a six-year term on the bench in January, following the retirement of longtime 47th District Judge Margaret Schaffner. Parker beat out McDonald in the recent election.

"I don't know what went wrong. It's hard to say," said McDonald, an attorney and former county commis-

sioner. "I know I didn't do well with voters in the northern part (of Farmington Hills)."

McDonald had a list of heavy hitters backing him up in his run for the bench.

People like Oakland County Sheriff John Nichols, the mayors of Farmington and Farmington Hills and Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson — who McDonald challenged for that seat four years ago — all signed a letter of support for McDonald.

### Top vote-getters

McDonald and Parker were the top vote getters in the August primary, casting aside five other attorneys who wanted the open judicial seat.

But Parker was the victor in 27 of 31 precincts in Farmington Hills, Alan Feuer, her political consultant quickly asserts. "She won in every income level, in every geographic area in the city," Feuer said.

She won in northern and

See AFTERMATH, 2A

## School gives the 'I can't' the deep-six

Michael Kopacki said he was tired of hearing staff and students at O.E. Dunckel Middle School use the self-defeating phrase "I can't."

So he, and fellow teacher Becky McKee put an end to it by organizing a mock funeral for the phrase recently.

"So many times we use these words in order not to do something," Kopacki said. "We decided we wanted to get together and bury those words forever."

**'So many times we use these words ("I can't") in order not to do something. We decided we wanted to get together and bury those words forever.'**

Michael Kopacki  
Dunckel teacher

At an all-school assembly, students shared their views on the subject and offered eulogies.

The whole school then went into the Dunckel back yard and buried their negatives feelings — which had been put in writing — in a grave dug by principal Buhl Burton.

"Now we have to say 'I'll try,'" emphasized one student.

Sixth grader Mark Wachaberg seemed pleased with the program, saying he was glad to have the assembly time. "I think it's cool," he added.

Classmate Sue Wilson said she found the program to be "a combination of funny and weird."

McKee said she was pleased to be part of the "funeral," saying that self-esteem is crucial for students at this age.

Students did a variety of self-esteem projects before the assembly, including spending a day in liberal arts classes discussing the things "they" can do, she added.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

**Out with it:** Ryan Stone, a seventh-grader, dumps some student self-esteem writings into a gravesite in back of O.E. Dunckel Middle School.

## Funeral director enjoys doing a good deed

By MARY LOU SONG  
STAFF WRITER

Walter Sundquist has been filling the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home with antiques like he has been filling the Farmington area with good deeds — with a lot, for a long time.

But good deeds impressed the local Chamber of Commerce and good deeds helped make Sundquist, owner of Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, the Farmington-area 1992 Citizen of the Year.

"He's been doing lots of things all these years," Jody Soronen, executive director of the chamber, said of Sundquist. "We were impressed with the longevity of his service in the community — and the variety, also."

Sundquist will be recognized tonight at the 30th-annual Awards Dinner for the Chamber of Commerce at the Botsford Inn.

The funeral director has devoted time to various groups and projects like the American Legion, Farmington Hills beautification, the War Memorial at Grand River and Oakland, the Farmington gazebo, and the Memorial Day parade. The list goes on.

**Walter Sundquist will be recognized as the Farmington-area 1992 Citizen of the Year tonight at the 30th-annual Awards Dinner for the Chamber of Commerce at the Botsford Inn.**

Sundquist says he tries to live by the adages of Thomas Jefferson, which include "Always help others" and "Do your share and much more if necessary."

But Sundquist says he enjoys working on community projects and in the funeral home.

"Retirement is for old people," Sundquist, 66, said with a chuckle. "I enjoy working. People come to the fu-

neral home and ask for me."

Sundquist bought the funeral home in 1964, and 1992 marks 40 years for the business.

In 1944, Sundquist graduated from Crystal Falls High School and joined the Navy. After World War II, he received a pre-dentistry degree from Ferris State College. But when Sundquist couldn't get into dentistry school, he switched to the funeral business, attended Wayne State University and became a mortician in 1952.

But making sure the funeral business succeeded meant working long hours in the early years. The occasional golfer even gave the sport up because of his business.

"I enjoyed it. I enjoyed watching it on TV," he said. "But then I got to thinking, what a waste, I could be working."

The funeral director says his workaholic tendencies are spurred by



Walter Sundquist

memories of growing up on a farm in Crystal Falls, having one pair of shoes and one pair of pants and times when "we didn't have enough to eat."

"That's what pushed me on — to have something more, to give my kids

See AWARD, 4A

### Posters, anyone?

Many residents have been celebrating the 125th anniversary of Farmington's incorporation as a village — and now you can, too, by purchasing a commemorative poster.

The poster shows 25 historic buildings and sites in the Farmington community. Some scenes: Masonic Temple, The Farmington Enterprise building, the Gov. Warner Home, the Botsford Inn, the Heeney Funeral Home, the first Farmington Township fire station, the LaSalle Winery and the Quaker Cemetery.

The black and white poster is 20 by 24 inches and costs \$7.50. They're available at the Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, or at the Chamber of Commerce, 33411 Grand River.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### Your vote counts!

Your vote does count. If you don't believe it, switch to Channel 12 on the MetroVision Cable System for a program on civic duty Wednesday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 2 p.m. and some Fridays at 7 p.m.

During November, the program will present information on principles of the Democratic Party. Donald Tucker, chairman of the Oakland County Democratic Party, will be interviewed. Host will be Juliann Howaness.

In December, property tax cuts and the results

of the November election will be discussed by guests Bill Costick, Farmington Hills city manager, and Kathryn Dornan, Hills city clerk. Host will be Larry Ivey.

Opinions and reactions to the shows are encouraged. Call 474-3770.

### Any used spectacles?

Farmington Area Lions will collect used eyeglasses in any condition from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Lenscrafters store in the Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

Under the Lions' program, Sight First, the used eyeglasser will be repaired and used by people in Third World countries, according to George White of the local Lions Club.

Detroit Tiger shortstop Alan Trammell will sign autographs for those donating used eyeglasses.