

IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**Accord reached:** Farmington and its public safety command officers have reached agreement on a three-year contract. /2A

**What it isn't:** A new planter is taking shape on Farmington's main corner. Here are some things it won't have. /3A

### COUNTY NEWS

**Sheriff round-up:** Sheriffs from neighboring counties give a passing grade to the handling of the Oakland department scandal. /8A

### OPINION

**Spreading the word:** What with the candidate forums on the Farmington cable TV channel, there just aren't any excuses for not knowing the hopefuls. /22A

**Way to go:** Rabbi Sherwin Wine of Farmington Hills pleads for a renewed link between the suburbs and the city of Detroit. /23A

### SPORTS

**Grid report:** Find out who Emons and O'Meara like in Friday's WLAA championship game between Farmington Harrison and Westland John Glenn. /1B

### ENTERTAINMENT



**Entertainment:** It's no mystery, we're sprucing up this section. Check out our new look and our preview of "Black Coffee." /1C

### BUILDING & BUSINESS

**A new look:** We've combined our Building & Business sections to better package their news content. Today, read about an architectural firm specializing in church design and local businesses with global ties. /1F

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## DDA fine-tunes assessment plan



Farmington's Downtown Development Authority, faced with a cash shortfall, will ask the city council to approve a special assessment that would raise \$650,000.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Details of the special assessment for downtown Farmington commercial property owners have been fine-tuned. It's all down to approval. The Farmington Downtown Development Authority will ask the city council at a Nov. 1 meeting to ap-

prove a special assessment district to raise \$650,000 over a five-year period. The assessment would be 9.5 mills, or \$9.50 of tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

A public hearing will also have to take place. Details were worked out at a special DDA meeting Tuesday. The process provoked a discussion among members.

While a majority of the board members are behind the special assessment to make up revenue lost from tax increment financing as a result of Senate Bill 1, one board member thinks the DDA is being a bit hasty.

"My feelings are the board is acting too quickly on this particular project," DDA board member Bill Ray said. "I think we should wait and see what the state is going to come up (with). I feel very strongly the state has a responsibility to help the DDAs. I know they have in the past."

Other board members contend that is the past.

The state Legislature has yet to work out how to pay for public schools and bonded debt of some DDAs. Authorities like Farmington's, which has no bonded debt, will likely have to fend for themselves.

"I feel the board would be irresponsible not to make some contingency plan," board member Bob Heinrich said.

Ray said he thinks the DDA can maintain what it's already done for

See DDA, 3A

## A school day begins at St. Paul's Lutheran School



SHARON LAMBERG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With crossed arms: Second grader Danny Haller pledges allegiance to the cross after a pledge to the flag.

## School keeps faith in standards, traditions

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

As the children leave the chapel, one of the kindergarten teachers reaches up and takes the hand of a willing older child. That's how it is at this school.

St. Paul's Lutheran School's 176 students are part of a tradition that spans more than 100 years in Farmington Hills. And at Sunday's wor-

ship service, the school will officially receive accreditation by the National Accreditation Commission for Lutheran Schools.

"It's a feather in our cap," said principal Sue Fisher, who also teaches eighth grade.

The school was founded along with the St. Paul's Lutheran Church at its present site on Middlebelt and Eight Mile in 1892.

It now includes a preschool, day care, latchkey program and grades kindergarten through eighth.

"Our strongest ministry has always been a Christian day school," said the Rev. Ralph Unger, pastor at the church for the past 16 years.

Even in its early days, the church doubled as a school. The present school building was built in 1972. With 15 teachers and students pri-

marily from Southfield, Livonia and Detroit, the school has been accredited by the state.

Years ago, before accreditation, students had to take an examination to show they were up to state standards, Fisher said.

"They always did better than the public school students," she said.

See ST. PAUL'S, 6A



Jon Grant

## Grant: Redevelopment top priority

Jon Grant 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

Even though Farmington Hills councilman Jon Grant is practically a lifelong city resident, his experience in office over the past four years has helped him make more government contacts and network more than in the years before he took office.



"It takes you some time to be really effective," the former mayor said. Grant, who won a four-year seat in 1989, is running for his third term. He lost to Terry Sever by six votes in 1985 and asked for a recount. "I bought Terry another vote," he said.

Grant, 41, is a North Farmington High School graduate who attended Oakland University and Lawrence Technological University. He is in the printing business.

As a father of three, Grant said he sees his service on the council as an important civic duty.

"I want to show my kids by example that they can have an effect on their environment," he said.

Grant said serving on the council

See GRANT, 4A

### Change those batteries!

The Farmington Hills Fire Department is urging residents to make a timely change when they set back their clocks and watches to Eastern Standard Time Oct. 31.

The Hills department is joining others across the country in reminding residents to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when they change their clocks.

The time change will be at 2 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, but the department suggests that sometime on the weekend residents change batteries in their smoke detectors and test them.

"We typically check them (smoke detectors) at the scene of a fire," said deputy chief Pete Baldwin. "It's not uncommon to find that the batteries are dead or the smoke detectors are inoperable. This makes them useless and gives a false

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sense of security."

### Downtown Halloween Fest

Downtown Farmington will be the site of some pre-Halloween activities from 6-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, and 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturday, Oct. 30. People, young and old alike, are encouraged to come in costume and enjoy dancing to live bands, sampling food and having fortunes told by psychics on both nights.

A free showing of the original "Frankenstein" movie will take place at the Civic Theater at 11:30

p.m. Friday, Oct. 29. The next day, beginning at 10 a.m., there will be a petting zoo, cider and doughnuts, and parents and children trick-or-treating store to store in the business area.

On Saturday afternoon, "goblins" will pass out coupons while cloggers and western line dancers entertain. A pumpkin pie eating contest, pumpkin decorating and a tent sale will also take place.

A costume party for adults will be at 8 p.m. Saturday under a tent downtown. Cash and prizes will total \$1,000.

The event is co-sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority and the Downtown Farmington Business Association.

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