MINGTON: MICHIGAN -72 PAGES THEO://observeraccentric.com

Plop, plop: The 2nd Annual Cow Plop is set for 2-5 p.m. at Harrison High School's Buller Football Field. You're invited.

MONDAY

Meet: The Farmington Hills City Council will meet in a study session at 7:30 p.m. at city hall, 31555 11 Mile. The meeting is open to the public.

Agenda: The Farmington City Council will honor longtime member Bill Hartsock during its meeting which begins at 8 p.m. at city hall, 23600 Liberty St.

TUESDAY

Schools: It's election day. Farmington Public Schools Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the administration building on Shiawassee.

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Absentee voters take care with their ballots

They have their reasons for preferring to yote absentee rather than head out to the precinets on election day.

It could be related to physical limitations, perhaps to avoid inclement weather or because adequate transportation isn't readily available.

Or, it might be not of a dislike for standing in line. Perhaps, some like the idea of studying political races and issues at home and making a relaxed but informed decision, without the hustle and bustle of a poll.

"It's my ago," said 78-year-old Loster London, a Farmington resident who has gone the absentee ballet route for about a decade. "And, I'm also lazy. I don't enjoy standing in line."

He has plenty of company. As of Thursday, 8,950 absentee voter ballets had been taken out in Farmington Hills for Tuesday's election. Another 1,250 requests had been taken out in Farmington Hills for Tuesday's election. Another 1,250 requests had been taken out in Farmington. Those num-

Please see ABSENTEE, A2



Ballot will be lengthy

By Larry O'Connor and Tim Smith Staff Writers

Voters plan to 'B' ready for election

day.

Proposal B - the assisted suicide measure - has prompted calls to the Farmington Hills City Clerk's from area churches and congregations, asking how to conduct voter registration drives and precine information.

Such interest in the proposal that has galvanized right to life and right to die advocates alike is expected to bring a large voter turnout Tuesday, a city clerk said. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

p.m.
The measure is one of three statewide proposals on the ballot. Voters will also chose the state's governor and attorney general while locally, a state Senate and House seat and two county commission terms are up for

county commission terms are up for grabs.

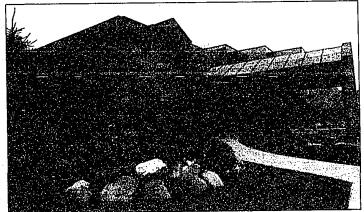
"It's kind of a lengthy ballot," said Kathy Dornan, Hills city clerk. "We tell vaters it's important to vote on both the front and back of the ballot.

"A lot of times when you say make sure to vote on both sides of the ballot, they're thinking left to right instead of front and back."

The ballot's buckside carries the non-partisan races as well as the three proposals. The front features partisan races, including the governor's battle between Republican incumbent John Engler and Democratic hopeful Geoffrey Fieger.

Republican John Smietanka goes

Please see BALLOT, A5



Winnor: The Amerisure Companies' building on Halsted, near I-696 captured the highest honor during the annual Farmington Hills Beautification Commission awards breakfast Thursday.

Amerisure nabs top honor

By LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER LOCDING PARK IN CONNOR

In this area, beauty begins with an "F" and ends with an "S" and it's not an answer in a Dan Quayle spelling her aither.

an answer in to the quarte spenning bee either.

On Thursday, Farmington Hills Beautification Commission held ite 12th annual breakfast to honor those who make the city such an eye-pleas-ing place to visit, work and live in.

The commission cited offices,

See related story, Page A6

See related story, Page A6
schools, apartments, condominiums,
subdivisions, shopping centers and
organization at the William Costick
Activities Center.
Plaques are given to those who
consistently and outstandingly
maintain their property while certificates recognized those whose
grounds are kept at a high level This
year, 78 plaques and 148 certificates
were awarded.

FARMINGTON HILLS **BEAUTIFICATION**

Amerisure Companies' building on Halsted near I-696 captured the top honor, the Farmington/Farmington

Luster hasn't faded on Cornucopia Ball

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER loconnorGoc.homecomm.net

In four years, the luster fades on the most expensive jewelry, but time only enhances the gleam on this area's

social gem.

Through the help of corporate, private and public contributors, the fourth

annual Cornucopia Ball Saturday, Nov. 5, appears to be heading for repeat suc-

cess.
This year, people could've thought of This year, people control ve monghet of the 50 more excuses not to contribute. Yet one reason continues to spark their generosity: children and families.

The key selling point prevails despite a \$50 increase from \$100 to \$150 for a

single contribution and \$300 a couple this year. Cornucopia organizers refrain from using the term "selling tickets." They prefer to say they accept donations.

The price increase is necessary to help pay for the myriad of after-school and support programs. The Cornucopia Ball raises money for the Foundation

next year.
The increase hasn't generated any negative impact. Attendance at the Nov. 5 event is expected to meet or exceed last year's gala. "There is no sellout because we have



Watching: Kathy Koperski attended space camp for teachers and brought knowledge back for her students at Forest Elementary. The kids watched John Glenn's return to space.

Blast off!

Students watch Glenn's historic ride

comm.net

■his was a television rerun not

Forest Elementary School pupils crowded the media center TV sereen Thursday to make sure they didn't. Enger and anxious, third-, fourth- and fifth-graders wanted to watch a part of history as American legend John Glenn, 77, and six astronauts headed for orbit inside the space shuttle Discovery.

astronauts heaced for orbit insue the space shuttle Discovery. Before the countdown and liftoff, from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., spacesuit-wearing teacher Kathy Koperski implored youngsters at the Farm-ington district school to keep quiet

and watch the spectacular event unfold on the Cable News Network. As soon as Discovery began its ascent, the students cheered and applauded.

"I wish I was there," said Koperski over the lingering buzz in the room. She is a fifth prace science teacher who, in 1997, participated in NASA's Space Camp for education program.

Koperski, a self-professed fan of America's space program, wore a light blue camp spacesuit during the launch, and so did fifth-grader Ari Grant, 10, who took part in the space camp this summer.

"It's good to see him go up." Ari said later. "It's amazing, how he can gu pinto space."

Parker tempers justice with compassion, authority

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER loconnor@co.homecomm.net

A bronzed shoe – with a hole in the bottom – sits on Judge Marla Parker's bookshelf as a reminder of her grueling door-to-door campaign six years ago. Don't expect the copper boot to have a mate anytime soon.

Parker is running unopposed for the 47th District Court judge in Tuesday's general election. Sho's quite happy about that.

Without her shoes scampering along the campaign trial, Parker has been able to put her sole energy into her work and family.

"It was a challenge for me to set a goal and to work toward it," said Parker, a former magistrate who defeated Jack McDonald in the 1992 race. (Ironically, Gov. John Engler later appointed McDonald as an Oakland County wonderful people and made so many wenderful people and made so many friends along the way, too. Sho's kept them, she said. Since being elected, Parker helped start pretrial conferences in civil cases. That's prevented many disputes from reaching the court docket, saving client time and attorney coats.

During her first six years, the jury



system has been overbauled. Instead of being on-call for a week, jurors serve on one trial or are in court only one

day.

Parker also holds court in the three
Farmington public high schools, another
campaign pledge she made. The visits provide students with an insight



Running: 47th District Judge Marla Parker is running unop-Please see PARKER, A3 posed for her judicial seat.