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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Sports TV: Time Warner adds a new all-sports channel this week. /A3

First punch: The principal at Farmington's Alternative Academy is standing behind a senior she says defended himself in a fight recently. Police are investigating. /C4

TASTE

2 Unique: Trash worries of your kids singing the brown bag blues. Pack lunches they'll eat. /B1

ARTS & LEISURE

Art of the mind: International sculptor Roman Signer's conceptual art exhibit opens the new season at Cranbrook Art Museum. /D1

INDEX

■ Arts & Leisure	D
■ Business scene	C5
■ Classified	G-K
■ Autos for sale	K6
■ Crossword	H4
■ Employment	J2
■ Home & Service Guide	K5
■ Index	J4
■ Real Estate	H1
■ Rentals	H6
■ Health & Fitness	E5
■ Malls & Mainstreets	B4
■ Movie Guide	D4
■ New Homes	G1
■ Oakland Digest	B6
■ Oakland Journal	E8
■ Obituaries	C4
■ Police, fire	A4
■ Road Watch	A6
■ Sports & Recreation	E

\$93.1 million bond vote Tuesday



The verdict comes Tuesday, when voters go the polls for Farmington's school fixup plan, a sequel to a bond plan that voters rejected in March. It will also help protect property values, according to the superintendent.

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

If Farmington Public School District's \$93.1 million bond issue is approved by voters Tuesday, the owner of an average-priced home can expect to pay \$127 more in taxes over the coming year.

That's fine. But what about the single professional living in a condo? Or the young couple without children? Or empty nesters?

Why should they vote for the bond issue?

It's a question that schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield has been asked on occasion during the weeks leading up to election day, the second bond issue attempt in six months.

The main reasons, according to Maxfield, are good citizenship and helping keep property values strong — both for

individual homeowners and the community.

"It gets back to a definition of our democratic system," Maxfield explained. "By tradition, if nothing else, there are certain things a society ought to be providing for all residents. Whether it's sewers, roads, public safety departments, schools — it's something all people benefit from, directly or indirectly. Of course, you're certainly more motivated when your children are in school."

Keeping property values at a desirable level is another reason people need to back school districts when they ask for more money, he said.

"All of us, regardless of age, benefit from a strong educational system in terms of (strong) property values," Maxfield said. "So it's really an investment in your community."

According to Maxfield, the quality of a school district directly impacts public perception and, ultimately, how much homes and businesses are worth.

Young people tell us they shopped around and decided to move here because of the schools. But we know the flip side is true. When the public perception of schools is negative, people who want their children to succeed,

Please see VOTE, A2

Singing for equality



In tune: The Farmington Harrison High School Choir, under the direction of Tom Schroeder, performed at the event Thursday night at the William Costich Center.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DEAN MITCHELL

Rally highlights town's cultural relations gains

BY VIVIAN DEGAHN
STAFF WRITER

If you build it, they will come.

Borrowed from the W. P. Kinsella novel about baseball, race, and the relationships between sons and fathers, the notion fits the spirit of the second annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council Rally, held Thursday evening.

The Kick-Off Rally, sponsored by the council, gathered representatives from the council, Farmington Public Schools and both cities, and offered music and community speakers

to affirm the coalitions' goals to promote and sustain a healthy, diverse community.

Keynote speakers for the event were Paul Hillegonds, president of Detroit Renaissance, and Isaiah McKinnon, Chief of the Detroit Police Department.

Hillegonds spoke about the importance of community involvement and his appreciation of the Farmington-area effort to make positive change.

McKinnon, also a personal friend of Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer for 30 years, shared a personal story.

Please see RALLY, A4



Hail to the chief: Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, left, joins Chief Bill Dwyer in welcoming Detroit Police Chief Isaiah McKinnon.

3 arrested for unlicensed escort service

BY VIVIAN DEGAHN
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Police arrested three people Thursday during an investigation of an unlicensed Farmington Hills escort service known as "Sunset Dreams."

Police arrested two men in a Farmington Hills apartment, they believed to be the administrative center for the business. The same evening, police also arrested a 20-year-old woman at the Farmington Hills Travel Lodge.

Investigators arrested the men, in their early 30s, at 5:45 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, at one of the Strawberry Lane Apartments on Middlebelt Rd. at 12 Mile. Investigators also seized six telephones, computer records naming clients and an illegal taser gun, or stun gun, at the scene.

Meanwhile, an undercover officer arrested the 20-year-old woman in the motel room, after she had allegedly offered to provide a one-hour striptease and massage for \$185.

All three face misdemeanor charges for participation in an unlicensed business. They were ticketed and released.

Dwyer said police continued to investigate the service and police resources would be used to their fullest extent to keep any illicit businesses from taking root in Farmington Hills.

"Illegal escort services, massage parlors or spas are not welcome in Farmington Hills," Dwyer said. "Prostitution is not a victimless crime. We've seen the other side of prostitution and pandering, and the lives and welfare of the young victims are also at stake."

Officers obtained a search warrant to investigate the Strawberry Lane apartment because of recent disturbances and complaints.

One of the male suspects resides in the Farmington Hills apartment.

The 20-year-old woman resides in Ypsilanti.

School's web pages win new computer

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The web they weaved was a winner.

Hillside Elementary School students and, in some cases, their parents, were recently honored by Adobe Software for winning first place in the K-5 category of last school year's Adobe Dream Team competition.

Over a three-month period last winter, 20 students in teacher Jean Warner's Bits of Art enrichment class at Hillside Elementary School got together to create their very own World Wide Web pages — creating digital photo and digital drawings of themselves, then blending them in a process known as

morphing.

Hillside won a new computer and Adobe software for the "Dream Team's" efforts and will have the pages displayed in Adobe Magazine.

Bits of Art is a self portrait unit, geared toward students getting to know themselves and each other better.

Students worked in teams to draw pictures, find out subjects of interest and complete research on the Web to incorporate into the finished product, Warner explained.

She added that the team didn't know it won until the day after the 1996-97

Please see WINNERS, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY DEAN MITCHELL

Winning team: From left, Matt Leach, Keaton Mette, Brittany Luse, and Emily Erickson check out their national first-place winning Web Page.

Now or never for absentees

The Farmington Public School District administration building will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. tomorrow for last-minute bond issue absentee voters, said spokeswoman Diana Bauman.

Residents can come in, apply for their absentee ballot and vote — but they must do so on the premises.

A two-part bond issue proposal totaling \$93.1 million will be decided on Tuesday.

The administration building is located at 32600 Shiawassee. For more information, call 489-3300.

Take a walk

Start looking around town for Healthy Parking Spaces, but don't expect to save any time.

A new sign was to be installed Friday at the

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Kroger store at 12 Mile and Halsted dedicating the farthest parking space from the store as a "Healthy Parking Space."

More signs will pop up around the area as other Farmington area businesses, Farmington Hills City Hall and county parks take part in the Farmington Family YMCA's project, according to Mandi Skeegan of the YMCA.

The "Take the Pledge" project is set up through the Healthy People, Healthy Oakland grant. The project seeks to enlist community leaders and businesses to spend a year focusing on exercise, nutrition and weight management. For more details call

the YMCA at 553-4020.

Dedicated to Deacon

Former Farmington Hills mayor and activist Keith Deacon will be honored Wednesday morning when a "Farmington Hills Welcomes You" sign on 12 Mile east of Haggerty is dedicated in his honor.

The connection is fitting, since Deacon's work as chairman of the Economic Development Corporation, included granting EDC funds for the signs. He was also instrumental in the 12 Mile Road Boulevard right of way study, which culminated in the boulevard in place today on 12 Mile.

Deacon's service to the city also included service on the charter commission, city council and zoning board of appeals.