



## Hazardous Material Drop-off Day

Saturday, May 8  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
47th District Court parking lot  
32795 W. 10 Mile  
For more information: (248) 553-8580

### ACCEPTED MATERIAL

- Oil-based, enamel and acrylic paints
- Paint thinners, removers and wood preservatives
- Any type of oil including motor oil
- Gasoline
- Pesticides including DOT with herbicides including Dioxin compounds
- Fertilizers
- Legal drugs - prescription and over-the-counter
- Aerosols
- Mercury
- Household cleaners
- Adhesives
- Alkaline materials
- Pool maintenance chemicals and water treatment compounds
- Laboratory chemicals
- Batteries

### UNACCEPTED MATERIAL

- Liquefied and water-based paint (dry out and put out with regular trash)
- Radioactive materials such as in some smoke detectors
- Medical waste/infectious materials such as needles and chemotherapy home care products
- Explosives/bombs
- Propane or other compressed gas cylinders such as fire extinguishers
- Containers greater than five gallons or 50 lbs.

## Developers revise plans

■ Happier is what city officials appear to be with developer's proposed plans for the Eleven Pines development.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Eight developers have submitted revised bids to develop the Eleven Pines property and San Marino golf course expansion, which at first glance already has one city official enthused.

Revisions were due Friday. Eight of the nine who turned in proposals late last year appear eager to develop city-owned parcels.

City staff will thoroughly go over the proposals and then meet with Farmington Hills City Council members within two weeks. By summer, city officials want to have a "partner" on town to develop the highly-anticipated project on 100-plus acres.

At least on paper things look good.

"They're fantastic," said Dale Countegnan, Farmington Hills planning director. "I think they really have captured the essence of what council is trying to achieve for the site."

In addition to expanding municipally owned San Marino course from nine to 18 holes, plans include proposals for multiple-family housing on the Eleven Pines portion and single family residential on the golf course side.

Some plans submitted also include a new clubhouse and senior housing.

Just as important, though, some developers have

Please see REVISE, A7

## 5 dispatchers eyed for Hills

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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To most, the city of Farmington Hills' proposed budget is a routine matter. For some, though, the document could be a matter of life or death.

The \$71 million 1999-2000 budget calls for 13 new hires, five of those dispatchers. More people are needed to take emergency calls, especially with the fire department taking on advance life support services.

"This is not a status quo

budget," City Manager Steve Brock said. "We're doing a lot of things."

Additional employees will be added to the Special Services Department, including a cultural arts coordinator. All but three new hires are being paid for through voter-approved public safety and parks and rec millages.

Which is why property owners will see the same tax rate - 10.16 mills - for city services. A mill is \$1 of tax for

Please see BUDGET, A7



Hero: Cody Wicklund, 8, is a hero to his mom, Gizelle, after he helped her when she got a hook/lure stuck through her finger last weekend.

## Hooked

### Mom declares son a hero

Just in time for Mother's Day, the Wicklund family of Farmington Hills is putting a new twist on the holiday. Mom, Gizelle, has made her son, Cody, her all time hero.

And with good reason. On Sunday, May 2, Gizelle and Cody - the rest of the family was up north - went fishing at the pond in their Farmington Green subdivision.

As Cody hooked his second fish of the day and tried to remove the hook, the lure - complete with three hooks of its own - grabs Cody's shorts.

Gizelle helps and manages to unhook the hook from the lure and leave it on Cody's shorts. With total attention to the fish, Gizelle puts it in water and tries to work with

the hook.

And in Gizelle's words:

"The fish jerks and the remaining free hook hooks almost all the way through my left middle finger. Now, neither Cody nor I can get the lure/hook out of the fish or my finger."

Cody, who wants to be a professional bass fisherman when he grows up, stands up to the challenge. He saw some unknown neighbors across the pond.

"Hey you guys! You get over here and help my mom. I'm not kidding. You get over here right now. Call 911. We need your help!" Cody shouted.

As the neighbors made their way over to

Please see FISH, A13

## Kids suspended; police, schools stand guard

BY TIM SMITH  
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Farmington school district officials and area police continue tracking down rumors of pending violence during the aftermath of the Littleton, Colo. high school shootings.

And some students are finding themselves in deep trouble for saying the wrong things at the wrong time.

Farmington High School Principal John Barrett said a 15-year-old fresh-

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man was suspended indefinitely for an incident on Wednesday, April 28, when he told other students he had a bomb inside a brown paper bag. It turned out to be a toaster, but officials are not taking chances.

Also, a Power Middle School student is serving a suspension for making inappropriate comments, said James Myers, executive director of K-12 student services.

■ Farmington High School Principal John Barrett said a 15-year-old freshman was suspended indefinitely for an incident on Wednesday, April 28, when he told other students he had a bomb inside a brown paper bag.

Regarding the FHS student's suspension, Barrett said the police department forwarded the case to the Oakland County Family Court, where charges are being considered.

"What he did was break a criminal

law," said Barrett. "When you tell people you're going to bomb something, or that you have a bomb, whether you have one or not, that's against our criminal code."

Please see KIDS, A12

## 2-hour limit likely in lot

BY TIM SMITH  
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Meter maids aren't coming to downtown Farmington, but the "Chalk Squad" probably is. The city council introduced an ordinance amendment Monday that will bring two-hour parking to the municipal lot located behind Page's Food & Spirits.

Pending final approval by the council on Monday, May 17, the 20 spaces located in two rows near the back door of Page's and Mutual Financial Services will be designated for two-hour parking only. The move to timed parking, recommended by the Traffic and Safety Board, is due to short-term versus long-term parking needs of businesses.

Gary Goss, director of the Farmington Public Safety Department and a member of the Traffic and Safety Board, said the hope is that there will be "voluntary compliance" among business employees who now park all day in many of those spaces.

The council also would like more employees of surrounding businesses to consider parking in the city lot south of State Street. That, along with the timed parking, would relieve stress for customers who cannot find open spaces.

Two factors for the current space crunch include the following: Goss said 27 vehicles

Please see PARKING, A15



Top scholars: The 1999 Observer Academic All Stars are (left front to back) Evan Leung, Plymouth Salem; Jeanne Whalen, Ladywood; Emily Yambasky, Stevenson; Robert Lillibridge, Churchhill; Kenneth Tseng, Churchhill; Jarret Kuo, North Farmington; (middle row front to back) Valerie Taylor, Plymouth Canton; Katherine Braunstein, North Farmington; Nathan Platte, Catholic Central; Ariel Shwayder, Harrison; Matt Nizol, Stevenson; (right front to back) Kevin Wilson, Franklin; David Hansen, Thurston; Lisa Wuerth, Thurston and Peter Lin, Churchhill. Not pictured are Samip Mallick of Plymouth Canton and John Gardai of Catholic Central.

## 15TH \* ANNUAL \* ACADEMIC \* ALL \* STARS

### Top scholars are featured in special section today

BY RENEE SNOGLUND  
STAFF WRITER

In today's paper, the Observer proudly introduces its 15th annual Academic All-Star team and the runners-up.

Take time to read this special section, which profiles the accomplishments of 48 talented high school seniors selected for the honor by a committee of area high school principals.

We guarantee it will be a good read. Katherine Anne Braunstein of Farmington Hills found out just how well she had done on her SAT exams when she called her mom from the hotel room at North Farmington High School.

Her mom told her to sit down. She had scored a perfect 1600.

"I didn't think I could get a 1600 because I skipped a question," she said. "I couldn't believe."

Braunstein is headed to the University of Michigan this fall to study pre-medicine in the school's honors program. Besides a perfect SAT score, she'll take with her the experience of her involvement in several extracurricular activities.

"I'm much more of a people person," she said. Nathan Platte of Redford, a senior at Catholic Central, dreams of playing his trom-

bone in a symphony orchestra and teaching music at a college. A dual degree in musical performance and liberal arts from the University of Michigan will help him reach that goal.

Platte loves playing music from the Romantic period - Mahler, Wagner, and Tchaikovsky. He hopes to study abroad, perhaps at the Paris Conservatory of Music, during his college years. Never mind that he doesn't speak French or any other foreign language.

"Languages sound musical to my ear," he said.

Evan Leung of Canton will study computer science at the University of Michigan after he graduates from Plymouth Salem High School. He said he's been somewhat of an outsider in high school and considers himself an "observer" of his generation.

"Lots of kids have potential, but they don't develop it because they're focused on being cool. So many kids have the potential to become good people, but it's up to them."

Leung said he tries hard to be sensitive towards others and not laugh at their awkward misfortunes, like tripping in a school hallway and falling in front of other students.

"I've fallen lots of times," he said.

### Influential teachers

Behind every outstanding student, there's a

Please see ALL STARS, A14

