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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Old and new: There are two Detroit, says Rabbi Sherwin Wine, in an address in Farmington Tuesday. /2A

Hawk homecoming: Peace, love, fuzzy slippers and an inside-out shirt or two fashioned Harrison High's statement on school spirit. /3A

Problem solvers: Farmington Public Schools will spend the coming months clarifying what it means for a student to be a "thoughtful problem solver." /3A

COMMUNITY LIFE

This old house: Biddestone, a longtime local landmark in Farmington Hills, is a replica of English estate splendor, inside and out. And it's for sale. /13A

Learn not to burn: Guest columnist and Farmington Hills firefighter Mike Garr outlines a plan to avert tragedy from fire. /13A

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Sever's reply: A Farmington Hills city councilman replies to one of his critics. /19A

LET'S GO!

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Dining: Local restaurants celebrate Oktoberfest with hearty German food specials. /1B

SPORTS

City champs: Farmington captured the city championship in boys soccer Monday by defeating Harrison 6-2. /1C

County race: The Farmington girls finished an impressive fourth in the Oakland County cross country meet. /1C

CREATIVE LIVING

Art of the state: The time draws near for this year's Our Town Art Exhibition and Sale in Birmingham. The event features artists from all over Michigan, including Farmington and Farmington Hills. /1D

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Hills won't go with plant's flow



An expanded wastewater treatment plant in Commerce Township may soon begin discharging into the Seeley Drain. Downstream, in Farmington Hills and Farmington, residents and officials are not happy.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills plans to fight a plan to allow treated water from a Commerce Township wastewater treatment plant expansion to flow through the city.

"We intend to fight this," said City

Manager Bill Costick at Monday's regular city council meeting. "We intend to appeal. If that doesn't work, we'll look at other forms of legal action."

Costick's fighting words drew strong support from council members who unanimously oppose the expansion.

only because treated wastewater would be discharged into the Seeley Drain, which flows through the western part of the city as well as Farmington.

Farmington also opposes the expansion. After a Michigan Department of Natural Resources public hearing in Farmington Hills Sept. 22, DNR deputy director Russell Harding made the decision to go ahead with the expansion, which will allow up to 8.5 million gallons of discharge a day from the plant.

The plant currently handles about 250,000 gallons a day and is authorized for 5.5 million gallons currently.

"What we're against is not the fact that Commerce Township is trying to improve its wastewater system," Costick said. "What we are against is discharging into the Seeley Drain."

During the public hearing and earlier, Farmington Hills officials had argued that the change from the plant's current flow into the Huron River basin into the Seeley Drain

See FLOW, 8A



Clown: No kidding on fire safety

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Don St. Clair is normally quiet and low-key, hardly the person you would expect to want to perform — but he does.

And, although he's played to pecked houses many times, he knows exactly in his audience he has his act before, so he'd better do well.

"If you weren't a little nervous, it wouldn't be exciting," said the veteran Farmington Hills firefighter as he prepared for his show on fire safety at Kenbrook Elementary School.

St. Clair, a full-time firefighter and Leo Strickland, a firefighter in Farmington Hills, perform as Gadget the Clown and Tinker the Clown, respectively, throughout the Farmington Hills District and at other area schools attended by Hills students.

Although they clown around while showing off Gadget's questionable inventions, the kids are entertained and learn to get the message about fire safety.

At one point, St. Clair asks what number to call in case of an emergency. The gym full of first and second-graders shouts out "9-1-1" in unison.

"This is great," said Kenbrook principal Peggy McKinley. "They make it easy for the kids to remember about fire safety. The kids then take it home to their parents."

LA Mike Garr, fire prevention specialist with the department, adds his voice for Gadget's pratfalls by questioning the clown's prowess as an inventor.

"This watch you gave me is a real conversation piece," said the uniformed Garr. "Everytime I want to know what time it is, I have to ask someone."

As the show unfolds, Gadget's inventions do as well. Tinker responds several times during the performance by "brooding" Gadget with a carbon dioxide extinguisher, much to the delight of the audience.

"Gadget, who is 'mechanically minded,' has little success with his

See CLOWN, 8A

Knollenberg adjusts, ready for more

BY GREG KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Joe Knollenberg was no stranger to Washington, D.C., even before he was elected to represent the 11th District two years ago.

Active in the Republican Party for years, he ran for the U.S. House of Representatives when former Congressman William Broomfield retired in 1992.

Knollenberg won and the Allstate Insurance Company office owner and Bloomfield Hills resident began a whole new career at age 58.

"Essentially, the first two years

have been a dramatic change," Knollenberg said Tuesday, speaking from a classroom in the Capitol Building. He was between votes and had to stay near the House floor.

"It was difficult to adjust," he said. "No one can tell you what it would be like."

But he and his family feel comfortable with the transition, Knollenberg said. So much so that he is seeking a second term and will face Democrat

Mike Breshgold in the Nov. 8 general election.

Knollenberg represents the 11th District, which stretches from Highland Township to Redford and from Bloomfield Township to South Lyon. It includes Southfield, Farmington Hills, Livonia and West Bloomfield Township.

It's been a busy two years, he said. "I've never worked harder in my life."

Knollenberg said he is most proud of keeping his campaign promise to reduce government spending — he

See KNOLENBERG, 8A



Joe Knollenberg

City officials hope voters make it won for roads tax

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

The way it is presented, the city of Farmington's Road Improvement Plan is akin to what a waiting cab is to a distressed princess after midnight.

How could she refuse?

Farmington residents will be asked to approve a 1.5-mill levy Nov. 8 to pay for rebuilding of city roads during the next 25 years. Besides, any money city

officials say.

If passed, the plan will eliminate special assessments on roads for homeowners and save the city \$12 million.

An emergency fund will be established to handle unforeseen repairs. And, city officials note, quality roads maintain property values.

Officials are also aware how disgruntled taxpayers can turn a chariot of a plan into a pumpkin.

"That was our major concern is we know nobody wants to pay more money," said City Manager Frank Lombardi. "That's why it was so important we got a chance to explain it to people."

"If people understand it, most people will agree with it."

See ROAD, 4A