

IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**Learning place:** ABE means more than just the ABCs at a school program in Farmington./3A

**Tough traffic:** Some residents of a southern Farmington Hills neighborhood are fed up with cut-through traffic./4A

### COUNTY NEWS

**Michigan Future:** Economic prophets say Michigan can lead the way in the new economy or be left behind./5A

### STREET SCENE

**Travelin' band:** It sounds more like a vacation plan than what it takes to produce an album. The Hannibals started in Detroit, moved to Canton then headed for Lancaster, Pa. A lot of miles but well worth the end result, "This Midwestern."/6A

### MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Hats on:** Chapeaus are back in style, and some would argue that they never truly disappeared. Wearing a hat is especially in vogue at Easter time./11A

### TASTE

**Greek Easter:** There's no better time than Easter to discover classic Greek dishes such as spinach pie and roast leg of lamb./1B

### SPORTS



**Baseball teams:** The Farmington and North Farmington baseball teams are previewed in today's sports section./1C

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## Commons to add retiree housing



BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Botsford Commons will combine something old and something new when it begins building houses and apartments on the grounds of the historic long-term care facility. Later this month, ground will be

broken for a housing development on 30 acres surrounding what used to be known as the Farmington Nursing Home and before that the Michigan Hospital School for Crippled Children.

Botsford Commons will not be an extension of long-term care or assist-

ed living, but rather a 51-unit apartment complex and 86 houses in a price range of about \$118,000 to \$185,000.

"The vision was the idea of developing a scenic retirement community," said Linda Mjynarek, an administrator with Botsford. "We want this to be part of the full-spectrum care that includes acute to long-term care."

The apartments and houses will be nestled within the wooded grounds of the long-term care facility that Botsford bought in 1984. There have al-

ready been 80 deposits made on houses and apartments at the complex.

#### They're impressed

Marilyn Kuncz and her retired husband, Clark, are impressed enough with the property to pull up stakes after 39 years in Redford Township to move into one of the specially designed houses.

Although she wants to be close to her job as an administrator at Botsford Hospital, she and her husband

See HOUSING, 2A



SHARON LEMIREX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Home coming:** Clark and Marilyn Kuncz stand on the grounds of Botsford Commons where they hope to own a new house, part of a coming development.

## Clock tower plans crumble

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

The proposed downtown clock tower has come tumbling down.

Citing "political reality," the Farmington Downtown Development Authority decided to go ahead with plans to renovate the corner of Farmington and Grand River. The controversial 25-foot brick time piece won't be a part of the plan, though.

The decision came in a special joint meeting Wednesday with city council and the DDA in City Council Chambers.

DDA and some council members said they still supported the idea of a clock tower, which was designed to be a downtown focal point. Public criticism of the project, which had turned personal at times, prompted the change.

"It has been most disheartening and disturbing to see Farmington's year-long 125th historic celebration that brought our entire community together be capped off in such a negative way," said councilwoman Shirley Richardson.

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Shirley Richardson  
councilwoman

"... I, as councilwoman Richardson, will completely back your decision since this issue has been beaten to death enough at this point."

Residents, including members from the historical and beautification commissions, had spoken out against the clock since the DDA announced the plan in January. Opponents commented at two DDA meetings, a plan-

ning commission gathering and a council session.

Some 50 people turned out at March 15 city council meeting over the issue.

Their concerns were mainly how the tower would impact the view of the historic Masonic Temple building, already considered by some as the city's focal point.

"They had their say, again. This time their tone was more conciliatory. Many praised the DDA for their decision."

Said Shiawassee resident Rosemary Fitzpatrick: "I think the bottom line is, members of the DDA have all listened to what the citizens want. They should get credit for that."

Mayor William Hartsock agreed, but added such communication is a two-way street.

"Clearly, it was heard and understood," said Hartsock. "There's no point in having a project that is as divisive as this is turning out to be."

See TOWER, 3A

### Mirror, mirror



SHARON LEMIREX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Nudell art:** A pair of abstract mirrors is just part of the work being done by artist Sheri Nudell, featured in Street Scene's Art on the Edge, Page 6A.

### Attention, seniors

Smile, senior citizens of the Farmington area, an Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency photographer wants to snap your photograph.

The photographer will be at the Farmington Hills Senior Center, 28500 W. 11 Mile Road, from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, April 16. Call 473-1822 for a reservation.

Photos will be used for laminated identification cards needed for participation in OLHSA senior discount programs.

County residents at least 60 years of age may apply for the cards, which show name, address, birth date, Social Security number and signature. The cards also carry the Oakland County seal. The cards can be used for discounts offered locally and nationwide.

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

#### Tax rush coming

It's getting on toward crunch time for taxpayers who haven't mailed in their returns yet, and the Farmington Post Office is making plans to handle the last-minute rush on deadline day — Thursday, April 15.

In an effort to accommodate last-minute taxpayers, the Postal Service has established a late night pick-up at both local post offices: 32455 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, and 33200 Stoum Street, Farmington.

All mail deposited into the specially-marked collection boxes at these post offices before 11:59

p.m. April 15 will receive an April 15 postmark. Anyone with questions should call 563-3910.

#### Memory Lane

From the April 9, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Robert Lindbert was the top vote-getter in the Farmington City Council elections. Also re-elected to the council were James Nourjian and James Cavanaugh. The 724 votes cast represented a turnout of 43 percent. By contrast, in Farmington Township, where there was no opposition to the incumbents, the turnout was 11 percent.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office or faxed to 477-9722.