

Valentines recall  
past loves, 1C



WLAA  
mats, 4D

Friday the 13th:  
what's behind it, 8A

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 3203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

**TAKE** note. Presidents' Day will be observed next Monday. Farmington Postmaster Kenneth Harris said there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery. Special delivery, express mail and post office box service will be provided. Caller service will be available for customers who regularly pick up their mail 8-10 a.m.

Mail will be picked up from all residential collection boxes as late in the day as possible to meet first-class mail service standards. Mail in business collection boxes with the large 5 p.m. decal will be picked up after 5 p.m. Farmington Hills City Hall, 47th District Court and most banks will be closed Monday. Farmington City Hall will be open. Trash collection won't be affected in either city.

**BONING** up. Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci recently returned from two weeks at the National Fire Academy, situated on a small campus in Emmitsburg, Md. He studied something called "executive development."

"That's where you learn how to improve your ability to be an administrator of a fire department or a major division within a fire department," Marinucci said.

"You learn how to realize your skills and potential and to maximize those of your people."

The big plus, he said, was the informal idea exchange with peers from around the country. "It's a good opportunity to pick up on new ideas that worked in other departments," he said.

Marinucci was one of 300 students studying a variety of fire science topics. Distractions were few. "There wasn't a whole lot else to do," he said.

Academy enrollment is limited. Applicants are carefully screened. The federal government pays all costs except meals.

From Feb. 15 to 26, Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin will attend the academy to study the same course Marinucci did.

**KEEP** these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — By year's end, the long-planned, \$13.6-million expansion of Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills is expected to be completed.

The 75,000-square-foot addition will provide badly needed space and increase the hospital's licensed bed capacity from 300 to 335, said William Scheuber, assistant administrator.

## Low science scores spark state reaction

By Casey Hans  
and Rich Perlberg  
staff writers

State educators Tuesday called for the creation of nine or 10 development centers for teachers in the wake of low science scores in a statewide testing program for fourth-, seventh- and 10th-grade students.

They also said higher salaries would be needed to attract qualified science teachers.

Meanwhile, members of Farmington schools testing and science staffs are analyzing scores from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program's new science tests to determine the impact on the district's overall science curriculum.

The teaching centers are envisioned as "adjuncts" to universities. They would serve as centers for teachers to improve both their knowledge of subject matter and their teaching methods, according to Ed Roebor, supervisor of MEAP testing for the Michigan Department of Education.

In a press conference Tuesday morning in Lansing, education officials announced that only 59.3 percent of fourth graders, 57.4 percent of seventh graders and 52.4 percent of 10th graders passed at least 75 percent of test objectives.

**FARMINGTON STUDENTS** scored higher compared with state totals.

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**"We need to look at critical thinking, and not worry about memorizing the facts."**

— Doug Cooper  
science coordinator  
Farmington schools

A score of 59.9 was logged from the 579 students tested at the fourth grade level, 45.3 from the 741 seventh graders and the lowest, a 55.2 score was recorded from 864 10th graders taking the science MEAP tests, according to information from the district.

Statewide and local results are much lower than this year's scores on the reading and math portions of the test, which has been administered since 1973. But Roebor said the science tests, mandatory this year for the first time, were equivalent to the first-year reading scores of 14 years ago.

Others agreed, but said future test questions should be reviewed carefully.

"The test must not be assessing what it was trying to," said Carolyn Mahalak, who coordinates testing programs for Farmington Public Schools.

## Meager turnout renews millage

A precinct by precinct breakdown of results: 10A.

Farmington Public Schools will continue operating with 32.5 mills following voter approval of a millage renewal effort Tuesday.

But only 1.4 percent — less than 1,000 of the 57,979 registered voters in the district — went to the polls for the special election to renew 4 mills for 10 years.

That's less than the 2 percent vo-

ter turnout of last June's regular school election, when two incumbent trustees were returned to their seats. There are nearly 6,000 additional voters now registered compared to the 52,008 registered last June.

The millage was approved by 644 voters and rejected by 188, according to information on the non-canvassed results from the Farmington Hills city clerk's office.

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## Coming down Hills OKs Tulipwood barrier's removal

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

As barricades go, it has the longest history.

With the reopening of the Tulipwood barricade, another page can be added to the anthology.

Farmington Hills City Council's unanimous decision Monday to reopen the Tulipwood connector street comes eight years after it was closed following lengthy and emotional hearings.

Following two hours of comments from residents in the adjacent Kendallwood, Farmington Green and Colony Park West subdivisions, council members Monday agreed times had changed and removing the barrier was in order. In addition, council authorized a series of 30 traffic control orders, including stop and yield signs, as well as a parking prohibition on Tulipwood.

Kendallwood residents — who petitioned for the barrier eight years ago — claimed that reopening the connector street would bring an onslaught of traffic into their 30-year-old neighborhood.

Farmington Green and Colony Park West residents claimed the barrier forced them to drive into congested traffic on 12 Mile and

Farmington Road in order to reach Wooddale Elementary in the heart of Kendallwood. Residents also claimed that the barrier has served to divide the neighborhoods.

"If BARRIERS are necessary, why don't we put one up at the entrance of every subdivision and become a gateway community," said William Kinney, representing Farmington Green.

"We also feel somewhat rejected as if we are not really wanted to be a

part of section 10," Kinney said. "To promote the concept that we are one city, the barrier should be removed so we can keep communications open."

The three neighborhoods are in the area bounded by 12 and 13 Mile and Farmington and Drake roads.

Kendallwood residents, however, denied attempts to use the stub street as a social barrier.

Instead, they maintained their interests were in safety and the potential for greatly increased traffic on

the subdivision's narrow and hilly roads.

"Had Kendallwood residents wanted to live on a thoroughfare, we would have bought a home on Orchard Lake or Grand River," said Steve Supritz, Kendallwood Homeowners Association president.

Back in 1978, Kendallwood residents requested the barricade to prevent traffic cutting through their neighborhood from the newly built Farmington Green.

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## It's dubbed Pioneer Park

For a related editorial comment, see Page 16A.

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The planned athletic park northwest of 13 Mile and Farmington roads has been named "Pioneer Park."

The new name — approved by the Farmington Hills City Council Monday — continues a historic theme begun when officials named the former 212-acre Spicer property Heritage Park.

Council's decision to follow a Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation to avoid naming whole parks after an individual defeated efforts to name the youth park after the late civic activist Jim Ellis.

Ellis' name was suggested for the park by his widow, Beverly, who wrote a letter to the Farmington Hills City Council last fall. Ellis' resume brimmed with longstanding work with youngsters. He was president of Boys Republic, organizer and president of the Farmington Falcon Boosters Club, assistant athletic di-

rector of the Farmington Rockets Little League Football teams and a commissioner of the South Farmington Baseball for Boys Little League.

Though parks and recreation commissioners recommended naming parks on a historic theme, they agreed — and the city council approved — of honoring particular playing fields with an individual's name, such as Ellis', said Dan Potter, special services director.

PARKS AND recreation commis-

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## Tune to Channel 10



Jon Whitener, Popcorn Shop host and a North Farmington junior, with Jake the Sock, played by Robb Lewis, a North senior.



Rhona Furman, a Farmington High senior, as the Popcorn Shop's Story Lady.

## Channel expands audience

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

**D** EAN COBB and his students are aiming for a new audience — you.

Cable television Channel 10, the local educational access station serving Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, will begin broadcasting Thursday nights with specialized programming, according to Cobb, telecommunications coordinator for the Farmington school district.

The idea is to make the channel, now used as a teaching tool within the schools, more community-oriented.

"I would like to hit the non-parent community to show them what goes on in the schools," he said. "This is what your tax dollars go for."

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