

# Farmington Observer



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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

**TODAY**

**Early classified:** Thursday's classified sections 402-421, rental properties, are now available Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. Call 953-2297 or see the Reader's Service Index for more information. /2A

**Cable able:** An agreement was worked out between MetroVision, which serves the Farmington area, and the parent company of WKBD-TV Channel 50 that will allow the cable operator to continue to air the station. /5A

## STREET SCENE

**A mainstay:** Local recording studios have become an important part of the metro area music scene, offering bands a place to record their music. /6A

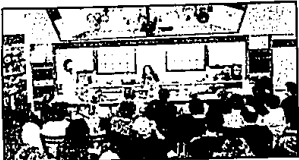
## MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**He's in fashion:** TV financial analyst Louis Rukeyser drew an audience of 650 to his Hudson's-sponsored talk on "fashion, insight and information." /9A

## COUNTY NEWS

**In the hot seat:** PTO members from Bloomfield Hills schools grill area legislators on how they will reinvigorate and collect taxes to pay for public education. /12A

## TASTE



**"China Express":** Tips for Chinese food fans who don't have much time to shop and chop. /1B

**Chef's Secrets:** Pastry chef Kristin Jablonski wins spot on Culinary Olympic team. /1B

## CABLE TV WEEKLY

**Local access:** "Fair Housing Awareness" on local access Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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## HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

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# Hills debates off to lively start



BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Six candidates for the Farmington Hills City Council fielded questions on everything from health care to ex-

cessive cable TV rates during the first of four televised debates Sept. 29.

Mayor Nancy Bates, one of three council members not up for election, said she was impressed by the group.

"I think we have six pretty good candidates," she said, beaming after the event that included a live audience of about 40 in the city council chambers and a cable television audience.

Barry Brickner moderated the debate, sponsored by the Farmington Democratic Club, as audience members asked the questions. The six candidates are incumbents Ben Marks, Aldo Vagnozzi, Larry Liech-

man and Jon Grant, and challengers Vincent Lorelli and Cheryl Oliverio.

While the candidates agreed on the need to redevelop the city's older areas, they differed on how to do it.

Marks called the Eight Mile and Inkster area the city's "Achilles' heel."

"We have to reassess the use of a new kind of zoning, (such as IRO — industrial research office)," he said.

See DEBATE, 4A

## Horn of plenty



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**A tuba tune:** Brad Dillaman, a senior from North Farmington High, plays during halftime of a football game against crosstown-rival Farmington High Sept. 18. For more on prep sports, please turn to 1C.

# Board steps up search

By Sue Buck  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Board of Education is "aggressively" conducting a search for a school superintendent both locally and nationally.

Farmington school superintendent Michael Flanagan's recent announcement that he has accepted an appointment as superintendent of the

## SCHOOLS

Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) took many by surprise.

Flanagan will continue as superintendent for Farmington schools until Jan. 1.

A recent letter to employees and community leaders announced that the search for Flanagan's replacement has begun in earnest. The search is expected to be completed by the end of December.

"Because of the quality reputation of our district, the board is confident we will attract excellent candidates to apply for this position, and we are committed to appointing only the best," the letter reads.

"The word is out," said school board president Cathleen Welb. "We've received several inquiries. This is a desirable community to live and work in."

The Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) has placed advertisements in Education Week, a national school administrators' newsletter, she said.

The board is also encouraging input from staff and community members regarding qualifications and characteristics to be considered.

Board members are asking for suggestions on: desired key personal and professional qualifications, most important duties or responsibilities, and two or three issues that should be attended to by the next superintendent and the board.

Responses are due by Friday, Oct. 15. They can be sent to the Farmington Board of Education office, 32500 Shawwassee St., Farmington 48336.

Only school board members will read the responses. Applicants may remain anonymous if they choose.

See SEARCH, 4A

# Marks: Home rule critical for city



Ben Marks

Ben Marks is one of six candidates, including four incumbents, running for the Farmington Hills City Council. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

It's no longer enough for city officials to deal with issues locally; they must be willing and able to make their case to lawmakers in Lansing and Washington, says Farmington Hills City Council candidate Ben



Marks. Marks, 70, has been on the council for nine years and has also served on the city charter commission, the planning board, zoning board of appeals and other boards. But for the

past year, ending last month, Marks served as president of the Michigan Municipal League, and took his case for home rule on a variety of issues to lawmakers and state and national leaders.

"Being a local elected official requires you to be more involved and more sophisticated in dealing with state and federal government than it

See MARKS, 2A

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### Candidate Forum

**C**ouncil candidates for Farmington and Farmington Hills will participate in separate forums Wednesday, Oct. 6, at Farmington Hills City Council chambers, 11 Mile Road, off Orchard Lake. The first one is at 7 p.m. with the four candidates for Farmington City Council. The Farmington Hills council candidate forum is at 8 p.m. They will be cablecast live on Channel 8. The forums are cosponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

### Speak up

**T**he Farmington area Foreign Language Awareness Group will have a meeting 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, at Farmington High.

Anyone interested in promoting innovative foreign language programs and ideas in Farmington schools may attend. FLAG is looking for the creation of business partnerships with multinational companies, foreign speakers to work with teacher

or volunteers to serve on committees. For information, call Pierette Simpson at Harrison High School, 489-3499.

### Spish splash

**A** little October mud have your auto looking gray? Mercy High parents and students are presenting a free car wash 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, on school grounds, Middlebelt and 11 Mile roads, Farmington. Students are gathering pledges with the goal of washing 1,000 cars Saturday. Money raised benefits the school.