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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Precinct power: The Farmington-area's precinct delegates may not be household names, but they take their duties seriously. /A2

Traffic man: Dan Blose, a Farmington Hills auxiliary police officer, was honored by the city for his efforts. /A4

On the lookout: Farmington Hills police are looking for a man who has shone an abnormal interest in children. /A4

School hopefuls: Candidates for the Clarenceville and Walled Lake boards of education are profiled. Both school districts include parts of Farmington

OPINION

Letter rip: A full page of letters to the editor is offered in today's Observer. Many letters are about the upcoming elections. /A3

TASTE

Sumptuous steak: Stake-out your options for Father's Day, or to celebrate June, which is National Beef Steak Month. /B1

SPORTS

Prep playoffs: Championships in high school baseball and softball were decided Saturday at Farmington sites. /C1

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Voters to settle Senate race



BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

After a late start, the lone debate between Republican Willis Bullard and Democrat Barry Brickner found the state senate candidates agreeing on many issues.

Bullard, the 38th District state representative, and Brickner, a Farmington Hills planning commis-

sioner, are their party's respective candidates in Tuesday's special election. The winner will take office immediately, replacing David Honigman, who resigned due to health problems.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday in the 15th State Senate District, which includes West Bloomfield Township, Farmington Hills, Farmington and several

municipalities to the west.

The debate, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners, had been scheduled for Wednesday evening. Bullard apologized for arriving almost an hour late, saying he had to stay at the capitol to vote on some issues.

Brickner opened by saying district residents thought Lansing had short-changed them.

"There is a growing feeling that portions of this district have been ignored," said Brickner, adding that the county has received much less than what it has contributed in taxes. "We need a voice in Lansing,"

not a voice from Lansing."

Bullard, a 14-year representative, agreed that the district was not getting its fair share.

"We do not receive adequate tax dollars back from the state of Michigan," Bullard said. "We are going to change revenue sharing, for the better."

"If elected, I could hit the ground running and be an effective senator," he said.

Brickner said voters ought to elect him instead, given that the representative had not been effective in

See SENATE, A2

A head above



Marriage counselor James Wagner of Farmington Hills carries her 15-month-old daughter, Stephanie, as she holds a grip on a half-eaten apple. The two enjoyed 70-degree weather Thursday along with Wagner's other child, 4-year-old Zachary.



Joe Svoke

Svoke: Term 2 in view

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Joe Svoke started as a school board watcher. For the past four years, it has been his turn to be watched.

In his first term on the Farmington School Board, education spectators have seen Svoke deal with crisis, loud success, and in one particularly sentimental moment, recite poetry to an outgoing superintendent.

SCHOOL RACE

Most of all, they've seen a trustee whose faith in public education remains strong.

"There's a lot of things being done that we can be very proud of," said Svoke, 52, "and we need to make those issues known."

Svoke is seeking reelection. He is one of four candidates vying for two open seats on the board in the June 10 election.

He touted the district at every turn.

Outstanding student performance in Odyssey of the Mind, TEAMS; quiz and science bowls never goes unnoticed by the Farmington Hills

See SVOKE, A2

More than 800 'waste' day with dangerous trash

Cold, wet weather on Saturday, May 11, didn't stop 829 Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield residents from dropping off their household hazardous waste at the 47th District Court on 10 Mile.

The event was so popular that it opened half an hour before its scheduled 9 a.m. start because people were lined up and waiting.

"The first car arrived at 8 a.m., a full hour before we were supposed to open," said DPW Supervisor Walt Lay.

Of the 829 participants, 545 were Hills residents, 140 were from Farmington and 144 were from Southfield.

Participants didn't even have to get out of their cars. Technicians from Chemical Waste Management and Waste Management, dressed in protective clothing, removed the solvents, motor oil, pesticides and other wastes from the trunk.

When the day was done, more than 5,400 gallons of material were dropped off. According to Theresa DeLong, field service manager for Chemical Waste Management, most of the waste will be disposed of at federally approved locations in Illinois and Ohio.

"I am so proud of our residents," said Hills Mayor Aldo Vognozzi. "I have been to all of our collection days, and participation continues to be high."

Household Hazardous Waste Day is an annual event sponsored by the three cities. It is scheduled on the second Saturday in May each year.

School hopefuls harmonize on issues

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The first — and likely the only — candidate forum Wednesday at the Farmington Board of Education office was informational rather than confrontational.

Three of the four Farmington board hopefuls took part, answering questions on goals, spending, the sibling priority policy at Highmeadow and other school of choice, and gifted education. Candidate Monica Schultz was ill and could not attend. PTA spokesman Tom Glossop said.

Incumbent Joe Svoke and challengers Priscilla Brouillette, Ellen Bouchard and Schultz are campaigning for two open seats in the June 10 election.

"I'll be happy when 9:05 gets here," said Brouillette, expressing pre-debate jitters.

She was relieved well before then. Moderator Frank Benesh kept his promise to have things wrapped up by 8:30 p.m. so people could watch the Red Wings-Colorado Avalanche playoff game.

See ISSUES, 2A

Auto etching at AAA

A 10-minute stop at the Farmington Hills office of AAA Michigan this summer could save auto owners days of aggravation, headaches and inconvenience that come with having the second-most expensive item they'll ever buy stolen.

The Auto Club has joined with the Michigan Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) in the fight to stop rising theft by offering free vehicle window etching at the Farmington Hills branch, 38751 W. 12 Mile Road, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, June 7, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 8.

The service is available to everyone, weather permitting.

The etching program consists of acid-etching a miniature copy of the vehicle's identification (VIN) into the windshield, side window and rear

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window. The process does not harm the window or detract from the vehicle's appearance, AAA officials say.

In addition, stickers are placed in the corner of each front window side window, announcing to would-be thieves that the vehicle has been protected.

Youth center to open

Monday, June 17, is opening day for the Farmington Youth Activities' Summer Activities Center in William Grace Elementary School, 29040 Shilwasasco.

Hours will be 2:30-8 p.m. Monday-Friday through Aug. 9. The center serves young people 11-14 years of age who live in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

Activities include field trips to such attractions as wave pools, Four Bears Water Park, Tiger games, etc.

Registration will be at William Grace beginning June 17. A \$10 registration fee is due at that time, along with health insurance information and emergency phone numbers.

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: packy@online.com