


Arthritis Today
Joseph J. Weiss, M.D. Rheumatology
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (810) 478-7860



UPDATE ON METHOTREXATE
The basic line of defense against inflammation in rheumatoid arthritis are the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. When drugs from this category fail to control pain and swelling, your physician adds a medication from the category of disease modifying drugs.
Administered once a week, methotrexate is the most commonly used disease modifying drug. It is representative of the disease modifying group. Investigations over the last 15 years indicate that methotrexate may be the best drug for this disease modifying therapy.
When methotrexate has been used for 12 weeks, it has been shown that the medication would slow cartilage loss. Evidence indicates the possibility a 50% reduction in the loss of cartilage. However, the toxicity of methotrexate is a concern. The drug can cause a weakening of lung tissue, making the transfer of oxygen from the blood stream to the lungs and kidneys. Methotrexate can cause liver damage, blood, testes, and rarely increase the risk of cancer. The main goal is to reduce the active inflammation. It is the ability to control the inflammation in conjunction with a nonsteroidal drug, that the use of methotrexate is so successful. There are many other effects.

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Shovel time: Alex Wiczorek of Statewide Excavating of Wixom is creating storm drains at Farmington High. All three Farmington high schools are undergoing extensive renovations, which include creating additional classroom space.

School work: Like beat the clock

**BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER**

When it comes to school building projects, the month of August becomes more like an hour glass.

Farmington Public Schools officials will have their finished before the sand runs out, said Don Cowan, director of kindergarten through grade 12 instruction. School starts Aug. 29.

The largest undertaking has been ongoing renovations at the three high schools.

North Farmington is receiving a facility, which includes facade and window improvements. Classroom additions and office renovations are also included.

Media center renovations will be completed by late September.

"When it's finished, it's going to look fantastic," North Farmington High principal Deb Clarke said. "In terms of square footage, our media center was smaller than in our elementary schools."

Also, extensive work is being done to the school cafeteria. A

majority is expected to be finished by the time school starts.

Sandwiches might be served initially because of a shipping delay involving oven hoods.

Otherwise, everything is on schedule. Improvements at Farmington High and Harrison High include three additional classrooms and expanded cafeterias at each school.

High school renovations were approved by the Farmington Board of Education last year. Many district buildings are 30 years or more older.

"We've been doing this piecemeal over the years out of our general budget," Cowan said. "You can keep up with things, but you can't do everything you would like."

Work being completed at other schools includes painting and ceiling tile replacement at Cloverdale Training Center. "That was a big undertaking because we had to move the whole (special education) program over to Hillsdale," Cowan said.



Hip and tuck: North Farmington High is receiving a new facade as well as an expanded cafeteria and media center. The school was built in 1961.

Roofing repairs are taking place at Farmington Training Center and 10 Mills School.

Larkshire Elementary's media center is also having a new roof-top air conditioner being installed and Forest Elementary is receiving new corridor lighting.

Of the 23 paving projects under way, Cowan said 18 are already completed.

**Dentistry
in the 90s**

by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.

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