

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Opportunity knocks: Local business people and the Farmington Chamber of Commerce hope for big crowds at the upcoming trade show. /3A

Suspects in court: Two men accused of robbing an Ann Arbor woman at an automatic teller at a Farmington Hills bank appeared in 47th District Court Friday. /4A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Teamwork: Since the Mole Hole started managing the store as a team, profits are up and the staff can't wait to come to work. /8A

Ticket talk: There's more than the price on a garment tag. Codes reveal the history of an item from store delivery to seller's floor. /8A

TASTE

Lunchtime rush: Visit student-run restaurants; they offer excellent lunches, at bargain prices. /1B

Super supper: Michael Cure and his daughter Whitney share a vegetarian recipe. /1B

SPORTS



Diamond outlook: Farmington Harrison has a mix of veteran players and new prospects on its varsity baseball team. /1C

Tennis preview: North Farmington should have another strong team, and Farmington and Harrison expect to be improved. /1C

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Dolan puts in bid for 4th term



By Bill Coutant
Staff Writer

Now that Michigan voters have passed Proposal A, which will cut property taxes and add more sales tax, State Rep. Jan Dolan wants to make sure the schools don't suffer.

Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, announced last week that she will run

for a fourth term in the state Legislature. Her 37th District includes Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"I'm on the appropriations committee," Dolan said. "I want to make sure we keep the promises."

Dolan, 67, the widowed mother of four grown sons, said she will be paying close attention to schools to make

sure they are adequately funded. The former Farmington Hills mayor said she realizes taxpayers in the Farmington school district will be disappointed not to get the tax break many others throughout the state will get.

"We knew the higher spending districts were never going to be winners," she said. "That's a given. At least now growth will be slowed."

The 10-mill cut for Farmington area property owners is still significant, Dolan said. And the limit on assessment increases to 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower,

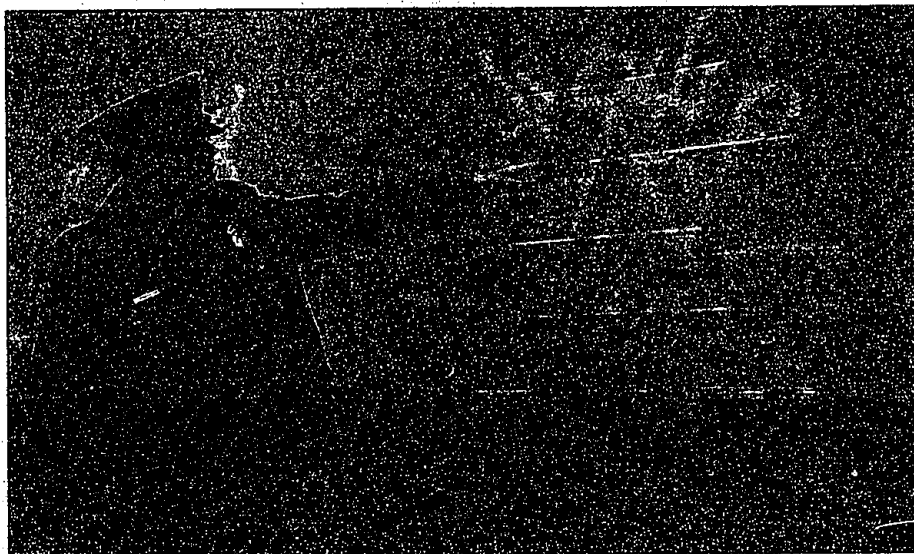
will ease the tax burden down the road, she said.

"It's going to start to make a difference in the next few years," she said. Balancing the state's budget should also be a priority in the coming years, Dolan said.

"That's so major," she said. "You have to be ever mindful that whatever you approve has a financial impact." Although balancing the budget will be difficult, it's critical to the state's economic future, she said. And one

See DOLAN, 4A

Pointing at trouble



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gang symbols: Jeff Anderson, crime prevention specialist with the Farmington Hills Police Department, points out gang vandalism on a wall in the western part of the city.

Police, educators see gangs' writing on walls

By Larry O'Connor
Staff Writer

Although Farmington and Farmington Hills are far from hotbeds of gang activity, police and the educators are taking their graffiti seriously.

"It's not a big problem so far, but we're on top of it so that it doesn't become one," said Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer.

At least 43 suburban communities in the Detroit area have experienced either gang activity or the

graffiti that signals that gangs are moving into an area, Dwyer said.

Building and Student Services Director Don Cowan said there's been very little activity among gangs in Farmington Public Schools.

"There has been little smattering of it in terms of gang graffiti," Cowan said.

Cowan added such activity has not been accompanied by assaults and other criminal behavior associated with gangs. "So far, no, thank goodness," he said.

Farmington police haven't experi-

enced problems related to gang activity other than graffiti. Although they are taking the matter seriously, Farmington police aren't convinced there is serious gang crime in store.

The city of Farmington had several incidents of vandalism involving graffiti April 1-4, mostly to businesses along Grand River Avenue. Most of the symbols were spray-painted behind buildings.

That might say something, according to Detective Dan Dellar,

See GRAFFITI, 3A

Gangling up?

Are gangs becoming a problem in suburbs like Farmington and Farmington Hills? If yes, why?

Call 953-2033



Commission has handle on Farmington's history

By Larry O'Connor
Staff Writer

The Farmington Historical Commission is the watchdog over the city's 125-year heritage.

The seven-member commission promotes local history, helps maintain the museum and keeps records.

The historical commission is making its presence felt in other ways.

Doris Lovill sought out the commission when planning her new tea

room. The house Lovill bought on Grand River would've needed major structural work in order to comply fully with the state's handicap access laws.

The commission said it would look into amending the historic district to include the home, thus allowing Lovill's tea room to be exempt from barrier codes. The council's approval, though, is needed to make it official.

If anything, the action shows the increasing clout of historical bodies in older communities.

Last year's clock tower incident brought the commission to the forefront.

"That was god awful," said commission member Barb Butler. "That's the only thing I can remember we really got down on."

City ordinance requires any renovation plans within the historic district — such as the Masonic Temple corner — to be submitted to the commission for recommendations.

Commission members would not have had a final say on the project.

Some showed their disapproval in other ways.

For instance, commission member and current chairman Tom Lyczkowski erected a tower in his front yard as a protest.

His views were as a private citizen — separate from the commission — but the message was sent.

Other residents voiced their displeasure with the 28-foot tower. The clock was history. Indirectly, perhaps,

See HISTORY, 4A

Salon concept explained

Gall Parish, executive director of the Race Relations Council of Metro Detroit, will speak on the salon concept of knowing and understanding your neighbors at a community forum from 8-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 12, at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street, Farmington.

The monthly forums are sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council.

Parish will explain the salon concept which involves people getting to know each other in a relaxed, open, personal setting. One aspect is to develop relationships through discussion.

The next forum will be May 10. The topic, law enforcement, will be based on the "Prime Time Live" TV program "Presumed Guilty."

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Reporter to speak

Bill Gallagher, a TV reporter, will speak at the 27th annual Farmington Area Jaycees Community Leadership Breakfast 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

The program will include the presentation of the Jaycees Distinguished Citizen Award for community service.

Cost is \$13.50 per person. For reservations, mail checks to Janet Powell, 31805 Coronet, Farmington Hills 48334, or call 477-5227.

Memory Lane

From the April 15, 1954 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ Two Farmington police officers, Jay Harrison and Norman Dehnke, left the department to accept positions with the Bloomfield Township police.

■ The Board of Education of the Farmington Township School District approved a record budget of \$978,912.

■ A 1954 Hudson Family Club Sedan could be purchased for \$1,621 at Tavern Auto Sales in Farmington.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, faxed to 477-8722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.