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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Strings galore: Last Saturday was truly "A Day for Strings" at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills./3A

Loving a parade: Two Farmington High School students will be honored for the academic accomplishments by being part of a "human float" in the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade./13A

COUNTY NEWS

Tight-lipped: Area police cadets aren't taught to use flashlights as weapons — but they — or their instructors — won't pass judgment on the Malice Green case./11A

SPECIAL SECTIONS

Art of giving: Look inside for "Holiday Gift Giving," the Observer's annual Thanksgiving Day special supplement.

OPINION

Thankfully: This area's movers and shakers have lots to be thankful for as they prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving 1992./22A

SPORTS



Regional hoops: Mercy played rival Birmingham Marian for a regional championship in girls basketball Tuesday./1B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Thanksgiving time: Local families who are hosting foreign exchange students, including the Rivers family of Farmington Hills, celebrate the holiday with their young visitors./1C

Literary lady: Storyteller Helen Southgate Williams of Rochester Hills will wear this Victorian dress when she is honored at luncheon at The Community House in Birmingham./1C

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Police urge drivers: Be patient



Tough traffic in suburbs like Farmington Hills: The problem is ongoing and so is the remedy. Good attitudes on the part of motorists are important, say police officials.

By BILL COUTANT

Staff Writer

You got up and out of the house five minutes early this morning and you still had to fight through congested roads only to make it to the office five minutes late. What is this, Los Angeles?

No, it's Farmington Hills. But when a study by the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland, which keeps track of the county's worst accident intersections, included three in Farmington Hills, it was not a surprise. And although city and state offi-

cials are aware of the problem, there are no magic wands. The problem is ongoing and so's the remedy.

Sergeant Ray Cranston, traffic specialist for the Farmington Hills Police Department, said the department has stressed education, engineering and enforcement as a means of dealing with the city's traffic problems.

The association, which rates the worst intersections based on the number of accidents, said Orchard Lake Road at 12 Mile, Orchard at 14 Mile and Grand River at Halsted were three of the county's 12 worst intersections.

Cranston blamed the large volume of traffic on those roads as part of the problem.

"If you have an increase in accidents with the same number of vehicles, then there is a problem that you must look at," he said. "But if you have high volumes of traffic, you can't just tell people not to drive on those roads."

That doesn't mean city officials just throw up their hands either, he said.

See TRAFFIC, 2A

Dinner is served



Bill Breslin/Staff Photographer

Turkey time in school: Be Ryan (left), Tracie Falor and Andy Burkhardt, students at the Farmington Alternative Academy, line up for Turkey and all the trimmings Friday at their school. Students cooked the holiday feast. For a story and another photo, see page 3A.

Democrat sets sights on electoral vote

By BILL COUTANT

Staff Writer



Aldo Vagnozzi

Aldo Vagnozzi, a longtime activist in Democratic Party politics, will do something no one in Michigan has done since 1968 — cast an Electoral College vote for a Democrat, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

Vagnozzi, 67, is a former Farmington Hills mayor and current city council-

man. But don't be fooled by his engaging manner and effervescent sense of humor. He's very serious about politics.

"It goes back to 1948," the publishing consultant said. "(G. Mennen) Soapy Williams was running for governor. He energized people in the state."

Selected by the state Democratic Party to cast the Electoral College vote for the 11th Congressional District, Vagnozzi said he became a precinct delegate in Detroit as part of Williams' grass roots primary cam-

paign. Since then, Vagnozzi has been active in the local, state and national politics.

Vagnozzi, who moved to Farmington Hills from Detroit in 1960, has distinguished himself in politics while working for the Democrats in this Republican stronghold. There've been plenty of defeats.

"I ran unsuccessfully for state rep," he said, "but it was more or less just a matter of having someone to run."

That kind of willingness to serve the party has been rewarded by selection to the Electoral College.

"Someone is picked who has been active for a long time," he said. "It's really an honor."

But make no mistake, those Electoral College votes cast on Dec. 14 in Lansing are the state's official recognition of President-elect Clinton's win.

The winning political party selects the delegates, but there have been instances when a delegate's vote does not reflect the popular outcome, Vagnozzi said.

See ELECTORAL, 8A

Third-grade class gets kick out of lesson

By SUE BUCK

Staff Writer

Hillside teacher Dodie Harris knows how to add pizzazz to her third-grade classroom.

Recently, she allowed student Elliott Ziegelman, his Choy Kwang-Do

teacher Jeff Duncan, and assistant instructor Mike Parashos to all take turns breaking wood (on purpose) in her class.

The dramatic show was one small part in a greater lesson that taught the class to be ever-vigilant for their

own safety and to be prepared to react verbally during potential abductions.

"This is the first time that he (Duncan) is reaching out to kids in a school setting, with the message of how important it is to be able to defend yourself and/or draw attention

to yourself (scream) if the situation arises," Harris said.

All three — Ziegelman, Duncan and Parashos — wore their outfits

See SELF-DEFENSE, 4A

A Melvin Jones Fellow

Jack C. Crane of Farmington has been designated a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions Club International Foundation, in recognition of his commitment to serving the "world community."

Named for the founder of the Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones, the fellowship is the foundation's highest honor. It is conferred on people who demonstrate practical application of the motto: "We serve."

Crane, a retired sales manager for Henry's Food Products of Milwaukee, Wis., is a member of the Northwest Detroit Lions Club. The 20-year Farmington resident recently received a plaque and lapel pin acknowledging his service.

As a Melvin Jones Fellow, Crane will become

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part of an international network of more than 45,000 recipients spanning 121 countries and geographic areas.

Luncheon planned

The Women of North Farmington will hold a holiday luncheon at noon Tuesday, Dec. 15, at Heningsways, 1900 Hiller Road, West Bloomfield.

The Lakeland High School Choral Group will provide holiday music. Then there will be an optional \$5 gift exchange. Cost is \$15. Call Pat Muzarelli at 363-8766 by Dec. 11 for reservations.

Gala for volunteers

A Holiday Gala for the volunteers who work at the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at the shop on Grand River in downtown Farmington. Call 626-6681 for more information.

'Adam America'

Adam America, "a free one-man play performed by Hannibal Frederick, will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on 12 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road.

Dessert and beverages will be provided following the play and a free-will offering will be taken. For reservations and more information, call 691-4398.