

Phonics are the specialty, 1A



Mercy atop division, 1D

Meet local school board candidates, 6A

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MEET the candidates. The American Association of University Women-Farmington Branch and the League of Women Voters-West Bloomfield/Farmington Area will host a forum for the four Farmington school board candidates at 7 p.m. Monday, May 22, at O.E. Dunckel Middle School, 32800 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Challengers John Akouri and Robert Ranney and incumbents John Cotton and Helen Ditzhazy will present their ideas and answer questions. June 12, Farmington Public Schools voters will pick candidates to fill two four-year terms on the school board.

STILL needed. The city of Farmington continues to seek people for new Traffic Board, which will serve as an advisory panel to the city on traffic-related matters. Meetings will be held monthly. Interested people can contact City Manager Robert Deadman at 474-5500 or public safety director Frank Lashoff at 473-7262.

Man hurt in firebombing of car

Police are searching for clues



Farmington Hills fire investigator Al Ellis inspects the interior of the firebombed car Tuesday morning in the Farmington Hills Police Department garage.

The firebombing of a car outside a Farmington Hills factory left a 21-year-old Wayne County man burned on his face, chest and left arm Monday night.

His left eye also was injured in the 9 p.m. assault, which police are calling attempted murder.

The victim, who police would not identify, was treated at Botford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. He was released at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The man was getting out of a car he had just parked in the rear lot of a factory near Grand River and 10 Mile when two men pistol-whipped him back inside at gunpoint.

The men then broke a rear side window of the 1989 Ford Tempo and tossed two gasoline-soaked firebombs inside before fleeing, police said.

"WE'RE STILL piecing together what happened," said Farmington Hills Lt. Richard Murphy. "The detectives are still trying to determine the motive and who the two men are."

After the attack, the victim ran in-

side the factory and yelled for the police and fire departments to be called. A shop foreman used an extinguisher to put out the fire, which caused about \$3,000 in damage to the car.

The man "was doing business in

the area" when he was assaulted. But Murphy would not say whether he worked at the factory. He would not say if the victim knew his assailants.

A partially melted plastic jug was found on the rear seat of the Tempo.

An intact plastic jug was found on the rear floorboard. Neither jug had a top. The interior of the car reeked of gasoline fumes. A plastic jug top was found on the ground near the car, police said.

Police are releasing few details

about the incident. They want to protect the victim's identity as well as where he lives and works until the investigation is farther along.

Detectives spent Tuesday and Wednesday tracking down leads and gathering evidence.

QUOTE of the week

And I think each of us has to have a zealotness about being open to information that signals the need to change.

— futurist Edward Barlow Jr., consultant to Farmington Hills' Year 2000 Committee (see Bob Sklar's column, Page 14A).

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 4B
- Business 1C
- Cable connection . . . 12C
- Classifieds . . . Secs. C, E, H
- Index 7G
- Auto Sec. H
- Real estate . . . Secs. E, F
- Employment . . . Sec. G
- Creative living E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 7H
- Entertainment . . . 7C
- Obituaries 6C
- Opinion 14A
- Points of view . . . 15A
- Police/fire calls . . . 4A
- Recreation news . . . 13C
- Sports Sec. D
- Suburban life Sec. B

Observer & Eccentric Classifieds Work!

"The garage sale was great and the response was overwhelming and I'm exhausted." "Thanks again!"

A. Applegate

One call does it all
WAYNE COUNTY
591-0900



Farmington Hills library page Phil Swan faces a long line of patrons waiting to check out books Saturday afternoon.

Boys Republic plans to tighten security

By Casey Hans staff writer

Boys Republic is changing its approach to caring for teenage boys with emotional problems. It is also improving security conditions at its Nine Mile Road campus.

But the director of the private Farmington Hills facility is assuring concerned neighbors

and local government officials that the type of boys the facility will treat remains the same.

And structural changes to the facility will make the community more secure by helping avoid truncky problems, said executive director Phyllis Griffin.

Up to 40 of the facility's 65 licensed beds — now used for ongoing residential treatment — will be converted to temporary beds for youths

who need to be assessed before they are placed into permanent treatment or foster care in southeastern Michigan.

Boys Republic recently entered into a one-year contract with the state Department of Social Services for this assessment program, according to information from Lansing.

The rest of the beds will remain as part of the on-site treatment program, where boys

can expect to stay an average of 12 months.

NEIGHBORS SAY rumors are circulating about the facility. A temporary home to underage boys from 11 to 17 who are wards of the state. Many come from broken homes and have gone through the juvenile court system. They are placed there by the DSS.

Please turn to Page 13

Committee: Area seniors need expanded facilities

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

No one is getting younger. That means expanded facilities, either at Mercy Center or another location, are necessary to meet the needs of growing programs and services for Farmington-area senior adults.

That's the bottom line from a 13-member committee charged with studying the needs of the area's sen-

ior adults as well as alternatives for providing adequate space for the future.

"We need more space, and we need more space now," committee chairwoman Pat Nylén said.

A final decision of how to provide more space for the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Division is in the hands of the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils. "The committee did not make a choice. We felt that

was not within our sphere," Nylén said.

THE COMMITTEE, however, provided the city councils with a list of alternatives for providing the senior adults more room for programming, services and offices.

Alternatives include: • Building a new minimum 37,000-square-foot facility on land

Please turn to Page 10

Dwyer named to anti-crime group

By Tim Smith staff writer

Gov. James Blanchard was in Southfield Tuesday to name the 24-member board of Partners Against Crime, a group made up of many of the top judicial and law enforcement officials in the state.

Members introduced at a press conference at 46th District Court

Included Attorney General Frank Kelley and Detroit Police Chief William Hart. Oakland County Sheriff John Nichols, also a board member, was not present. The board also includes Westland District Court Judge Gail McKnight and Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

Please turn to Page 10

Voters may be asked to fund new library

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

There's a pretty good chance Farmington and Farmington Hills voters will be asked Nov. 7 to approve a multimillion dollar bond proposal and accompanying operating tax to build a new 78,000-square-foot main library.

"I guess they're saying they don't want the matter to hang," Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said, of a request by the library's trustees to move on expansion plans.

The trustees' request for a bond proposal and operating money came

on the heels of passage of a state district library law giving the Farmington Community Library independence and taxing authority.

A bond proposal for a new library possibly could be in the \$12 million range, which could be offset by the sale of the existing 38,000-square-foot library, 32737 12 Mile.

Voters would be asked to provide a maximum 1.5 mills to operate the new library and the downtown Farmington branch. A voter-approved levy would eliminate the

Please turn to Page 2