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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

Crowning honor: Good deeds and a chance to hear the "I Have a Dream" speech mark the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday around Farmington. /A12

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Auto focus: A Farmington Hills man who helped pioneer the automobile advertising industry shares a collection of classic car photographs in a new book. /B1

## ENTERTAINMENT

New show: Oakland University presents "Our Town," and Randy Topper of Farmington Hills is featured in two one-act plays by Bertolt Brecht at Wayne State University's Studio Theatre. /E1

## REAL ESTATE

Starting out: What does it take to become a successful real estate agent? /F1

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## Prep hockey hits the ice in November

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Schools on Tuesday night entered the ice age.

Despite one dissenting vote, the school board voted to add a varsity hockey team for the 1998-99 season.

In what will be a "pay-to-play" system, 20 players will be pooled from the district's three high schools, Farmington, Harrison and North. After next season, the school board will decide whether to discontinue varsity hockey, maintain the status quo or expand the program to two or three teams.

"I'm sure a number of kids will be excited about the prospects of joining this team," said parent Dennis Patterson, a member of the Interscholastic Hockey Study Committee and a coach in the Farmington Hills Hockey Association. Still to be determined is a name for the collective team, not to mention uniform logo and color scheme. But those details will come later.

Patterson said he didn't anticipate any problem as far as student interest in joining the team was concerned. He noted that there are about 1,000 youths between ages 4-17 playing in the FHHA.

District Athletic Director Ronald Holland agreed that the Farmington-Farmington Hills area has long been a hotbed for hockey.

"This is going to make a lot of people very happy," Holland said. "Hockey's been a high-profile activity for our kids, for our when we didn't have our own hockey arena here (the Farmington Hills Ice Arena) and

Please see HOCKEY, A16

## 'Full-court press' on Compuware



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Compuware is considering Detroit, Plymouth, Novi and Southfield — as well as its current home Farmington Hills — as sites to expand its \$3 billion annual business.

A decision is not expected for another six months yet. A Compuware official

Farmington Hills city officials are trying to entice Compuware to keep its headquarters here, even though the firm is outgrowing its site on Northwestern Highway. One neighbor isn't happy living near the software giant.

said the computer software outfit has looked at two parcels of land in the Hills as a possible site for a new facility.

City officials are doing all they can to make Compuware stay in Farmington Hills. However, one neighbor is not minding the welcome wagon.

An Olde Franklin Towne subdivision

resident has made several complaints to Compuware and city officials over the company's recent expansion about the subdivision north of the Northwestern Highway location. He's threatened to take his grievances to the state Department of Environmental Quality.

"We have a neighbor who can't stand us being located next to his property," said Denise Knoblock, Compuware senior vice president. "We have planted a forest behind our building."

"We're certainly not going to make our decision (whether to expand in Farmington Hills) based on one person."

City officials — including City Manager Daniel Hobbs — are tackling the issue. A letter was sent to the resident and officials have visited the site, Hobbs said.

"There are three or four issues involved; Compuware is working on all of those issues and I think we're going to be satisfied with that," Hobbs said.

The matter puts city officials in the middle, especially when there is a chance of losing a major corporation.

"What's difficult in our business is we have to serve all our constituents,"

Please see COMPUWARE, A6

## Chain gang



Magic man: With an audience of more than 100 onlookers, magician David Sasha urges a close check of the chains and straightjacket around him by Farmington Hills residents Gene Bulka (left), Steve Anthony and Esstie Asher during the show Saturday at the Farmington Civic Theatre. The performance was one of the Winter Fun Series of shows aimed at families, running at 1 p.m. every Saturday through Feb. 14 at the Civic. They're sponsored by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMANN

## Vet offers strays new leash on life

Dogs, cats get second chance to find old home, new home

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

It's not really raining stray cats and dogs. But a sprinkling of lost animals is still winding up at A.G. Black Veterinary Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Right now, the occupancy rate is low at "Hotel Black," where strays are taken in and taken care of while permanent homes for the animals can be found.

There's Buster, a year-old playful, eager-to-please cross between a boxer and Labrador retriever. He routinely bounces back and forth between staff members in search of more attention and affection. And then, there are the official vet greeters, fluffy "mutt cats" named Fred and Chester, the latter welcoming visitors with a yawn and a stretch on the lobby chair.

According to the veterinarian, Dr. Archie Black, wayward cats and dogs arrive at the animal hospital in one of two ways: they are either caught and then brought in by the animal-loving members of the Farmington Pub-

lic Safety Department or dropped off by their former owners, who simply don't want to be bothered with the responsibilities of pet ownership anymore. An average of 70-80 animals are brought in annually to Black's.

"It's really needed," Black said, about the conscientious effort of officers. "If they weren't picked up, they'd be run over by a car. That's not the best way to go. The vast majority of them get a second chance."

### Feelings of disgust

About those inconvenienced pet owners who merely drop off cages by the front door, however, he shook his head in disgust.

Buster was found by Farmington Detective Scott Hermann in November, drifting around Shawawasee Park, perhaps after jumping his backyard fence. The park was also where German shepherd Ripley was rescued around Christmas. The puppy belongs to hospital receptionist Diana Goss and her husband,

Please see STRAYS, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Right at home: Chester, a "mutt cat," gets a cuddle with veterinarian Archie Black. The former stray was the first one brought to the office and he's become a permanent fixture.

## Drum roll, please

And here it is, the official new name of the historic Gov. Warner mansion on Grand River in downtown Farmington — "The Governor Warner Mansion ... Home of Farmington History."

That name was arrived upon during last week's session of the Farmington Historical Museum Development Committee, said member JoAnne McShane.

McShane, also on the Farmington City Council, said the two-part name will help people realize the mansion is more than a landmark home lived in by former Michigan Gov. Fred Warner.

"We were worried that, if we just said the 'Warner Mansion,' people might just think of it as just a nice old home," McShane said. "That (name) might not necessarily convey the history of Farmington."

The committee was formed last September and is

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

dedicated toward increasing public awareness of the mansion as well as expanding revenue-generating uses that will enable the museum to remain economically viable well into the 21st century.

### Valentine Pet Contest

The Farmington Area Community Women is looking for creative, adorable photographs of your pet.

The group's Valentine Pet Contest will award prize ribbons to the top three photos, with the first-place winner being printed in the Farmington Observer.

A \$5 entry fee will serve as a donation to Oakland

County Animal Control and checks should be made out to that nonprofit organization, which picks up and cares for stray pets. All photos are non-returnable and should be mailed, with your check, to FACW, P.O. Box 2762, Farmington Hills 48331. Photos must be received by Feb. 6.

### Driving for the goal line

Designated Drivers of Michigan Ltd., a firm that provides a way for folks to get their cars home safely, has been hired to help Super Bowl partygoers at Vladimir's Banquet Center in Farmington Hills.

Fans who overindulge in alcohol will get a ride home from a team of Designated Drivers, one who drives the partygoer's car and one who drives the firm's car.