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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Fall Fashion

Dear readers, the fashion gone to the dogs! See for yourself in *Eccentric*, the Eccentric's new fashion magazine, inside today's editions. *Eccentric* features the latest designs for fall, photographed locally with graduates of the Birmingham Dog Obedience School. It's awl-awf-fully good fun! I welcome your comments at (248) 901-2567.

Susan DeMaggio
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Fashion and Retail Editor

ENTERTAINMENT

Nigel Kennedy: After the *Entertainment* section went to press, Karen Nixon Lane, director of the Farmington Area Philharmonic, announced the Friday, Aug. 29, concert, featuring British violinist Nigel Kennedy, was canceled due to the death of Kennedy's stepfather. Ticket holders may take their tickets back to the point of purchase for a full refund, or call (248) 478-2075./E1

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Borders books its way into downtown site

Book and music superstore Borders Books will offer an abridged version when it opens a smaller book store in Farmington, replacing the closed Hit Or Miss store on Grand River.

The 3,750-square-foot space was leased to Borders recently, according to Frank Clappison of Center Holding Company, the partnership that owns that strip mall of stores including T J Maxx.

Although he didn't know all the details, Clappison said this new concept gives Borders smaller outlets around the area and "Farmington was a location they wanted."

"It's the right demographic," said Borders' Ron Staffieri, president of new business. "Farmington's a good area."

Staffieri said the new store, to be called Borders Outlet, is tentatively scheduled to open Friday, Oct. 10 or Saturday, Oct. 11. There will be about 30,000 books, discounted by as much as 75 percent, as well as videos and used compact discs. "There will be a lot of recognizable titles."

The Hit Or Miss store closed in March. "We were just lucky that we had a vacancy," Clappison said. "We wanted to hold out until we got either a national or a strong regional store."

Clappison was excited about the addition, into a strip that also includes Pier One, Dress Barn and Jo-Ann Fabrics.

"I think Borders is going to be — just the name Borders — is going to be just a real nice draw for Farmington," he said.

"It's a good location," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauff. "There's one on Orchard Lake Road (in Farmington Hills), but it's difficult to get to."

The addition of Borders is viewed as a key step in improving the downtown shopping district.

"This is very important for the downtown," Lauff said. "It signifies that this is a good place to be. It's a good market. A

Please see BORDERS, A6

They're back



STAFF PHOTOS BY DEBRIAN MITCHELL

At the corner: Fifth-grader Josh Amato conscientiously checks the route in his role as a safety squad member at Flanders Elementary on the first day of school, Tuesday.

Day 1 test: Teacher hired after parents' plea to principal



BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
It didn't take long for new William Grace Elementary School principal Katy Hill to correct her first problem of the

1997-98 school year. Pupils, many accompanied by their parents, made their way through crowded halls to their classroom assignments in time for the 12:02 p.m. start Tuesday. But within a half hour, the corridor outside Hill's office was filled with upset parents.

The reason for their disdain, aimed at the principal, was their discovery that enrollment in their children's third- and fourth-grade classes was over the limit.

One third-grade class had 31 students, more than the contracted maximum of 26 students. A fourth-grade class was two over the limit, at 29 students. A combination third-fourth

grade section included 26 students. "It's just the overcrowding," said parent Karen Bryson.

"It's not good for the kids." After approximately 10 minutes of continued inquiries from the concerned parents, Hill asked if she could answer any other questions.

"Welcome to William Grace," chimed in a parent, prompting some tension-cutting laughter. Hill promised the parents that she'd do what she could to correct the situation, and she made good on that promise almost immediately.

Almost as soon as the parents left the building, she talked to Donald Cowan, executive director of K-12 instruction and student services.

By late afternoon Tuesday, the



In the hall: Jacob Offerman, a second grader at Flanders Elementary, has his hands full with supplies and his backpack on Tuesday afternoon.

See related stories, Page A3

principal said a new teacher would be hired and on board as of Sept. 8.

"I'm sending a letter home tonight to the parents," Hill said. "We're going to have a new teacher to alleviate the overcrowding situation. Central office handled this situation expeditiously."

The hiring of another teacher will enable the school to fill two third-grade classes and two fourth-grade classes, eliminating the need for a combination class. The to-be-hired teacher's salary will be taken out of

Please see SCHOOLS, A3

Good's last days spent in pain

Attorney mum on Kevorkian's role in Hills woman's death

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER
About two weeks before she died, Janet Good was noncommittal about the pancreatic cancer threatening her life.

In 1995, she had been diagnosed with incurable cancer and given six months to live. Asked how she was coping, Good said, "So, so. That's a difficult question to answer."

There was a more definitive answer Tuesday. Janet Good — a friend and

supporter of assisted suicide advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian — died quietly in her Farmington Hills home.

"If we had our wishes," attorney Geoffrey N. Fieger told the media, "You would not have known about Janet Good's passing. It was a private, personal matter."

Fieger declined to say if Kevorkian was present at her death, even when reminded Good had told reporters she might seek Kevorkian's help in ending

her pain if and when the cancer became unbearable.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most painful diseases known to medicine, Fieger said. Good's final days were painful, he said, "any bending or stooping caused tremendous pain."

Good, 73, died of a disease "which was slowly... let me say this again, slowly — pulling the life out of her," Fieger said, "every moment was agony."

Please see GOOD, A6

Familiar names fill Hills ballot



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The mayor will stay mayor, but voters at least get to call the tune in the musical chairs for Farmington Hills City Council.

Four people — including three incumbents — filed petitions for three open seats in the city council election Nov. 4. Deadline to file was at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Incumbents Cheryl Oliverio, Jon Grant and Jerry Ellis will seek re-election while Olde Town activist Massie Kurzeja makes a second attempt to be elected to a seat on a government body she was previously appointed to serve.

Voters will decide who gets one of two four-year terms and one two-year term.

Aldo Vagnozzi will run unopposed for the two-year term as mayor. The long-time city councilman was the city's first directly-elected mayor in 1995, beating Paul Soverby. He'll be the second, too, barring an improbable write-in candidate winning.

"I never expected anyone to file against him," said Ellis, who is seeking his first full term. "He does a very good job. He's a good mayor."

Only one other person — who didn't bother giving a name — took out a petition for mayor. On the council side, only one-third of those with nominating petitions turned theirs in.

"I don't know if I'm surprised. I did think more than four would run since there were 12 petitions taken out," said Grant, who is seeking a third term. "As an incumbent, I hope it means the community is pleased with the job we are doing."

Oliverio echoed her colleagues' belief that there is community satisfaction, but that won't allow her to become complacent.

"I'll still do my door to door," said Oliverio, whose grassroots approach led her to be the top-vote getter in 1993. "I won't be able to do as much as I did before (because of work), but I still plan to go door to door on weekends."

This year's council race will also pit previous campaign foes. Last year, Ellis beat Kurzeja in a special election to fill the term vacated when Vagnozzi became mayor.

Kurzeja fired the first salvo, criticizing the council on how its handled development and density issues in a recently published letter in the Farmington Observer.

"There isn't much development left and I realize that," Kurzeja said. "I

Please see VOTE, A6



Goodbye: Janet Good of Farmington Hills posed for this photo in 1991.

Squeezee management

Customers of Metrobank in Farmington Hills today and tomorrow shouldn't be surprised to see the bank president/CEO standing at the drive-through at any of the four local branches.

Robert Heinrich and other managers will carry squirt bottles and squeegees to hand-wash customers' windshields as a way to celebrate 35 years of service on Aug. 28-29.

The customer appreciation event will also feature free popcorn, refreshments and giveaways.

Blood drive reminder

Hurry up and make an appointment if you want to donate blood in honor of Melissa Garr of Farmington. Make an appointment by calling 248-426-4400.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The blood drive is set from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, at the Farmington Hills Fire Department's new station, located on 11 Mile at Orchard Lake Road.

Dianne Risko of the American Red Cross said the reason people should try to sign up by today or tomorrow is for the Red Cross to better determine supplies, staffing and whether to set up a substation elsewhere if necessary.

Melissa, 16, remains in a coma at University of Michigan Medical Centers in Ann Arbor. She was injured July 23 when a heavy tree limb fell and struck her on the head.

Taking the stage

The Harrison High School Jazz Ensemble will bring its swinging sounds to the Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival this weekend.

Harrison's group will perform on the Hudson's Bop Shop Stage at 6:45 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31, as one of 24 Michigan high school bands chosen to join North America's largest free jazz festival. Featured performers include McCoy Tyner Big Band, Roomful of Blues, Geri Allen and The Mingus Big Band among 100 acts appearing on five stages at Detroit's Hart Plaza Aug. 28-Sept. 1.

Student performers will be adjudicated by the International Association of Jazz Educators, with awards presented on Labor Day.