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TODAY

Mercy grads: Farmington Hills Mercy High School's graduation was held recently at Meadow Brook./3A

Down-town fun: "Make a Splash, Read!" is the first program in a series of summer events in downtown Farmington./11A

COUNTY NEWS

Eighty-something: This Oakland Community College tutor is simply too busy to grow old./5A

Robin Hood revisited?: Our local school districts may feel the wrath of Gov. Engler and out-state legislators for defeat of Prop A./7A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Artful malls: Many say they are too busy to notice, but sculpture, fountains and other works add to the shopping ambience./8A

OPINION

Rightfully outraged: A Farmington Hills guest columnist takes issue with the politically correct leftist view on today's Points of View page./10A

SPORTS

District baseball: All of the Farmington high school teams were in the running for a district tournament title Saturday./1C

Softball tourney: Mercy, North Farmington and Harrison competed along with Redford Union for a district championship./1C

TASTE



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Chef's secrets: When it comes to creativity, pastry chef Eric Haggerty is the cream of the crop./1B

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Sparks fly at candidate forum



Only five of the nine school board hopefuls showed up for the Democratic Club's candidate forum. The rhetoric was spirited, though.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Candidate turnout was light, but the forum was lively. Only five of the nine Farmington school board hopefuls participated in the Democratic Club-sponsored affair in Farmington Hills City Hall. Incumbent Helen Ditzhazy and

challengers Julia Glazer, Joel Marwil and Charles Remus were absent. They missed a show. There were more sparks than at a Fourth of July picnic. The forum was the last of three before the school election Monday, June 14. Unlike the previous two forums, audience members asked all the

questions. Some of the most pointed queries were directed at individual candidates.

Feud simmers

Reactions ranged from self-assuredness, exasperation to anger. David York and Susan McKendrick renewed their simmering feud over school transportation issues. York went on the offensive, referring to a "candidate here" who had a board member speak directly to her concerns over main-road busing. McKendrick has called the current

school board unresponsive on the matter as chairperson of Citizens for Transportation Safety.

She took exception. "I'll just get out of the way and let you slug it out," said Kenneth Stein, who sat in between the two. They did. Stein also found himself in a few verbal jousts, mainly with people asking questions and the timekeeper. He went beyond the minute allowed on responses on a couple of occasions.

See FORUM, 11A

A man for 'the corner'



ANN HEALRY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Paros: "I think (Tiger fans) want a winner. They want to have fun. Ilitch wants to instill fun back into the game."

Hills man corners ballgame action

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

At one end of the corner of Michigan and Trumbull, guys named Mickey, Kirk and Cecil do their business. And at the other end, Chris Paros does his.

Their exploits of meteoric home runs and game-saving catches will make tomorrow's papers. His won't, but that's OK.

Their successes are his successes. "A day like this makes up for it,"

said Paros, 52, who operates Paros Home Plate across from Tiger Stadium. "We're packed from 10 to 6. It's a nice day . . ."

Behind the bar is himself at Paros Home Plate, though, the long-time Farmington Hills resident is his own pitcher and catcher.

Paros gets the signal of two fingers from a thirsty patron. He delivers two chilled cans of Labatt's hard and fast. He smashes the customer's \$10 bill in the same motion.

"What will it be?" asks Paros, winding up for another sales pitch.

A few minutes later, those congregated inside the bar and on the patio will be out of the door. They've come to watch baseball across the street.

Paros Home Plate is their fill-up station.

The oft-used phrase in real estate is location, location, location. In that case, Paros would be considered to be well set up.

A neighbor of Tiger Stadium has its limitations, though.

When the team's not in town, the place becomes just another bar with a smattering of regulars who stop by for a quick one after work. Paros is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., five days a week, during the off-season.

On game day, though, a metamorphosis takes place. People congregate on the patio and scramble for seats inside.

See BALLGAME, 4A

This Richard DeVries sits election out

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

He's not running, but the signs say otherwise.

Richard DeVries, a four-time unsuccessful candidate for the Farmington school board, is sitting this election out.

But people traveling south of Eight Mile Road swear they've seen signs announcing Richard DeVries' candidacy for Schoolcraft College trustee.

"I saw that too," DeVries said. "I was driving down Newburgh Road and I saw the sign."

"No. That's Richard James DeVries."

Richard J. DeVries gave the other DeVries a call. The coincidences were not limited to the name, either.

Both are University of Michigan graduates and, turns out, the candidate for Schoolcraft College trustee went to school with Richard J. DeVries' wife's older sister.

Still, some are whispering that DeVries is a factor in this year's Farmington school board race. He's been linked with Terry Fobbs' campaign. The latest rumbling has

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him helping out Susan McKendrick's bid for the board.

That's news to DeVries, who said he hasn't made up his mind on who he will support yet.

"I don't have a protege out there," said DeVries, who attended Thursday's candidates forum at Farmington Hills City Hall. "I've come into this with an open mind."

"I'm just like everyone else. I'm looking at the candidates and narrow-

ing them down." Fobbs and McKendrick said they know DeVries, but added he's not running their respective campaigns from behind the scenes.

If anything, the rumors speak to DeVries' perceived sway over voters. DeVries dismisses the scuttlebutt as a distraction from the issues.

"DeVries' it seems a little strange," he said. "I ran for office and articulated a view. Even though I lost, many of the things I have advocated have come to fruition."

See DEVRIES, 2A

Thank you, folks

With age comes wisdom, sometimes. That seems to be the case with Farmington resident Roger VanDorpe, who turned 80 last Friday.

VanDorpe, realizing that somebody must be thanked for his longevity, spent \$19.80 on an Observer personal classified ad that read: "To my deceased parents, Albert & Cesarina VanDorpe, my undying gratitude for the genes which enabled me to attain my 80th birthday, June 4, 1993."

Born in Belgium, VanDorpe emigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1919. He held a variety of jobs, including statistician in the furniture department at the J.L. Hudson Co. from 1929 until his retirement 46 years later.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

These days, VanDorpe enjoys golfing in a seniors league and occasional travel. He and his wife, Betty Jean, will celebrate 63 years of marriage in August.

It's graduation time

Not to be overlooked in the flurry of graduations this time of year is the ceremony for the 75 people who will cross the stage as graduates of Farmington Adult Education at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, in the auditorium of Farmington High School, 32000 Shilwassee.

Your vote counts

Information on the organization known as OWR (Older Women's League) will be presented on the cable TV program "My Vote Counts" on cable Channel 12 during June.

The show is on 8 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of the month, 2 p.m. Thursday and by viewer request. For more information, call Mary Conway at 653-7303.

Julesann Hovanessian, of the Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation, is the host. Opinions on Channel 12 programming are encouraged. For more information, call 474-3770.

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