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IN THE PAPER TODAY

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Sprouting wings: Butterflies were the subject of interest to some Farmington Hills senior citizens. /3A

OPINION

Enjoy — and survive: Can it be July already? The Farmington Founders Festival takes place next week. /8A

Letter rip! Farmington Observer readers were most generous with their opinions. /8A

Bill does Gotham: Observer reporter Bill Coutant took a bite of the Big Apple — or was it the other way around? — during a recent vacation. /9A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Sad fact: A new baby brings diapers, bottles . . . and sometimes depression for mom. /11A

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SPORTS

Gold medalist: Farmington Hills businessman Sam Sheegan is a member of the national champion Senior Olympic volleyball team. /1C

Softball star: Former Clarenceville High standout Rhonda Saunders was chosen to represent the Midwest college all-stars. /1C

AT HOME

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Residents roll with bike path



A bike path planned for the side of Farmington Road once was cursed by residents who lived nearby. But the downsized project seems to have quieted critics.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Residents living on the east side of Farmington Road from 10 Mile to Heritage Park seem to like the compromise solution to a controversial bike path.

That will also connect the Farmington area's parks. And although most of it is being paid for with federal transportation money, several residents had been concerned that the road would spoil the country-like atmosphere of their neighborhood. The city delayed building the side-

walk while a compromise could be worked out. After several seasons with residents, a plan emerged that made the path a standard 6 feet wide — instead of 8 feet — and moved the path closer to the road. "We're going to have to live with it," said Farmington Road resident Tom Allen. "I have to be a little more careful when I pull out of my driveway." Allen, along with others, opposed the plan originally, but agreed that the city had made a concerted effort to change the original plan. Neighbor Jan Sutcliffe agreed.

"We met with (City Manager) Bill Costick," she said. "He really followed through, and the city was willing to make some compromise. Once that was done, I really didn't object to the path. I'll be one of the people Roller Blading and jogging on it." City Engineer Skip Otwell credited the contractor, LaRocca Construction of Livonia, with doing a good job — and quickly. "They were in there and out of there in short order," Otwell said. The sidewalk includes two

See PATH, 2A

Summer fun at the Civic



Voicing a message: Ventriloquist Richard Paul (his arm is visible at center) makes puppets out of Farmington-area groupings Jay Cummings (left) and Lenore Thorson.

Families hear voices during downtown series

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Downtown Farmington Summer Fun Series is ideal for those who don't mind being overwhelmed by a little "double talk" now and then. The Wednesday program for children features music, magic, storytelling and craft making. Voices carried at the June 26 installment,

which starred ventriloquist Richard Paul. The series takes a week off for the Founders Festival, but returns July 19. Kids will be able to paint plaster masterpieces under the tent on Grand River east of Farmington Road. Guy Lewis' "Chauteauque Express" appears July 26 and Magician Doug Shear is scheduled Aug. 9

at the Civic. A petting zoo is planned for Aug. 2 under the tent. On July 19, there is a \$3 materials charge. Otherwise, series events are free. "It brings mothers with children, and it brings fathers with children," said Debbie Grant of Colman & Grant, which promotes the series for the Downtown Development Authority.

Or, as the stage performer Paul noticed, "I saw one couple that didn't have any kids around. They came to just enjoy the show." Paul will have a few more adults in the audience Friday, July 21, when he performs as part of the DDA's Evening Concert Series. Free shows take place 7:30 p.m. under the

See VOICES, 5A

Workshop introduces girls to career choices

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

If not brighter, the future for 13 Farmington middle school girls has at least taken on a different hue. For instance, O.E. Dunchel seventh-grader Stefanie Allen is already talking about becoming an interpreter, possibly learning Japanese. A gender equity workshop, "Nurturing Tradition — Fostering Change," was designed to encourage Allen and others to ponder their edu-

cational and career paths. They studied accomplishments of women — past and present — did science experiments, and took field trips. Farmington Public Schools — through an Oakland Schools gender equity grant — sponsored the workshop at O.E. Dunchel Middle School June 26-29. "It taught me how to be independent," said Allen, 13. "We looked at different jobs and what classes you need to take." Added Power seventh grader Sarah

Goetke who wants to become a teacher: "I learned more about women, and who invented what." The workshop was for those who may be good students but are somewhat reserved in the classroom. Teachers submitted 150 names of potential candidates, which was whittled to 13. Participants also received a dose of math and science, an area studies indicate where girls need encouragement. "What we wanted this to be is a

launch pad for the girls to have involvement," said Mary Beth Sikora, a career development counselor for Farmington schools. "The skills we worked on were so varied. We wanted the girls to know there are so many areas where they can reach their potential." Students did an interest survey and designed their own city using a computer program. Through research, students learned

See CAREER, 4A

Masonic Temple barbecue

One of the first Farmington Founders Festival events will be a chicken barbecue to be held noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 9, at Farmington's Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington Road. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4.50 for children under 12. Other events at the Masonic Temple during festival week are:
 ■ Crafters Corner 9 a.m. to dusk Thursday-Saturday, July 13-15, outside the Temple.
 ■ A chicken dinner 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 13, sponsored by the White Shrine of Jerusalem. Cost: \$7 for adults and \$4.50 for children under 12.
 ■ A Swiss steak dinner 5-7 p.m. Friday, July 14, sponsored by the Order of Eastern Star. Cost: \$7 for adults and \$4.50 for children under 12.
 ■ A bake sale beginning at 9 a.m. Friday, July 14.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

- A soup and salad bar noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 15, also sponsored by the Order of the Eastern Star. Cost: \$4 for adults, \$3 for children under 12.
- A farm breakfast 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, July 16, sponsored by the White Shrine of Jerusalem. Cost: \$4 for adults, \$2.50 for children under 12.
- Ox roast at the Elks
 The Farmington Elks Ox Roast, a satellite event of the Founders Festival, will be 11:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, July 13-15, at the Elks Club, 23666 Orchard Lake Road, south of 10 Mile. Food and entertainment will be featured.

Memory Lane

From the July 7, 1955, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:
 "Cars, cars and more cars lined Grand River throughout most of the long Fourth of July week-end as city dwellers headed for the lakes to escape the record breaking heat wave," said the caption under a photo of a traffic jam on Farmington's main street.
 Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address is: packy@comonline.com.