

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Lasting Love:** After 30 years, our Valentine couple is still going strong. In *Hometown Life* / C-5

**Aloha:** Farmington High students are preparing to take audiences on a trip to the "South Pacific" with performances beginning tonight. / A2

**Call for help:** Items needed by victims of the earthquake that recently struck India are being collected by two local schools. / A6

## OPINION

**Hartssock responds:** The Mayor of Farmington responds to critics who say the city hasn't listened to residents in the Oakland Street property rezoning. / A9.

## ARTS & LEISURE

**Dance:** Hubbard Street Dance Chicago brings their eclectic style of contemporary dance to the Power Center in Ann Arbor, Feb. 9-10. / B1.

**Dining:** Valentine's Day is just a heartbeat away, and it's time to find that perfect spot to wine and dine your sweetheart. Check out our list of romantic dining spots, which includes Marco's and Cafe Cortina. / B6

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# School board weighs boundary plan

By TIM SMITH  
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Passionate parents Tuesday night spoke out on both sides of a committee's recommendations to change elementary school boundaries in their section of Farmington Hills.

If the plan receives final school board approval, which could take place late this month, a number of students residing in Section 8 — between 12-13 Mile Roads west of Drake Road —

would attend a school much closer to home than their current school, Wood Creek Elementary.

One of the main reasons for redrawing the Section 8 boundaries is safety, as many parents who live in the targeted section stated during Tuesday's study session of the Farmington Board of Education. In particular, they do not like the commute on heavily-traveled 12 Mile Road, through the dangerous intersection at Orchard Lake Road. At the session, nearly 20 parents

spoke out about the pros and cons of the proposal. Students who live in subdivisions such as Barrington Green, Woodland Trails and Country Oaks now are bused approximately four miles to Wood Creek.

"I now have a first-grader at Wood Creek," said Kathy Macy. "He's happy at Wood Creek, and I'm happy at Wood Creek. But I'm not happy with the distance. I'm concerned that, if something happens to a child at Wood Creek, it would take longer (for a parent) to get

there."

Pearl Thomas said her child also loves Wood Creek. But he wants to stay.

"He loves Wood Creek, and to me, moving him would truly hurt him emotionally because he's established such a firm grip on that school," Thomas said. "... I hope and pray you take it under serious consideration before voting to pull children out of their comfort

Please see PLAN, A4

## Sailing Away to Success



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Explorers in education: Sailing away to adventures, Karen Quigley's fifth-grade class answers questions about early explorers.

## Teacher empowers class with unique style

This story continues our series following Highmeadow Common Campus teacher Karen Quigley during her first year as a faculty member.

By TIM SMITH  
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On the first day of the 2000-01 school year in late August, brand new Highmeadow Common Campus teacher Karen Quigley couldn't help but be amazed with how much her

fifth-grade pupils wanted to be involved in shaping classroom activities.

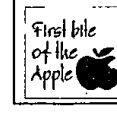
That amazement continues halfway through her debut year at the Farmington district school. Quigley remains in charge. But she happily gives her youngsters much room to navigate through curricular waters. Last week, for example, they studied all about great Spanish explorers from their perch inside the home-made classroom-sized boat "S.S. Quigley" — which swallowed up the usual learning environment.

With the "S.S. Quigley," their classroom became a boat, sailing for educational adventure. Students designed the vessel, parlaying a single sheet of brown construction paper into the exterior by unfolding it around the desks.

"That was the ultimate team-building activity," the teacher said. "Each student picked up a section (of paper) and walked it around."

Other highlights of the boat included: a foam-and-wood steering wheel, designed by the father of student, Murphy Thiel; paper plates with drawings of

Please see APPLE, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Information highway: Geri Fury created a Web-based community calendar.

## Council helps nonprofit groups

By MARY RODRIQUE  
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Ever wonder how to get information on local cable TV? Or maybe list your organization's upcoming charity event on a new, Web-based community calendar?

If you belong to one of the over 100 eligible nonprofit groups in the community, the Interagency Council of Farmington/Farmington Hills might be worth a closer look.

The group meets the fourth Thursday of every other month at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and a program in the downtown Farmington library.

"It's a way to help nonprofits network, to get publicity for their organization," said Joanne Maliszewski, Interagency chairwoman.

"Each meeting, we have different speakers who offer useful information."

Last week, Caren Collins, executive director of the Southwest-

ern Oakland Cable Commission, gave the group an overview of the newly approved cable franchise agreement.

Later, Geri Furi, assistant director of the library, demonstrated the new, web-based community calendar he spent the past year creating.

Currently, the council has 22 paid members, a number former chair Marilyn Smith would like

Please see INTERAGENCY, A2

## City disbands commission

By RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
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The Farmington Beautification Commission is dead, but the city council hopes to determine the cause of death and resurrect the nine-member body.

Actually, the cause of death was the City Council, which killed the commission by unanimous vote Monday after

Please see BEAUTY, A4

## Gill parents want to turn spirit into enrollment success

By TIM SMITH  
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The yellow sign at the entrance for Monday night's informational meeting and "safari" tour at Gill Elementary School read "SLOW — Children Crossing."

That message was an appropriate one for the program, given the fact the Gill Year-Round Education Program is at a crossroads. Without an influx of 40-to-60 stu-

dents for 2001-02, there is no guarantee the school of choice will continue. A decision is expected after a scheduled Wednesday, March 21 meeting with Superintendent Bob Masfield.

While Gill Principal Gayle Zimmerman led a general discussion with prospective program parents, children saw what there is to offer during the "Come and

Please see GILL, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

GRR: Hannah Keshishian, a third-grader at Gill Elementary, worked as a helper Monday night.

