

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Turning 30: They're celebrating the "big 30" at Flanders Elementary School in the Farmington District./13A

COUNTY NEWS

What's in a name: Plenty, when it's the names and addresses of registered voters which are compiled and sold — and sometimes not sold — to political candidates./5A

Looking bleak: The Oakland County League of Women Voters is still after a televised debate between county executive candidates, but the Republican candidate continues to say no way./7A

OPINION

Let's hope: Now that Farmington Hills has purchased land for "active" recreation, perhaps this spat over parks use will simmer down./18A

SPORTS

Golf tourney: Dean Kobane of Livonia won the Observer & Eccentric men's golf tournament Sunday at Whispering Willows Golf Course./1B

Grid picks: Observer sports editors have made their predictions for the fourth weekend of the high school football season./1B

ENTERTAINMENT

Community theater: Plymouth Theatre Guild presents a fine performance of Ira Levin's thriller "Veronica's Room" in its season opener./4C

SUBURBAN LIFE

Balancing act: U-M Alumnae Club of Oakland County hears a speaker talk about women's dilemma in balancing work and family./1H

Party crasher: Who is this mysterious woman who keeps turning up at top social events, without an invitation?/1H

INDEX

Building Scene Sec. F
Business 1C
Cable Connection . 6B
Classifieds Secs. D-G
Auto F,G
Real estate . . . D,E
Employment . . E,F,G

Creative living . . 1D
Crossword puzzle . 7D
Entertainment . . 4-6C
Opinion 18A
Police, fire calls . 17A
Personal scene . . 6G

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Clergy drafts public prayer policy



By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The guideline is simple. And it's designed to acknowledge the growing diversity in the Farmington area. If you're organizing a community group gathering, know why you want a member of the clergy to say a prayer. If

you're a member of the clergy, find out who is your audience and be honest with the group on the type of prayer you intend to give.

"If there's a bottom line word, it's intentionality. We want the groups to be intentional on why they are having a person come pray," said the Rev. Budge

Gero of the First Presbyterian Church on Farmington Road. "It's truth in advertising."

Gero and the Rev. Ed Duncan of First United Methodist in Farmington penned a policy on prayer at community functions for the Farmington-Farmington Hills Ministerial Association, which represents clergy in the area.

"The paper was a joint effort by area clergyperson to increase their own personal awareness of diversity and to raise the awareness of community leaders as well," said the Rev. Suzanne

Paul of Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington and association convenor.

The policy stemmed from concern expressed to the clergy by people who had attended some community events, such as the Jaycees Prayer Breakfast in January, where they felt excluded, offended or hurt because prayers, particularly trinitarian — God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit — were said.

See CLERGY, 2A

Thirsty runner



SHARON LEHMLUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An important matter: Jaime Riggs, a junior on Harrison High's girls cross country team, takes care of her thirst after a recent competition. She was cheered on throughout the race by her 8-year-old sister, Kristin. For high school cross country results, please see today's sports section.

TV offers new tool for math

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Need help with that math homework? Starting this week, Oakland County parents will have an added tool to help their children and to better understand what kids are learning in school.

The first three-part video program called the "Home-School Connection" will begin airing tonight on local education access channels throughout Oakland County.

In the Farmington Public School District, that's Channel 10.

"We're preparing kids for their future — not for our past," explained Shelley Rose, public information consultant for Oakland Schools, the intermediate school district serving all of Oakland County. "It (the program) is an ideal use of our resources. I've used the activities myself, and they're good."

The first series, called "The Math Advantage" will air at 7 p.m. on Thursdays and will include tonight — Mental Arithmetic and Estimation; Oct. 1 — Measurement; and Oct. 8 — Statistics.

Each segment runs about 20 minutes. A filter on the math program touts it as a learning tool for parents designed to "demystify the NEAP math tests" and to "debunk commonly held myths about math."

For those who do not subscribe to cable television, the tapes have been made available to all school districts

See VIDEO MATH, 6A

Money flows in race for judge's seat

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Two candidates for the 47th District Court bench spent into the tens of thousands of dollars for their primary wins, according to election information from Oakland County.

John R. (Jack) McDonald spent \$29,780 and Maria Parker spent more than twice that, logging \$60,805.

From a field of seven candidates in the August primary, McDonald placed first by a slim margin with 4,194 votes and Parker came in second with 4,074 votes, earning both a place on the November ballot.

Former county commissioner and longtime local attorney McDonald, 52,



Jack McDonald

and Parker, 37, also a local attorney and magistrate in the district court, will square off in the Nov. 3 general election.

Post election reports for the other five candidates who ran unsuccessfully in August were not available. All judicial



Maria Parker

reports are filed in Lansing and then, eventually, copies are sent to Oakland County, a spokeswoman there said.

Both had PAC money

Both attorneys earned support from

members of the legal community, and both accepted money from political action committees.

Parker said she was pleased with the amount of money she was able to raise during the primary; she got \$17,365 in one fund-raiser alone. "I didn't start out as a well-known candidate," she said. "My theory was I had to make as much effort as possible on the initial run to get my name out."

She speculated that McDonald "may not have needed to spend as much" because of his name recognition in the area.

Parker said she did not target a specific amount to spend in the primary race, and could not estimate how much she might spend for the general election race.

Regardless, McDonald believes spending in all judicial races is becoming excessive. He had planned to spend

See JUDGESHIP, 4A

Meet the pols

The local chamber of commerce offers a chance for people to share your thoughts and ideas with some elected officials at a mixer 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Radisson Suite Hotel, 37529 Grand River.

Invited politicians include: U.S. Sen. William Broomfield; State Sens. Michael Bouchard, Jack Faxon and David Honigman; State Rep. Jan Dolan; County Commissioners: Donn Wolf, David Moffitt and Lillian Jaffe Oaks.

Cost is \$15 per person. Reservations would be made by Oct. 6 by calling the chamber at 474-3440.

Taste of Farmington

Get a Taste of Farmington . . . attend the annual

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Networking business conference.

Taste of Farmington, the popular annual gathering where chefs from local restaurants present their specialty for testing, has been made a highlight of the Networking '92 conference to be held Tuesday-Thursday, Oct. 27-29, at the Mercy Conference Center in Farmington Hills.

Taste of Farmington, with about 12 chefs participating, will be held 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, at the Mercy Conference Center in Farmington Hills. Call the sponsoring Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce at 474-3440 for ticket information.

The chamber of commerce is accepting exhibitor

reservations for booth space at the Networking '92, the third-annual business show.

About 60 exhibitors from all areas of business are expected to participate and attract several thousand business leaders and decision-makers from southeastern Michigan.

Other Networking '92 highlight will be a luncheon with guest speaker Heinz Prechter, president and CEO of American Sunroof Co. Inc. in Southgate, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28. A business after-hours mixer will be held 5:30-8 p.m. the same day.

Show hours are 1:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday.

For more information on Networking '92 or reserving booth space, contact the chamber at 474-3440 (phone) or 474-9235 (fax).