

## AT HOME

Dear Readers:  
A redesigned At Home section makes its debut today in your Farmington Observer.  
Today's cover story on backyard ponds was written by At Home Editor Ken Abramczyk and features information from area residents and landscaping companies who specialize in pond installation/design and some tips for those handymen and women who want to build their own pond.

The new section is a broadsheet like the other sections in your HomeTown Observer. This means larger photographs and more local news about gardening, home decorating, home improvement and landscaping. Many features that our readers look forward to each week such as "The Appliance Doctor" and "Marketplace" continue.

At Home is designed for people who enjoy and care for their home, who like to entertain friends and family and who have hobbies such as gardening, cooking, home electronics, photography and decorating. The mission of At Home - with its color cover photographs and inviting design - is to help our readers enjoy the good life in their hometown.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Ken Abramczyk can be reached at (734) 953-2112 or kabramczyk@oe.hometown.net. I can be reached at (734) 953-2100 or by e-mail at srosiek@oe.hometown.net.

Susan Rosiek  
Susan Rosiek, Publisher

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

Tune up: Harrison High School graduates prepare for Sunday's commencement. / A9

## OPINION

Dogs: City ought to do more to welcome canines. / A12

## HOMETOWN LIFE

Never too late: Senior citizens enjoyed a prom of their own hosted by local high school students. / B1.

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—D.C.  
Farmington Hills

## INDEX

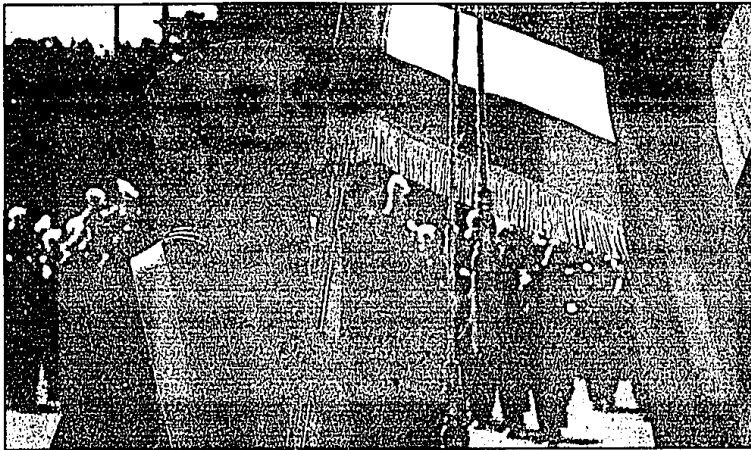
- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Apartments/H3    | HomeTown         |
| At Home/D        | Life/B1          |
| Automotive/14    | Jobs/H8          |
| Classified/F,Q,H | Obituaries/A6    |
| Classified       | Opinions/A12-13  |
| Index/G4         | Real Estate/F1   |
| Crossword/G5     | Service Guide/J1 |
| Entertainment/E1 | Sports/C1        |



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## In Remembrance



Carrying the colors: World War II Navy veteran Ira Wing carries the American flag down Grand River during Farmington's annual Memorial Day parade. The 50th anniversary of the Korean War was commemorated.

## Parade honors 'Forgotten War'

BY JONI HUBRED  
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For more than 120 veterans of what has become known as the "Forgotten War," this year's Farmington Memorial Day celebration will be a memorable one.

Korean War veteran Stanley Packard, a Farmington High graduate who earned the Silver Star citation for gallantry, had a little trouble fighting back the tears as hundreds of area residents

rose and applauded while the veterans rode and marched by in the parade down Grand River. This year's event focused on the war's 50th anniversary.

"You can't forget the guys who didn't come home," he said during a ceremony that followed. "And the guys who did come home sure appreciate everyone turning out for this ... All I know is, I'm proud of my service."

Event organizer Wally Christensen of the Farmington-based Walker Grove American Legion Post thought the crowd might have been down a little from previous years, but wasn't surprised by the ovation the veterans received.

"Farmington's that way," he said. Christensen urged those who attended to show their appreciation by shaking the hand of a war veteran or offering a hug. With a voice full of emotion, he spoke about the hundreds of veterans who live alone in care facilities and how touched they are by any show of appreciation for the service they gave to their country.

Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock said the war memorial near Grand River and Farmington Road stood as a tribute to the community's commitment to the armed services. A number of area families had made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, including some who lost two or three family members.



Flag day: Emily Hand is a Brownie at WoodCreek Elementary.



Here we go: Farmington Hills officers lead off the parade.

"I know we're all very proud to be in a community that still celebrates Memorial Day," Hartsock said.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates said the day was a time to be grateful for the freedoms Americans enjoy and to remember freedom is never free.

"Far too many service men and women have paid the ultimate price," she commented.

Wreaths honoring lives lost in four wars were laid at the memorial, including

Please see PARADE, A5

## Day to shine for medal-winning Korean War vet

BY JONI HUBRED  
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Robert Simanek has always been one of the quiet ones.

The 70-year-old Farmington Hills resident has lived the vast majority of his life outside the spotlight, despite the fact that he holds the country's highest award: a Congressional Medal of Honor. Simanek wore it proudly during Monday's Memorial Day festivities, because of the tribute being paid to Korean War veterans.

He believes veterans themselves may be partly to blame for the conflict being the "Forgotten War."

"We were the quiet ones, still in awe of the accomplishments of our older brothers and uncles in World War II," he said. "We took a quiet, sacred pride in our accomplishments in Korea."

Simanek would have every right to take pride in his service record. This is

Please see MEDAL, A5



Honored: Korean War veteran Robert Simanek earned the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary service.



Young American: Tyler Aho looks stylish in shades and a patriotic bandana.

## Uncontested board incumbents talk tough on issues

BY TIM SMITH  
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Both Priscilla Brouillette and Gary Sharp are guaranteed re-election in the Monday, June 12, Farmington Board of Education election. But the incumbents still took a strong stance on some tough issues, about everything from vouchers to parenting, during Thursday's school board candidate forum.

The candidates, running unopposed in the election, answered a set of four prepared questions from the event hosts, the Farmington Area Council PTA.

Following the taped portion they delved into some additional issues raised by the handful of audience members at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center.

Brouillette and Sharp first answered a question about how Farmington Public Schools might deal with vouchers should voters in November approve an amendment to the state constitution allowing them.

They answered the question with urgency in their voices.

"What we need to do as a community and as a state is to not even get there," said Brouillette, urging citizens to get

informed and defeat the proposal.

If the proposal is successful it would automatically mandate vouchers (of about \$2,500-\$3,700 per pupil) in districts that fail to graduate more than two-thirds of their high school students.

In other districts where graduation rates are not an issue, such as Farmington, it would enable the question of vouchers to be decided at local school board elections, provided at least 10 percent of the turnout the previous June sign petitions.

About first-year impact to the district, Brouillette, first elected in 1996,

said Farmington schools could lose 10 percent of its 12,000 students to private and parochial schools because of vouchers.

Of the 1,200 students projected to leave, half would be elementary school age and the remainder in middle and high schools.

### Local impact

Elementary schools could be closed entirely, to handle the reduction of elementary age students. But because the exiting secondary school students would be spread out over four middle

Please see FORUM, A5

## Varied events slate begins at Warner Mansion

BY TIM SMITH  
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There's something for everybody in the works this year at the Governor Warner Mansion, beginning with Saturday's spring tea on the veranda.

On the docket for upcoming events are everything from a gazebo concert to an optional Black tie event, "The Governors' Ball," which will feature a live

and strolling dinner. That's where guests will go from station to station on the plush grounds of the historic Grand River mansion once lived in by former Michigan Gov. Fred Warner.

Earlier this year, the Governor Warner Mansion Committee was established as an official city panel. Among its chief goals are to pump up community interest in the 133-year-old mansion and safeguard the heritage of the mansion and grounds.

Many kinds of events, designed to appeal to different segments of the community, are planned. The schedule of events actually began Sunday, May 7, when third graders from Hills Elementary School portrayed museum docents who led about 300 guests on a guided tour.

The variety of events, said Denise Tawney of the mansion committee, should benefit in a number of ways.

"It's to promote awareness of the mansion as a community asset and to

### SPRING TEA JUNE 3

open up the property to the community more," said Tawney, who is heading up mansion publicity efforts. "... It's to make them feel more comfortable on the grounds."

Some of the events, first and foremost, are fund-raisers. Tawney said, "But some aren't intended to be, and are just to promote a neighborhood

Please see WARNER, A6

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