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IN THE PAPER TODAY

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Happy 20th: Residents helped celebrate Farmington Hills' 20th birthday with a picnic Sunday in Heritage Park. /4A

COUNTY NEWS

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OPINION

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Weather wonderland: Ever wonder where weather forecasters come up with their predictions? So does columnist Philip Sherman, and he calls for the return of Sonny Eliot. /19A

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Youth baseball: A pair of South Farmington teams won tournament championships in sandlot baseball last weekend. /1B

Soccer tourney: Area teams fared well last weekend in the annual Ford Wolverine tournament at Schoolcraft College. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Movie page: In the movie "In the Line of Fire," Clint Eastwood sharpens the image that has served him so well. /6B

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Botsford loses malpractice suit



BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

One of the largest medical malpractice judgments in Michigan history is the best argument for legal reforms, according to the hospital that lost. But such reform would punish taxpayers with larger medical costs, said the attorney who represented the

winner of the lawsuit.

An Oakland County Circuit Court jury awarded Irene and Jamie Martinez and their son Jamie, 6, of Dearborn, \$18.6 million in damages, ruling that the boy's spastic quadriplegic condition was the fault of Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills and Dr. Linda Tucker, the obstetri-

cian who delivered the baby.

The ruling ended a case that began in 1988, when the Martinezes sought damages and went to court. Plaintiff's attorney Geoffrey Fieger said the jury award was the highest ever awarded in Oakland County Circuit Court and the second highest in state history.

"It's a real injustice that this was delayed and took five years," said Beverly Hires, the Southfield attorney who took the case in March of 1988. "But justice was delayed and not denied."

The jury gave its verdict Friday before Circuit Judge Denise Langford-

Morris, upholding the plaintiffs' position that the boy had suffered permanent damage because of the actions of Dr. Tucker and that the hospital had mismanaged the case.

Baby wouldn't fit

In July of 1985, Irene Martinez was admitted to Botsford for the birth of her son. While in labor, the baby would not fit into the birth canal, said Fieger. Martinez's attorney for the six-week trial.

The doctor then administered a

See MALPRACTICE, 8A

Pick of the pageant



New reign: Julie Dugan, 19, was selected as the new Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Wednesday in the annual Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant at Vladimir's. Dugan was first runner-up in last year's event.

Tea room bags 1st approval

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A proposed tea house in downtown Farmington is one step closer to the first cup.

The Farmington Planning Commission approved a site plan for 32905 Grand River, where a Southfield woman intends to convert a house into a tea room.

The site plan approval is considered the first of several hurdles ahead.

Doris Lovill of Southfield now has to go before the board of zoning appeals Wednesday, Aug. 4, for a variance on parking. The plan is also subject to review by the historical commission.

"I feel very enthusiastic," Lovill said. "They all thought it was wonderful."

The planning commission's OK also included a recommendation to the Farmington Zoning Board of Appeals to consider a variance that would allow for no parking on the premises, except for spots for the handicapped.

That would suit Lovill, who was worried the tea room's ambience would be destroyed if trees, shrubs and flowers were removed to accommodate required parking spaces.

City ordinance requires one parking space for every 100 square feet of building space. Lovill would have to provide eight to nine spots.

She said she could provide five with the lot behind Jo-Ann Fabric and the municipal lot available a block away.

Another potential obstacle exists. State barrier codes would require a ramp be installed for handicap access to the first floor. Also, if a second floor is used, an elevator or lift is needed.

"It would definitely have a negative impact on the historical character," said architect Robert Allen.

A possible alternative would be to have the house designated as a state historical site, which would make it exempt from barrier codes. The house was built sometime between 1890-95.

See TEA, 8A

Hills runs to close gaps in sidewalk system

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills is accelerating its sidewalk building program and putting more emphasis on closing gaps in its system of walkways to make the city more pedestrian-friendly.

Based on requests by residents to close gaps between existing sidewalks, the council voted 6-0, with Ben Marks absent, to include two addi-

tional projects in this year's budget. The council also voted 5-1, with Aldo Vagozzi opposed, to direct the city's planning commission to change its criteria for future sidewalk construction.

The council is directing the city planning commission to make closing gaps the top priority, with 60 percent of new sidewalk construction earmarked for those projects. Pedestrian

safety will be the second priority, and access to pedestrian-generating facilities will be the third.

The city will build sidewalks on the south side of 12 Mile from Greencastle to Herndonwood on the east side of the city at a cost of \$40,000 and on the north side of 13 Mile between Halsted and Haggerty at a cost of \$4,000.

A third project would involve a

sidewalk on the west side of Middlebelt from Pendleton Club Condominiums to 11 Mile. That project would have cost \$40,000 and will be looked at as a candidate for the 1994-95 budget.

"There is fund balance in the capital fund," said councilman Jon Grant. "But I haven't recommended

See SIDEWALK, 8A

Who loves a parade?

The Farmington Founders Festival Parade must be a great place to pick up girls. Just ask Garry Clark. He latched on to a gal named Doty there in 1965, and they've been together ever since. Garry Clark was riding a horse in the parade in '65, when the Founders Festival was only a couple of years old. His parents ran the old Pendergast Riding Stable at Nine Mile and Halsted roads. Horses were a big part of their lives. Doty was riding in a wagon just behind Garry. Someone kept telling Doty that Garry thought she was cute and why didn't she just hop on the horse with him. "It took me half the parade to talk her into it," remembered Garry Clark, and at about Power Road and Grand River she finally agreed. They

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rode out the rest of the parade together. "I asked her out that night and that was it," Garry Clark said. "We've been together ever since."

They were married July 16, 1968, and will celebrate their 25th anniversary this Saturday, July 17, at . . . the Founders Festival Parade, of course. Actually, the Clarks, Farmington Hills residents since the early 1970s, seldom miss the annual parade through downtown Farmington. They usually sit at their "spot" on Grand River near Power Road where she first climbed into the saddle with him. After the parade, they plan to see the rest of the

festival and then attend a family party at a local restaurant. Garry is a truck driver. Doty is an underwriter for an insurance company. They are the parents of two boys, Brian and Jason.

The 1993 edition of the Festival parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Memory lane

From the July 16, 1953 issue of the Farmington Observer:

Orchard Lake Road was due to be widened between 11 and 14 Mile roads in Farmington Township. Cost of the project was about \$136,000.

The Farmington City Council approved the purchase of \$3,000 worth of furniture for the new Municipal Court.