

# Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

**TODAY**

**Talk about gangs:** Quit glorifying crime was one idea presented to a Farmington Hills audience by a "reformed" gang member. /2A

**They're on board:** The Farmington Hills City Council has made the annual appointments and reappointments to terms on boards and commissions. /2A

**Mind over matter:** Odyssey of the Mind participants need little parental guidance, only their imaginations. /3A

**Here comes the judge:** Well-known artist and Farmington Hills resident Edee Joppich will judge the 10th-annual Art Competition for High School Artists. /6A

**OPINION**

**Letters aplenty:** The upcoming Oakland Community College millage vote is the topic of discussion on the Observer's Letters Page. /8A

**TASTE**

**Irish family favorites:** Families share favorite recipes from the Emerald Isle. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a taste of Ireland. /1B

**MALLS & MAINSTREETS**

**Spring cleaning:** Tips from the pros on getting organized and ending clutter. /4B



**Behind The Label:** Meet sportswear designer Dana Buchman whose trademark is sophisticated detailing and good fit. /4B

**SPORTS**

**Volleyball:** Mercy High School reached the final of the regional tournament Friday but lost to rival Livonia Ladywood again. /1C

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## Teen service plan posed



**Initial reaction is mixed to a North Farmington High proposal that would require students to do community service work.**

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Charity could start in the classroom if a North Farmington High proposal becomes reality. A community service program would require students to do volunteer work to graduate. The program

would begin in the 1996-97 school year.

Students who are now sophomores would have to complete 30 hours of community service. The next year the requirement jumps to 40 hours.

Teachers pitched the idea to students Friday. Some were enthusias-

tic. Others were ready to give — their opinions.

"I don't think students are going to like the idea just because of the reaction of the class," said North sophomore Laura Rapoport. "They are saying they're going to make this mandatory."

Rapoport said she is interested in working in a hospital or for the Humane Society.

"I didn't want to do that until I was ready, and when I wanted to," she said. "Now it's something else on my

See SERVICE, 5A



Deborah Clarke

## Hills girl takes a world view



SHARON LEIMBOLD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**No presents, please:** Julie Kaplan wants her friends and family to give to worthy charities instead of buying her birthday gifts. She turned 9 on Thursday.

## 9-year-old's birthday wish: Make others happy

BY SUE SUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Julie Kaplan turned 9 years old last week. Like many girls her age, she had a wish list.

But Julie's was different. She wanted no gifts.

"I wish that people that are less fortunate than me have what they need and at least some of what they want," Julie said in her invitation to

13 girls in her third grade at Forest Elementary School in Farmington Hills.

"Also, I wish for world peace. I know that these wishes cannot truly be granted. But, for my birthday, I would like the money that people would spend on toys and clothes for me on my birthday gifts to go to charities."

"I have realized that there are

many people and things that need my help and that I am very lucky. I appreciate you trying to help grant my wishes. Thank You!"

The message brought tears to Sheri Miller's eyes when her daughter, Brook, received the invitation for the March 12 party at Michael's Arts and Crafts in Farmington Hills.

"It's such a wonderful thing for a

little girl to do," Miller said. "I know I had to call the newspaper. You pick up newspapers these days and read about such terrible things. This girl will definitely make her mark on the world."

Robert Kaplan, Julie's father, was equally surprised by Julie's generous act. She hadn't discussed it

See BIRTHDAY, 5A

## Voters to decide 1-mill tax hike request Thursday

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington-area voters Thursday will help decide the fate of a 1-mill property tax request in the Oakland Community College district.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Farmington-area school voting precincts.

A light turnout is expected to help OCC, which has concentrated on contacting former students rather than conducting a media campaign. OCC has "built up a lot of goodwill

with its students," said George Cartsonis, college information officer.

"We count 312,000 who have enrolled since the college was founded in 1964, and 180,000 still live in Oakland County. They're our primary target group."

Phone bank volunteers have canvassed former students. That effort was led by George Mosher, chair of the Community Alliance for Oak-

**OCC**

land's Future. A Birmingham resident who practices law in Southfield, Mosher chaired the elected OCC Board of Trustees from 1964-70.

A student group headed by Kelly Masters has conducted a voter registration drive. Rod Chasa, math professor and president of the OCC Faculty Association, has enlisted union support.

Politically, OCC's request is endorsed by County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, former Oakland Republican chair Jim Alexander of

Farmington Hills, and former county Democratic chair Don Tucker of Birmingham.

OCC currently levies 0.85 mill. Voters in 1964 approved 1 mill for operations, but that has been whittled down since 1978 by the Hodree tax limitation amendment.

The highest levy in OCC's history was 1979 — 1.7 mills. That included the voted mill for operations plus 0.7 non-voted to pay off construction

See OCC, 5A

**Hear ye! Hear ye!**

A state hearing on revising Michigan's no-fault divorce laws, co-sponsored by state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, will be Monday, March 13, in the city council chambers of the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

The hearing's other sponsor is state Rep. Jessie Dalman, R-Holland, has introduced House Bill 4432, which would eliminate no-fault divorce where a couple has children or when one spouse objects. In those cases, the partner seeking a divorce would have to prove fault.

Dalman, vice chair of the House Judiciary Committee and chair of a subcommittee on divorce and friend of the court issues, has scheduled five hearings in cities throughout the state.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

The hearings are open to the public. For more information, call Dalman at 1-800-370-0830.

**A better future**

The Rev. James R. Lyons, director of the Ecumenical Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies, will speak on "Overcoming the Past for a Better Future" at 8 a.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the Farmington Training/Conference Center, 33000 Thomas St.

Lyons will examine four ideas from the past that inflict people and suggest ways to overcome them. He also will address how labeling and clas-

sifying people can be avoided.

The event is sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council, which hosts monthly forums at the Training Center.

Farmington-area clergy will be featured in the April 11 event.

**About cellular towers**

Debra Howe will discuss possible health risks from electromagnetic fields related to cellular towers and antennas at a meeting of the Council of Homeowner Associations of Farmington Hills at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the Hills branch of the Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

See FOCUS, 5A