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IN THE PAPER TODAY

A stormy night: The wind that blew off part of the roof of the Old Orchard Theater in Farmington Hills had firefighters busy on other calls as well. /2A
Changes coming: A troubled Farmington Hills restaurant will stay open and will hire a consultant to make changes in its operation. /3A
Any takers? Anyone wishing to challenge for a seat on the Farmington City Council will have to take on a total of 30 years of incumbency. There'll be at least one new council member after election day, however. /4A

OPINION

Transported: Guest columnist Shirley Welch argues that public transportation was better in the good old days. /5A

Stirring: We all suffer from the offensive slurs that appeared in a high school yearbook, says columnist Judy Berne. /5A

BUSINESS

Merging incomes: Columnist Sid Mittra tells what happens to the family bottom line when two incomes become one. /6A
Business decisions: The Business Milestones column lists some Farmington-area folks and firms involved in recent activity. /6A

TASTE

Fabulous Fourth: Add new flavor twists to traditional side dishes for backyard barbecue "ooohs and ahs." /1B
Pop the cork: Russian River pinot noir is at the head of its class. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Fashion Savvy: How much do you really know about the way the clothing industry works? Take a stylish quiz to find out. /4B
Crafty Critters: Animal lovers will want to check out the cute and corny replicas of their favorite collectible creatures. /4B

SPORTS

Summer hockey: The Metro Summer Hockey League has completed its first week of play, and the scoring has reached a zenith. /1C

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School district to quiz public



What is your opinion of the Farmington Public Schools? School officials say they want to know. You'll have a chance to speak your piece if you're part of an upcoming school survey.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

John Q. Public's phone will be ringing and Farmington Public Schools will be saying hello. The district wants to conduct a community survey to find out how people think it's doing. A telephone

and mail poll will likely take place in the fall.

District officials are talking to Public Sector Consultants, a Lansing-based public opinion think tank, but no decision has been made as to who will do the survey.

A survey was suggested during the

recent Mission 2007 strategic planning process. Some 103 action plans have been approved by the Farmington Board of Education.

With increasing debate over charter schools and vouchers, public education is facing scrutiny. What's stirring in the public's mind is paramount.

"People in the competitive world have to know who their customers are," said Superintendent Bob Maxfield, "and make sure those customers are being heard."

Public opinion will likely be

weighed in four areas: Parents, people without children in the public schools, staff and graduates follow-up.

Parents may be asked their views on having more schools of choice, all-day kindergarten, additional foreign language programs, and on how to get more people involved.

People without children in the public schools, though, are a key since they account for 80 percent of the population. They're the silent majority, except when it comes to millage

See CURVEY, 2A

Day camp fun is right on target



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

Stringing along: Robert Toth, 7, gets an archery lesson from counselor Jessica Justus at one of Farmington Hills' day camps. Stephanie Marcus, 8, (below) looks like one happy camper.

Focus on fun: Campers come back for s'mores

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

It's hard to miss the campers in Farmington Hills these days. Participants in the city recreation department's day camp program keep coming back for a variety of activities that include nature hikes, water games, archery and even an overnight experience.

Miller, 12.

Miller was back for her second year at the Nature's Way camp, which focuses on identifying trees and flowers, orienteering, archery and outdoor teaching.

"I like this better than (Camp) Come-On-A-Woods," said Matt Kirklin, 10, who was also part of the Nature's Way group. "We're outside more in this camp."

See CURVEY, 2A



What's going on? Call hot line

Wondering what's happening in downtown Farmington these days? Just call 473-7283 to find out.

Farmington's Downtown Development Authority established the "hot line" so the public may be informed about DDA events such as the Summer Fun Series, which takes place most Wednesdays for youngsters.

Speaking of the Summer Fun Series, the next one — Street Sweep and Sell — will be held 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, under the big tent in the Downtown Center parking lot.

Sweep, Sweep and Sell is for those age 18 and under. It's a place to sell or swap games, books or toys. Pre-registration is required. Call 473-4798.

No Summer Fun Series event will be held July 18 because that's the week of the Farmington

FARMINGTON FOCUS

A most beautiful place

Mary-Franco Cimo, a recent transplant from San Francisco, has been placed on the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission by the City Council.

"... I chose Farmington Hills as my home because it is one of the most beautiful and verdant places I have ever come to have seen in the Midwest," said Cimo in her letter of application to the mayor.

"I would like nothing more than to help maintain and enhance the environment of this city," she

added. Cimo, an account manager with a software firm, will serve a term ending in 1998.

Holiday trash collections

Attention, residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Refuse, recycling and compost will not be picked up Tuesday, July 4. Because of the holiday, Tuesday's collection will take place on Wednesday. Wednesday's will be picked up on Thursday, and Friday's on Saturday.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48332; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer listserve, the Internet E-mail address is: pecky@comonline.com.