

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

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**Dying to be thin:** Miss Farmington hosts a forum on eating disorders and talks about her own battle with anorexia. /B1

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## Filtering: Been there, done that

By JONI HUBRED  
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A state Senate bill that would require public libraries to filter Internet access may seem a little behind the times to Farmington Community Library patrons.

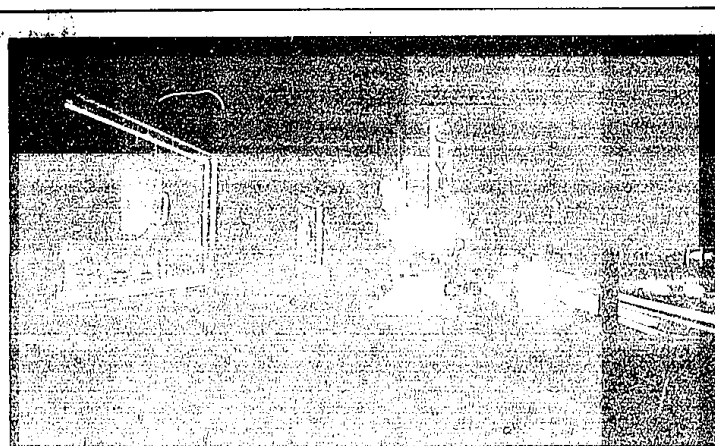
Senate Bill 936 amends a state law that allows libraries to install software that weeds out pornographic or obscene Web sites, so casual users won't find themselves accidentally navigating X-rated locations while searching for other information. Its purpose, according to sponsor Mike Rogers (R-Brighton), is primarily to protect children.

Local library board members struggled with this issue several years ago, said current Board President Bob Plummer.

"I think what we tried to do was to take into consideration children and adults," he said. "We'd just as soon adults don't access obscene Web sites, but we're aware of First Amendment issues... There's no reason why it shouldn't be filtered for children."

Privacy screens on unfiltered computers keep people who are casually strolling in the area from seeing anything another patron might be bringing onto the computer screen. Also, Plummer said, if librarians observe a pornographic or obscene Web site,

Please see FILTER, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEARLIZ

**Plans:** If all goes as planned by the co-owners, Cowley's on Grand River could become a two-story Irish pub that would include a casual dining atmosphere and some of the traditional charm of the Farmington landmark.

## Landmark

### Cowley's co-owners have dream for 'authentic' 1940s Irish pub

■ They have some hoops to jump through but the co-owners of Cowley's Old Village Inn hope to turn the restaurant/bar into a pub, perhaps with two stories. Parking will be an issue, as will the question of whether the building can physically hold two stories.

By TIM SMITH  
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Cowley's Old Village Inn co-owners Monday night dipped their toes into the giant green hoop they'll need to

jump completely through — that is, if they want to realize their dream transformation of the downtown Farmington landmark into an "authentic" Irish pub.

During the Farmington Planning

Commission meeting, Greg, Michael and Patrick Cowley presented their concept for a more upscale "Cheers-like" business, likely to be renamed John Cowley & Sons Irish Tavern.

Their vision — to cost an undetermined amount — includes adding a second story or deck, valet parking and a casual dining atmosphere while maintaining some of the traditional charm the 3,200-square-foot

Please see COWLEY'S, A7

## Project timetable splits city and DEQ

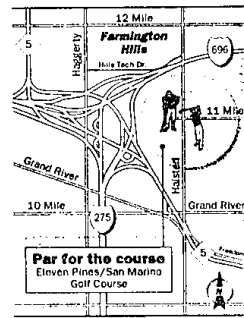
By JONI HUBRED  
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Farmington Hills city officials look at the 92 acres they own at the corner of 11 Mile and Halsted roads and see a brand-spanking new nine-hole golf course.

The state's Department of Environmental Quality sees a closed landfill on about a quarter of the property and worries about future environmental impacts, given the traces of contaminants found in the area.

And judging by the lack of attendance at Monday's public hearing to create a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority — which will allow the city to capture property tax dollars to pay for \$1.5 million in improvements on the

Please see PINES, A6



Par for the course  
Eleven Pines/San Marino  
Golf Course

## Richards withdraws from run for Novi job

By TIM SMITH  
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Bill Richards apparently decided the gain of becoming Novi City Manager wouldn't be worth the loss of leaving his personal and professional comfort zone.

And so Richards, the veteran Farmington assistant city manager, last week withdrew his candidacy for Novi's top job. He had been the only Michigan candidate among four finalists, and was scheduled for his next interview with Novi council members on Feb. 26.



Bill Richards

Richards is the acting city manager following the retirement of longtime city manager Ed Kriewall.

"It's not so much saying no to Novi as it is saying a continuing yes to Farm-

ington," emphasized Richards, who lives in Northville with his wife, Carolyn, daughter, Alison, 17, and son, Jeff, 13. "I very much value the relationship I have with the city council, my colleagues in the administration, the employees of Farmington and the people of Farmington."

"I ultimately decided that it's too important and too rare of an association to break up."

Richards said his decision was reached almost immediately after a lengthy family discussion on Wednesday, Feb. 9. The Novi finalist weighed

the benefits of enhanced job status and salary (he would have had a pay jump from \$67,000 to \$100,000) against the negatives: having less time for his family, "quasi-professional" consulting opportunities and other personal interests.

"I'm very decisive," Richards continued. "Once I make a decision I don't tap dance around it."

He did wish the remaining finalists well in their quest to succeed Kriewall. Those are Richard Helwig from Dublin,

Please see JOB, A4

## New Busch's grocery store comes to Farmington Hills

By JONI HUBRED  
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Prepare to have fun grocery shopping in Farmington Hills. Busch's Valu-Land has begun construction on a 45,000-square-foot store at the corner of Drake and Grand River roads. The building will be oriented toward Drake, in a diamond shape.

According to company spokesperson Peggy Conlin, the 24-hour grocery's atmosphere will be anything but boring.

"The interior design is going to be wonderful," she said. "We like the stores to be as fun as they can possibly be."

Conlin said chain owner John Busch works closely with professional designers and employees to create a different look for each building. Busch's operates 11 stores in Ypsilanti, Saline, Clinton, Tecumseh, Livonia, Plymouth and Ann Arbor, along with Walco stores in Dexter and Pinckney and a Spartan store in Carleton.

While each Busch's Valu-Land has the same, basic design — fresh foods wrapped around a core of grocery items — each also displays a unique character.

### ■ DRAKE/ GRAND RIVER

Muted colors and a bright, airy style acclimate Busch's at Six Mile and Newburgh in Livonia to its home in a contemporary, upscale shopping center. At the entrance, along with that week's advertising flyer, Busch's provides brochures with a detailed store map.

A horseshoe of deli, dairy, meats and produce at the store's perimeter begins with a small, airy cafe where customers can enjoy selections from a hot foods bar. Take-out meal trays, suitable for microwaving, range from the traditional, hearty meals of meatloaf, potatoes and vegetables to spicy Chinese fare like Cashew Chicken.

High ceilings enhance the store's expansive character, and the grocery shelves are well stocked with a wide variety of traditional and international foods and specialty items. Farmington Hills shoppers will see those same types of features in the new Busch's, slated to open in November, Conlin said.

Please see BUSCH'S, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEARLIZ

## Surveillance prevents armed robbery in Hills

By JONI HUBRED  
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When the television reporter to whom he'd sold a ring Saturday returned Wednesday morning with a camera at Howard's Discount Jewelry in Farmington Hills, store manager Hugh Hensley feared the worst.

"When he came in, I thought,

"What kind of trouble am I in now?" Hensley said Wednesday afternoon.

The last thing he expected to be asked was whether his store had been robbed. As Hensley talked to the reporter, Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer walked in and explained just how close the store had come to that fate.

Please see SUSPENSE, A6



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