

IN THE PAPER TODAY

ARTS

Spring thing: Like seeing the first robin, you know it's spring with the start of the arrival of the first outdoor art show this weekend. /B1

In training: The road to operatic stardom can include a stint in the Michigan Opera Theatre's Young Artist Apprentice Program. /B1

AT HOME

Snip, snip: After more than 50 years of training, Toshi Shimura is still studying the Japanese art form, Ikebana. /C1

HOMETOWN LIFE

Unusual gifts: For that favorite Mom with a penchant for the offbeat, there's plenty of gifts to give that are unusual, as well as unique. /C5

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PLYMOUTH
Large 1 bedroom upper,
separate entrance.....
.....rented flat to a couple from
Kansas City got off the web
(going to U of M).
E.S. Plymouth

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DDA approves Grand River move

■ The Farmington Downtown Development authority plans to move onto the city's main street later this year, partly in order to better the chances of getting a national grant.

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
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The Farmington Downtown Development Authority will have a new home this year, near the historic Civic The-

atro on Grand River.

Having a visible location at 33314 Grand River - on Farmington's main street - will go a long way to promote both the Farmington Downtown Development Authority and the City of Farmington, according to the board.

Members unanimously approved the move May 7, with Joyce Cornwell and Linda Batzloff absent. DDA President Ron Oglesby abstained, because his mother owns the property.

"We need to be more visible," said Judy Downey, Farmington DDA director.

The DDA is currently located in a lower level office at 33425 Grand River east of the Farmington Municipal Complex.

The DDA plans to again apply for the National Main Street program this year; it provides technical assistance to help develop central business districts. Farmington officials are hopeful they'll be more successful this year in obtaining the grant.

"I am especially anxious to put on the National Main Street application that we have moved the office onto

Please see DDA, A6

Community policing



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH COBARRA

Future cop? Five year old Blake Kay of Farmington Hills got the thrill of his life when Officer Jeff King let him sit on his patrol motorcycle at the Hills Police Department's open house, held Sunday. Blake's dad, Michael, (left) also got a charge out of it. Hundreds of kids and their parents enjoyed an afternoon of activities and public safety demonstrations. Below left, Ryan Munsell, a probationary Hills firefighter, gave a lift to 2-year-old Farmington Hills resident, Teruya Mochizuki, who got an up-close look at a firetruck. Below right, the Detroit Police Department brought in their Armored Personnel Carrier, which delighted 9-year-old Crystal Mitchell, (left) and Isaac Bartol, 3 1/2, both of Farmington Hills. Detroit Police Officer Trent Brown (in window) was on hand to answer questions about the vehicle.



Dinner to honor Hartsock

BY SUE BUCK
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The City of Farmington will honor Bill Hartsock for his more than 28 years of service on the Farmington City Council with a dinner held May 30 at the Farmington Hills Manor, 23666 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

"It will be a little bit of roasting but more toasting," said Carol Eve Hyska, one of the organizers.

"Mayor Jim Mitchell will be the Master of Ceremonies."

Proclamations and politicians are expected at the event, which is open to the public.

The social hour with cash bar begins at 6 p.m.; followed by a 7 p.m. buffet dinner on May 30.

Part of the \$23 per person ticket price includes a contribution for a gift.

Reservations must be made by May 15. Send a check made payable to the City of Farmington marked "Bill Hartsock Dinner" to the City Manager's Office, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Mich.

Include your name, phone number and the name of the company with which you are affiliated, if applicable.

For more information, call Betsy Campbell, (248) 476-8733, Hyska, (248) 477-5117 or Shirley Richardson, (248) 623-7327.

Coming to dinner

■ What: Dinner to honor Bill Hartsock

■ When: The social hour with cash bar begins at 6 p.m.; followed by a 7 p.m. buffet dinner on May 30.

■ Where: Farmington Hills Manor, 23666 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

■ Cost: Part of the \$23 per person ticket price includes a contribution toward a gift.

■ Reservations by May 15.

4 bands battle Friday at the Costick Center

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Four bands will compete this Friday for the annual Battle of the Bands contest through the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation program.

The tunes start at 7 p.m. at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. There will also be games, contests and prizes from Guitar Center and Axis Music. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Costick Center for \$5 or at the door for \$8.

About 12 bands submitted recordings for consideration in the contest, and the Mayors' Youth Council selected the top four.

The bands scheduled to perform are Blue Lite Special, Steal the Sky, One Blue Moment and Squeeze Box.

A panel of three judges will choose the

Please see BANDS, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL GARDNER

Big Sound: Sean Strassberger (center) Jeff Rosenfeld and David Shilakes rehearse for Friday night's Battle of the Bands.

Plans in motion to revamp northeast roads

BY SAM TRICOMO
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Traffic has been a concern to motorists traveling Northwestern Highway where it ends at Orchard Lake since Elvis first gyrated his pelvis on television. But the situation could finally be getting resolved.

On Friday, state and local officials met to announce a major plan to ease congestion in the area with widening

projects and the addition of European-style roundabout traffic routers.

"This issue goes back to a time when most of us were still in diapers," said Michigan Department of Transportation Director Gregory Rosine. "It's a lot better to be coming to agreements in a conference room than to do it in a court room."

The first phase of the \$100 million plan calls for widening of Orchard Lake to a six-lane boulevard between

14 Mile and Maple, widening Maple to a four-lane boulevard between Orchard Lake and Haggerty and widening 14 Mile to three lanes between Orchard Lake and Haggerty.

The addition of nine "roundabout" intersections will also ease congestion and improve safety, according to Stephen Metzger, manager of the project consultant company DLZ Michigan Inc.

Roundabouts are similar to the circular intersections found in Washington,

D.C., and London, but the similarities end there, according to Metzger.

Metzger said signage, limited speed limits and even design characteristics make modern roundabout one of the best alternatives for busy intersections.

Phase one will involve the Orchard Lake widening and creation of roundabouts at 14 Mile, Maple and Powers where they intersect with Orchard

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