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On the table: Farmington schools' 1997-98 school year budget proposes to spend almost \$115 million, including some fund equity./A6

Giving back: Farmington Hills honored its senior citizen volunteers last week ./A3

COUNTY

State help: Two university leaders — Gary Russi of Oakland University and David Adamany of Wayne State University — make their appeal for more state funding at a recent legislative hearing./A5

ENTERTAINMENT

Hoedown: This year's Hoedown at Hart Plaza on the Detroit Riverfront is the biggest in its 15-year history./E1

Books: Techno-thrillers put Michigan at high-stakes risk. Each book promises a "can't put it down" reading experience./E1

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2 bond plans go back to voters



Farmington school district voters get two choices in September. It's yes or no on \$74 million for facilities and on \$21 million for instructional improvements. Voters turned down \$110 million in March.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

With some orator marks and white out on it, Farmington Public Schools officials will go back to the voters with a bond proposal in

September.

This one will ask voter approval on two separate questions — \$74 million for facility upgrades and \$21 million for instructional enhancements. An election will likely take

place during the last week of September, school officials said Wednesday.

At a special meeting Tuesday, the Farmington Board of Education unanimously approved taking the \$95 million bond measure to voters.

"We're going to fight for it. We're going to make it happen," Superintendent Bob Maxfield said.

a total of 1.6 mills.

An owner of a \$165,000 would pay an additional \$132 a year. That's \$33 less than the 2 mills from the proposed \$110 million bond issue in March.

The district's bond request to pay for building improvements and new technology was defeated by 195 votes March 25.

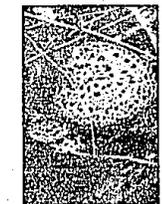
Some \$14.7 million in technology.

Please see BOND, A12

Back to nature



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LENCZES



Sloppy hike: At top, Mike Zachos and his 6-year-old son, Jay, bring their umbrellas along for the walk through Woodland Hills Park off Farmington Road, just south of I-696. Cover was just as important under foot as the small troop, headed by Farmington Hills naturalist Joe Derek, in center photo, was led through the spring mud exploring the plant and wildlife. At left is a *Hydnum Imbricatum* — mushroom — that survived the winter.

Hills delays new cell tower plans

BY WILLIAM COVANT
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council adopted a moratorium on new cellular tower construction in residential areas until a proposed ordinance permanently addresses the issue.

Council members assured industry representatives that the resolution would not adversely affect any current cellular tower projects.

The resolution would require that any new cellular tower or antenna planned within residential areas gain approval from the city council rather than the ZBA.

Cellular equipment planned for areas where it is already allowed, such as business or commercial zones, would continue to be considered under the

existing process and would go before the ZBA.

City Attorney John Donohue said the moratorium would permit any cellular towers within 500 feet of a residential area.

Gregory Need, an attorney for Sprint, said his company has worked with the city staff in an effort to meet the city's zoning.

"We've invested a great deal of time and effort," he said.

Rick Sundquist, an attorney for Ameritech, said he objected to any moratorium and cited a previous 18-month moratorium that ended in August of 1996.

"We've reviewed this issue," said Sundquist, who has been a member of a cellular study committee that helped come up with a proposed ordinance. "I don't think there is any more

Please see TOWERS, A12

Reid pushes tech needs for district

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Frank Reid has felt the heat without getting near the kitchen.

He was co-chair of the Farmington Public School District's financial strategies committee — made up of residents such as Reid and administrators — that recommended the district go for a \$110 million bond issue to pay for building and technology improvements.

At subsequent informational meetings, Reid listened as some questioned and openly tore away at the proposal that took 10 months to develop. Voters turned down the bond measure.

The experience hasn't left him bitter; it has left him determined.

Reid is seeking a term on the Farmington Board of Education in the June 9 election. The Farmington Hills resident, who co-chaired the financial strategies committee,



Name: Frank Reid
Age: 45
Family: Married, two children, ages 16 and 4.
Occupation: Information systems manager, Johnson Controls Automotive Systems in Plymouth.
Education: Bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University; graduate studies at the University of Illinois.

Please see BOARD, A5

Tupper's service wins 'exemplary' state honor

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Dick Tupper is to volunteerism what the Energizer Bunny is to alkaline batteries: He keeps giving and giving.

This time, it was someone else's turn to give. Gov. John Engler presented the former Farmington councilman and longtime Goodfellows supporter with the "Exemplary Community Service by a Senior" award during a dinner May 8.

Tupper, 64, and his wife, Donna, were invited to the Gov-

ernor's mansion for a reception and later attended a volunteer recognition dinner at the Lansing Center.

"We work at the house. We even met the (Engler) triplets," said Tupper, who was nominated by Neighborhood House's Phyllis Howard. "They were even running around. They're just like ducklings: One follows the other."

Tupper's involvement with the Farmington Area Goodfel-

Please see TUPPER, A5

Towns skeptical of Gov. Engler's road proposal

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
AND BILL COVANT
STAFF WRITERS

Farmington area officials are skeptical over Gov. John Engler's road improvement plan.

Generally, the plan would add 4 cents per gallon of taxes to gasoline sales, with the state taking control of 33,000 miles of roadway, more than 3.5 times what it currently controls. State and federal money for those roads would move to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Specifics of a proposal by the governor to increase the state's gas tax to improve roads are due today, but Farmington Hills' mayor already has concerns.

"Our concern is what happens to our roads," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi. "We want to maintain our traditional share (of allocated road repair money)."

Engler's proposal to increase the state gas tax, seen by many as a user fee approach to road funding, would generate more money for road repairs, but the state would control how, and on which roads, it is spent.

The proposal is part of a package of legislation, including a measure that would save the state liability exposure on car insurance.

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff said the \$500 million in total revenue raised is in line with what's needed to fix the state's roads. He wonders if the plan is realistic, though.

"When you have a plan that is 40 percent dependent on another governmental agency that hasn't made a decision as to fund it, we have to question if the governor's plan is possible," Lauhoff said. "We certainly hope it is."

Vagnozzi said the governor's proposal is an improvement over some previous ones, but does not address local control of roads or the financial consequences of drivers who are in accidents where another driver without liability insurance is at fault.

"We feel we have a better handle on local roads," Vagnozzi said. "For instance, our roads are plowed out earlier than state or county roads. But we haven't seen the full proposal."

The issue of the state taking control of a major thoroughfare will likely impact the county most, Lauhoff said.

The state's track record of taking care of its own roads — like Grand River Avenue — is mixed.

"That is the other side of the coin," Lauhoff said. "That's fine they want to take it over. Their past history is that they haven't done it even though extra-ordinary road repairs."

"We've always had to ask for additional help on Grand River."

Cardiac arrest

Volunteers for the American Heart Association will be locked up for a fine cause Friday.

The AHA's "Cardiac Arrest" will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 16, at Rolich Grill Inn Farmington Hills.

Donors can visit in person or call 667-9511.

Calling for beauty

The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission is looking for areas of the city to be included in its annual awards program.

Subdivision, condominium and apartment entrances, houses of worship, businesses, industrial settings, offices, shopping centers, public buildings and schools are all eligible to be recognized for their beautification efforts.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

and organizations that contribute to the beauty of Farmington Hills.

Judges will be looking for good design, originality, maintenance and appropriateness to purpose and location.

Award winners will be recognized by the City of Farmington Hills and the Beautification Commission at the annual awards breakfast in November.

To make sure your location is considered, contact the city's planning office at (248) 473-9643.

Rose is a rose

For Milton Rose of Farmington Hills, the vol-

unteer life didn't end when he passed age 70.

At age 84, Rose will be honored by the Jewish Federation Apartments Inc. Eight over Eighty Senior Adult Jewish Hall of Fame for his 14 years of service as a first grade tutor.

Rose has served as tutor in the Berkley School District where he regularly supplies posters about the adverse effects of drinking and driving to the schools.

He will be among eight seniors over age 80 who will be honored from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at the Lillian and Samuel Hechman Apartments in West Bloomfield.

Proceeds from the \$60-per-person brunch will benefit the more than 650 senior adult residents of the JFA.

For more information, call 661-5220.