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FIFTY CENTS

Farmington Observer

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

FHS Homecoming: Farmington High's senior class skunked the competition in the parade, but the school's annual homecoming had the sweet aroma of success. /3A

Heat's on: A program, sponsored in part by the Farmington Observer, will keep the heat on for the area's needy. /5A

It went boom! An unexploded grenade was detonated in Farmington's City Park Sunday night. /11A

Message of value: The speaker at Farmington Families In Action's breakfast stressed the importance of family values. /18A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Big benefit: ArtShare '94, featuring artists from near and far, will benefit St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills. /13A

Good read: Columnist Judy Bryce of Farmington Hills tells how reading shed a bright light on a man's life. /13A

OPINION

Yes and No: Farmington Hills voters face two local questions on the Nov. 8 ballot. The Observer supports one, but puts down the other. /20A

More on Timbercrest: Guest columnist Paul Blizman, a Farmington Hills planning commissioner, has a strong opinion on the development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt. /21A

LET'S GO!



First-nighting: Meadow Brook Theatre opens its 29th season with the zany farce "Noises Off." /1B

CREATIVE LIVING

Making history: Farmington's 125th anniversary sculpture by Kephah Tatian, who teaches at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, is in place. /1D

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Hills plan: Control lay of land



By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Council members say they have a better idea, but convincing voters that a tax to buy land and keep out undesirable development will be tough.

"The difficult part is getting people to understand what it involves," said councilman Terry Sever.

The proposal, which will be on the Nov. 8 ballot, would allow the city to levy .5 mills for five years. That would generate about \$6 million for a

land acquisition fund.

The city could then use the money to either buy property and convert it to parkland, buy property and resell it for development according to city wishes or pay a developer to alter a development to a less dense, and presumably, less commercial use.

"We need to start informing the community about this," said Councilwoman Nancy Bates, who proposed the ballot question.

Bates said she had explained the proposal to the Farmington Hills

Council of Homeowners and planned to do more stumping for it.

"I talked to a woman the other day who said she was against it," Bates said. "But when I explained it to her, she said she was for it."

The idea is not new to Michigan or to the area. Wisconsin voters approved a similar proposal for 1 mill over 10 years in 1991. And in August, voters in Mission Township near Traverse City also approved of a plan to control land development.

See LAND, 2A

Now that's a pumpkin!



It grew and grew: Alex Duncan, 10 years old and a fifth-grader at Longacre Elementary, has a big hug for the huge (about 300 pounds) pumpkin he grew as a member of the Junior Gardener Club sponsored by the Farmington Community Library.

Ann Healey/Staff Photographer

Artwork sculpts history

See photo, 2A

Creative Living, 1D

By MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Artistry and history were celebrated when Farmington's 125th anniversary sculpture was unveiled at a dedication ceremony Monday evening.

The bronze sculpture, 8 feet tall, stands near the entrance to Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty. It was created by Farmington Hills sculptor Kephah Tatian, who teaches at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

Speakers at the ceremony noted that October is National Arts and Humanities Month.

"Through this sculpture you will continue for generations to come the celebration of arts and the humanities," said one of the speakers, Judith Ann Rapance, chairwoman of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

The community understands the importance of the arts, Rapance said.

"We are awfully awfully proud of you," she said. "We hope that momentum continues."

The arts and humanities enhance the quality of life, help bring people together and provide a means of self-expression, among other benefits, Rapance said.

"Everyone can benefit."

Mayor Arnold Campbell presented Nan Reid, who chaired the sculpture subcommittee, with a proclamation from the city. The proclamation, which will be displayed at Farmington Community Library, urged the public to "participate and celebrate in the cultural resources our city has to offer."

The sculpture commemorates 125 years since the incorporation of the village of Farmington. It features five vertical pieces, each representing 25 years, and a sphere with five faces representing the ages and ethnic diversity of the community.

Breshgold pushes middle class relief

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Mike Breshgold might be outspent but he doesn't plan to be outflanked in his race to unseat freshman Congressman Joe Knollenberg.

Breshgold, a Farmington Hills Democrat, knows upsetting the Bloomfield Hills Republican won't be easy. Breshgold, a sales manager of a pharmaceutical company, has put up billboards along I-96 and Northwestern Highway and has been going door-to-door to get his message out.

And the factor of three is not doing

something many other Democrats have done — he's not disclaiming President Bill Clinton.

"I'm hearing two things," Breshgold said. "That the economy is doing great and Clinton is terrible."

Breshgold is quick to point out that the president's deficit reduction package, crime bill and North American Free Trade Agreement are just some accomplishments that tend to be overlooked in favor of subjects, like alleged marital infidelities, that are more suited to the tabloids.

Those economic gains are in keeping with the 43-year-old Democrat's own views.

"I want to see more tax relief for the middle class," he said.

Measures Breshgold would push for to get that break include reducing a tax deduction on auto loans and making the Independent Retirement Account universal and doubling the allowable amount per year to \$4,000.

See BRESHGOLD, 4A

Make mark: New ballot machines won't 'spoil' voters

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It's not enough that fewer than half of those eligible to vote show up at the polls.

But machine makers have additionally cut into that number even more. In past elections, only about 50 percent of eligible voters have been able to make use of a machine by a voter.

But Farmington has been using the 15-25 percent machine since the last election. The machine is a computerized system, said Don Bates of Election Systems, Inc., the company that made the machine.

chance, that percentage should be cut to next to nothing in Farmington and Farmington Hills this November.

The two cities have bought new voting machines that read a ballot that voters can mark with a special pen or, in the case of absentee voters, a Number Two pencil.

When a ballot is fed into the machine, if they are improperly marked, the machine rejects them. At that point, a election worker goes over how to mark a ballot with the voter, without seeing the spoiled ballot.

"Nobody's going to know how you voted," said Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathy Derran. "They will just explain how to vote again and the voter will do it over."

Seats, whose company provides training on the machine's operation, said some states, such as Oklahoma, have gone totally to the machine. They also use the same ballot as an absentee ballot.

Out of 800 absentee ballots in a recent Lake Orion school tax election, only three were spoiled, he said.

See MACHINES, 4A