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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

LOCAL NEWS

Winners: Who will lead OCC into the future? Election results. /A2

OPINIONS

Heartless: Neighbors are urged to come forward and provide information about the killing of raccoons in Farmington Hills. /A14

Columnist: Political analyst and veteran Lansing reporter Tim Skubick introduces his first column for the Observer. /A15

HOMETOWN LIFE

Side-by-side: In this school, parents and kids learn the martial arts side by side. /B1

ENTERTAINMENT

Dance: The Peter Sparling Dance Company ventures into a new arena at the Ann Arbor Summer Festival. /E1

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Write-in offers no competition

Incumbents Brouillette and Sharp re-elected

By TIM SMITH
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Voters — again — were few for a Farmington school election. But enough showed up Monday to easily re-elect incumbents Priscilla Brouillette and Gary Sharp to the board of education.

Brouillette and Sharp had been uncontested in the race for two four-year terms until Friday afternoon, when Farmington parent Melody Jaske

launched her write-in candidacy. But with just 1,335 (2.3 percent) of the district's 58,150 voters casting ballots, the incumbents breezed past Jaske — who only collected 242 votes, an estimated 10.5 percent of all votes cast.

Collecting 1,060 votes (46 percent) was Brouillette, who earned her second four-year term.

"I'm honored to serve another four years," Brouillette said, after the final results were tallied Monday night at



Out in front: Priscilla Brouillette slides her ballot into the drop box after placing her vote Monday.

Please see RACE, A7

On their way



Graduating: Class vice president and high honors graduate, Lauren Kleiman, keeps a camera ready to photograph friends as they walk out on to the main floor at the start of Farmington High School commencements at Compuware Sports Arena on June 4. For the story and more pictures, and a list of graduates, please turn to page A16.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARRETT

Families heart of new-look festival

By TIM SMITH
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Change is good, or so goes the old axiom. Organizers for the new-look, new-name founders festival next week will begin finding out if that applies to the Farmington Area Family Fest.

JUNE 22-24

As the name implies, family fun and participation are the major goals of the annual event, viewed as a showcase of downtown Farmington. But changes are being made that festival manager-promoter Mike Watts and others are hopeful will draw new people and slap on a new stamp of identity. At least 150,000 people are expected to stop by between Thursday, June 22, and Saturday, June 24. This year marks the first time the event is taking place in June, instead of following the July 4 holiday weekend.

"We're trying to make the event more

Please see FEST, A8

Hills water rates going up, sewer rates headed down

By JONI HUBRED
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What could have been a \$1.23-per-thousand-cubic-foot increase in Farmington Hills water rates has been lowered to 63 cents-per-thousand because of income from the city's water supply account.

Officials will consider the Oakland County Drain Commission's rate recommendation at their June 19 meeting, along with a proposal to lower sewer rates by 37 cents. City Manager Steve Brock received the recommendation May 16, which included a detailed explanation of the factors in play.

"It's not as simple as it might appear," Brock said.

The proposed water rate increase has several components, including a 35-cent, "pass through" increase from Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. The charge for the county's operation and maintenance of the city water system will also go up by 25 cents.

Another 46 cents will go toward the implementation of new motor reading technology.

"This increase is primarily due to our new Radio Read Meter Program that will be installed in the city limits of Farmington Hills within the next several years," said Deputy Drain Commissioner Douglas Buchholz.

The county will equip water meters

Please see RATES, A5



Heated race: Runners in the 10K race climb the first hill on a hot and steamy morning.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLEY

Muscular dystrophy Cops and friends run for kids

By JONI HUBRED
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The race wasn't fixed, Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer says.

Honest. Still, a team from the Hills Police Department took home a first-place trophy from the 11th Annual FHPD Cops for Kids 10K Run for Muscular Dystrophy Association, held at Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge

Campus Saturday. Officers Mike Meister, John Regorrah and Gary Brandemuhl and Sgt. Pat Monti and Gary Mailoux took top honors in the Class A division for police officers.

"It was a very successful event," Dwyer said. "We had runners from as far away as Canada."

Attendance was high this year, with 203 runners participating in the 10k and 5k events. Although it's not quite a

Please see RUN, A2