

# Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

**TODAY**

**Top clerk:** The state's top city clerk happens to work at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. /2A

**Extended summer:** Farmington schools will operate a district-wide summer extended learning program for 160 kids. /7A

**Telling all:** The son of a former Farmington School Board trustee is busy sharing his knowledge of persons who may be connected with the Oklahoma bombing. /9A

**COMMUNITY LIFE**

**Maxes out:** Roy Lindhardt of Farmington Hills has pulled out his collection of Peter Max posters just in time for a benefit. /11A

**War story:** Farmington Hills' Russell Hines, this week's guest columnist, was captured by the Germans in World War II. /11A

**OPINION**

**Local Earth Day(s):** Some worthwhile activities are coming up at the Farmington area Earth Day April 29-30. /16A

**Stamp of approval:** Our public schools probably will survive even the state's "fully accredited" list. /16A

**LET'S GO!**

**Here's what's hot!** Sizzling Latin jazz duo, vocalist Heidi Hepler, and guitarist Michele Ramo, is hot! /1B

**Pass the popcorn:** John Monaghan reviews "Kiss of Death," which stars David Caruso. /6B



Observer carriers collect the last week of the month for that current month. A good portion of the carrier's profit comes from their collections.

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He has an eye for rare stamps



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRADLEY L. MELTZER

At Hills store: Stamp dealer Karl Schaefer (above) says the Disney stamps, shown below in what's known as a "souvenir sheet," are issued by the Commonwealth of Dominica to get children interested in collecting.

## Hobby wins stamp of approval

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

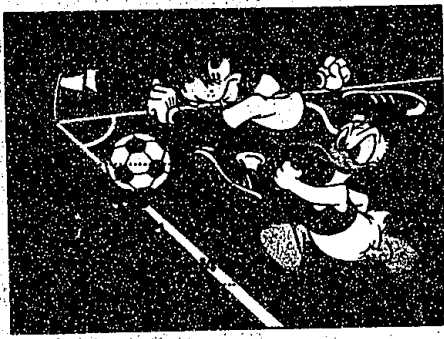
History, geography, politics, sports and just about any other subject you can name are what Karl Schaefer deals in, on something small that travels well.

For 35 of his 65 years, Schaefer has collected stamps. At his America's Stamp Shop on Orchard Lake in Farmington, Schaefer sells and buys stamps from all over the world to collectors of all ages.

"We carry the world," he quips. "Stamp collecting has been one great joy for me."

The father of four and grandfather of four includes his wife Rheta's paintings of famous stamps (and a made-up version with his likeness) on the walls. And in case you were interested in coinia, Pete Nollo displays a wide variety of metal goods

See STAMPS, 8A



## 2 schools make grade, others on hold

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Two Farmington Public Schools have the state's stamp of approval, but the ink is not far from spilling on others.

The state has granted summary accreditation to Hillside Elementary and Highmeadow Common Campus Schools. Improvements, facilities and curriculum are considered, but scores on the Michigan Education Assessment Program are a determining factor.

MEAP scores had to be 68 percent or above for two of the past three years in language arts, science and math.

Brookview, Flanders, Wood Creek,

Wooddale, and Eagle elementaries are a year away from the mark. So, too, is O.E. Dunkel on the middle school level.

Subpar math scores — which reflect a state trend — trip up the three high schools.

Aside from the Hillside and Highmeadow, remaining Farmington schools are on interim accreditation status. No school was placed on the unaccredited-pending list.

Only 145 elementary schools — 3 percent — made the grade statewide. Hillside was one of them.

That made Principal Richard Rutter and parents particularly happy. It's been a rough year.

Some parents were critical of this

year's MEAP reading scores. Also, a teacher inadvertently compromised a language portion of the Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills by giving some of the questions to students before the exam.

"I think it was a wonderful reaffirmation for the staff and the parents who work so hard there," said Ariene Johnson, a parent and a member of Hillside's school improvement committee.

"It couldn't have come at a better time. The staff and the parents needed a little bit of positive news."

Added Rutter, who is retiring in June, "I think it indicates we're on the right track."

Fourth-, seventh- and 10th-graders

are tested in language arts and math. Fifth-, eighth- and 11th-graders are tested in science.

Percentage of Hillside students who scored satisfactory in this year's MEAP include: 56 percent in language arts; 82 percent in math, and 95.2 percent in science.

In 1993, 63.5 percent scored satisfactory in language arts; 80.2 percent in math, and 91 percent in science. In 1992, 61.3 percent scored satisfactory in language arts, 73.5 percent in math, and 83.3 percent.

Those between 51 to 65 percent in one area can still be accredited if the school complies with Public Act 25,

See SCHOOLS, 8A

## Council OK's SMART vote

Farmington Hills voters will help decide the fate of SMART, the suburban bus system, when they go to the polls for a special election June 6.

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER



The Farmington Hills City Council could have done nothing and a proposed tax increase to support the SMART bus system would still have been put before Hills residents for a June 6 vote.

The council, after hearing from residents and the two county commissioners who represent the city, made a statement that they wanted city residents to have a chance to decide the issue.

"I think it's very important that there is an affirmative vote to put it on the ballot," said Jane Hooper, a SMART bus rider and Hills resident. "Doing nothing sounds like you really don't care."

In fact, doing nothing would have accomplished the same result as voting to put the issue on the ballot. Oakland County will pay for the election.

The council could have voted to sever ties with the bus system, as several other communities have. That would have meant Hills voters could not help decide the issue, and if the .33-mill increase passed in June, they would have lost the service.

The meeting discussion turned in part to whether the council endorses the controversial plan. On that score, there were differences of opinion.

"I think this is an issue on which the residents should have an opportunity to vote," said Councilman Larry Lichtman. "The issue is not one of (the council) evaluating SMART."

County Commissioner Donn Wolf, who opposes the SMART "ballout," said he supports leaving the decision to voters.

"It's time the county and residents take the reins of this horse," Wolf said, "whether it passes or not."

Wolf, who represents Farmington and southern Farmington Hills in the 18th District, and 19th District Commissioner David Moffitt complained that the lack of efficiency of SMART, leading to the "March disaster" when the SMART board called for the tax support, will continue if allowed to operate as is.

"The money is being given to SMART without our ever being able to negotiate a better (transportation) service," Moffitt said. "We (county commissioners) never had an opportunity to tell them that we wanted to run the system a certain way and hold their feet to the fire."

Moffitt added that no one on the commission opposes public transportation, just the way SMART operates. He said with a "political 900-pound gorilla (Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson who supports the increase)," the county should have more say in how it's run.

See SMART, 2A