



# Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**Police goals:** Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer lists some of the goals for his department./2A

**Big day in D.C.:** There were plenty of local faces in the crowds that swelled Washington, D.C. last Wednesday when Bill Clinton became the 42nd president of the United States./3A

### COUNTY NEWS

**Color it successful:** As state boot camps come under fire, Oakland County expands its second chance for non-violent criminals./5A

### MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Behind the look:** Local teens interviewed in malls and on mainstreets have a variety of views on grunge dressing./6A

### OPINION

**Here comes Clinton!** Tom Baer and Helen Niemiec provide contrasting views of our new president./8A

### TASTE

**Simple soups:** Baby, it's cold outside. Stay in and make soups filled with warmth from leftovers, and stuff in your pantry./1B



**Winner Dinner:** Nobody has time to cook anymore, and that's why you'll love this week's Winner Dinner that can be prepared, cooked, and ready to eat in 30 minutes./1B

### CABLE TV WEEKLY

**Local access:** "Sports Yesterday" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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## MEAP test scores up again



The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test numbers are in, and Farmington school officials say they like what they see. Students may have taken the test more seriously this year, officials said.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Schools students continued to put up satisfactory numbers in an annual state assessment test.

In math and reading, some scores improved by five percent or better in

1992 from the previous year in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests.

MEAP tests, given annually, are designed to reflect how students perform in science, math and reading statewide.

Grades 4, 7 and 10 are tested in

math and reading. Grades 5, 8 and 11 are tested in science.

In six of eight categories, Farmington scores were in the top five among 28 Oakland County districts. However, MEAP scores are not intended to reflect the overall quality of a district.

#### Teachers are better

Nonetheless, school officials say they are happy.

"Year by year, we get better teachers," said Superintendent Michael Flanagan. "The teachers are outstanding, and it shows on the MEAP

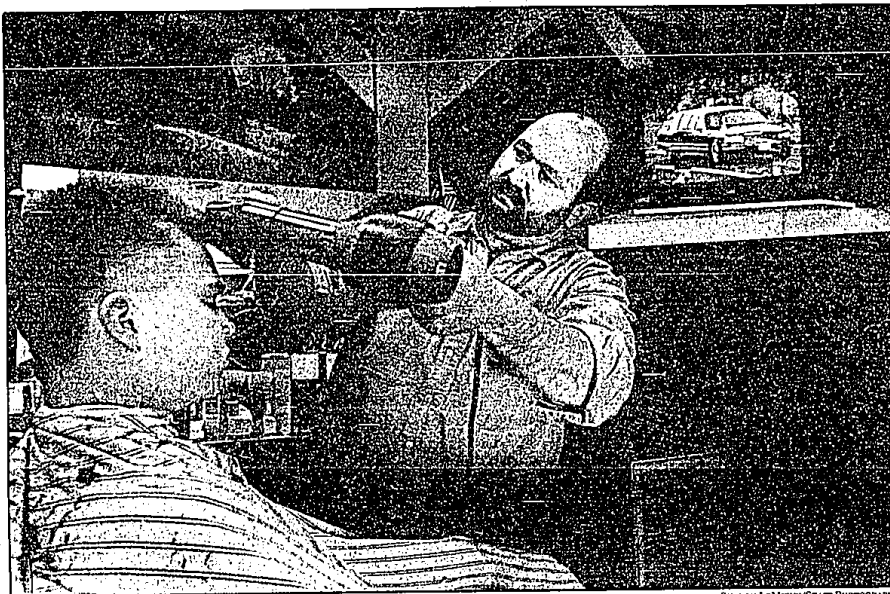
scores." Math scores improved significantly across the board.

The biggest jump came in 10th grade, where 42.6 percent of 763 students taking the test achieved a satisfactory score of 620 or better. That's an 11.9-percent increase from 1991, when 30.7 percent met the state standard.

No in-depth analysis has been done yet. One possible reason for the increase, though, was students took the test more seriously this year.

See SCORES, 7A

### A trim and an inauguration



SHARON LEFEBRE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Cutting edge:** President William Jefferson Clinton's inauguration plays on the TV as 14-year-old Ben Lewis of Farmington gets a haircut from Mike LaFever at the Korner Barbers in downtown Farmington last Wednesday. "The guy won and he deserves a party," said LaFever, a Wixom resident. "The TV coverage was lousy, though. Those commentators stood around and talked to each other too much." For two views of Clinton and the inauguration, please see Page 8A. Inaugural ball pictures and story are on Page 3A.

## Officials support chase bill

**'On the law enforcement side, it will make fleeing police a felony instead of a misdemeanor.'**

Frank Lauhoff  
Farmington manager

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

A bill that would toughen penalties for fleeing police in high speed chases could also get cities off the hook when those incidents result in death or serious injury to innocent bystanders.

That bill would be good news for local police and city governments, said officials from Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"On the law enforcement side, it will make fleeing police a felony instead of a misdemeanor," said Frank Lauhoff, Farmington city manager and former director of public safety.

"I have never understood how something that serious could be a misdemeanor."

State Sen. William Van Regenmorter, R-Jenison, and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said a bill he plans to introduce by the end of February will not only make it a felony to flee police, but provide compensation for victims and offer local governments liability protection.

Lauhoff said that is the news local municipalities have been waiting for.

"On the civil side, the City of Farmington could have handled everything correctly, but because of

See OFFICIALS, 4A

## Hills joins 8 Mile revitalization push

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

The idea that 13 communities and three counties could cooperate on a plan might seem a pipe dream to many, but it is becoming reality.

Farmington Hills became the ninth community to endorse "A Vision for Eight Mile Boulevard," a non-profit organization to redevelop the Eight Mile corridor, and voted to pay its share of dues.

Oakland County planner Deborah Schutt and city staff planner Katie Ulrich presented the group's goals at the Jan. 18 city council meeting. The council voted unanimously to join in and pay \$6,500 in dues for the first year, based on Eight Mile frontage.

Mayor Nancy Bates and Councilman Jon Grant, who have been paying close attention to the issue, were especially elated with the plan.

"At the first meeting, about two years ago, I sensed a lot of reluctance by communities," Bates said. "Now the hesitancy is gone."

Grant said progress has been faster than he expected.

"I thought they were going to have a much harder time getting 13 governments to agree on this," he said.

The task force goals include protecting and renovating residential neighborhoods, eliminating obsolete buildings, reducing the perception

See 8 MILE, 4A

### Come welcome Lauhoff

The public is invited to attend a reception for Frank Lauhoff, Farmington's recently appointed city manager, to be held 7-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street.

Lauhoff, former head of the city's public safety department, was picked to replace Robert Deedman, who retired this month after 20 years as city manager and 35 years in the city government.

The reception will follow a city council study session that begins at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

The Farmington Council's Monday, Feb. 15, meeting has been cancelled, said a representative of the city clerk's office. The next regularly-scheduled meeting will be March 1.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### Any Hills photographs?

If you have black-and-white or color photographs showing some aspect of life in Farmington Hills over the last 20 years, and those photos are of general interest, the Farmington Hills Historical Commission would like to hear from you.

Commissioners Kay Briggs and Bob Sklar, representing the Farmington Hills 20th Anniversary Committee, will coordinate a photo display chronicling life in Farmington Hills since it became a city July 1, 1973.

The commission would like to borrow the photos from the last 20 years for inclusion in the display, which would be showcased in the Hills City Hall this summer. Of course, borrowed photos will be returned.

Photos should be dropped off in care of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission at the city clerk's office at the City Hall, 31555 11 Mile Road at Orchard Lake Road.

Owners should include the year the photo was taken and a brief description of the photo contents. Address and daytime phone number should also be included.

Photos are needed by March 15. Direct questions to Bob Sklar at 953-2113. Mayor Nancy Bates and City Manager Bill Costick are heading up a committee to plan the celebration of the city's 20th anniversary.