

Farmington Observer

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Head-on collision



PETER JALOWSKI

Crash: A Novi woman was hurt when the car she was driving collided with a beer truck near the Gov. Warner Mansion on Grand River about 3 p.m. Friday afternoon. Rescuers used the Jaws of Life to get the woman out of her car, pictured above. She was taken to Botsford Hospital where she was listed in critical condition Friday afternoon. For the story, please turn to page A6.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Wake up: Don't forget the Memorial Day parade in downtown Farmington begins at 10 a.m. It will start at the Uptown Plaza on Grand River west of Orchard Lake Road and will end at the War Memorial at Grand River and Oakland.

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We did it!



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEXLER

Looking ahead: It's not goodbye. Katie Sailer and Monica Osterberger hug just before Mercy High School's graduation ceremony Thursday night at Meadowbrook. Graduation ceremonies were accompanied by mild weather and a star-filled night. For more information, photographs and list of 1999 Mercy High School graduates, please turn to page A3.

Upscale condos planned

Does additional building add more problems to an overtaxed sewer system? At least in the case of new condos, city officials say no.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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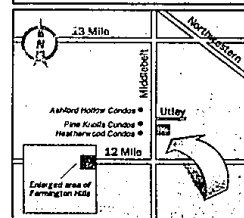
A spacious 16-unit condominium development is being proposed on 17 acres of vacant land on Middlebelt Road, north of 12 Mile.

Fears on how such developments will tax the existing sewer system are unfounded, at least in this case. The Reserve at Woodcreek will have its own sewer system.

"This project itself doesn't create any problems," said Tom Biasell, public ser-

Please see CONDOS, A4

Condo site approved



School board hosts hearing on budget

BY TIM SMITH
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Farmington school officials insist the district is on solid financial ground, despite tapping \$3.4 million in fund equity money to balance the proposed 1999-2000 budget.

According to Superintendent Bob Maxfield, the shortfall is mostly due to paying for one-time-only capital projects, connected with ongoing bond issue construction — and not for recurring expenses.

"The revenues exceed expenses by design in that

there are a number of capital projects," Maxfield explained, "that are designed to complement the bond issue, one-time-only expenditures."

A public hearing about the \$124 million budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shlawassee. The hearing will precede the regular board meeting.

Approval of the budget, and 1998-2000 property tax levy, would then take place during the board's subsequent meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15. State law requires that the budget be approved by June 30.

A public hearing about the budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shlawassee.

Other initiatives contained in the budget follow the district's Mission 2007 long-range planning goals, such as the elementary study, early childhood study and high school block scheduling.

Please see BUDGET, A5

Incumbents, challenger defend their positions

BY TIM SMITH
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Moving school elections from June to November, to be held at the same time as the general election, might be an idea worth looking into, said Melody Jusko, the only Farmington school board candidate not currently serving on the panel.

SCHOOL BOARD RACE

"I think it would be a good idea to have election consolidation," said Jusko, a challenger for a one-year term. "There is movement in Lansing to consolidate elections, and I believe that would greatly increase voter turnout."

But both incumbents, during Thursday night's candidates forum at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, dis-

Please see CANDIDATES, A4

SHAPING OUR YOUTH

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

An essential component to a healthy lifestyle

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
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Maintaining a healthy body weight throughout the period prior to and during puberty can be a challenge for young people. With the advent of the Internet, other technology related entertainment and an average decline in physical activity by school-age children, the result has led to a significant number of sedentary adolescents.

Nationally the prevalence for overweight youth is increasing. Experts have determined that a natural predictor of adult obesity is childhood obesity — underscoring the importance of maintaining a sensible, well-balanced

diet and routine exercise program. According to the American Heart Association, inactivity contributes to risk factors such as obesity, high blood pressure, respiratory disorder, diabetes, elevated blood cholesterol and early heart disease.

Local public school districts, acquainted with the current health status of its youth have taken active steps to encourage healthy eating and exercise habits in school, as a hobby and in the home-setting. A curriculum developed in the fall of 1998 under the guidance of Governor John Engler's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports and a consortium of

Please see LIFESTYLE, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEXLER

Stretch: Before a run, Farmington High School Physical Education teacher Mary Sheltrown works with students on warm-ups and stretching to improve their performance each day. After the run, students will record both their times and their active heart rate.

Physical education central to curriculum at Farmington Schools

BY TIM SMITH
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Don't accuse Farmington Public Schools of playing games with the physical health of its children.

The Farmington district is in the midst of a two-year makeover of its physical education department. Curriculum now focuses on nutrition, learning healthy lifestyles and giving students a chance to participate in activities that don't necessarily rely on

touchdowns or home runs.

High school gym classes once might have featured kids in white shorts tossing basketballs. But in 1999-2000, students at Farmington, Harrison and North will have physical training centers that would make Vic Tanny proud.

"One of the things that we have to do," said Brian Swinehart, director of athletics and physical education for Farmington Public Schools, "is ... show kids that being physically active is a key component of being healthy. And

we want to show them how to be physically active."

For example, at Farmington High School, teacher Mary Sheltrown encourages students to do aerobic activities such as in-line roller skating, taekwondo and tennis, not to mention weightlifting. Students are taught about the human muscular system and proper nutrition.

"We learn about building and maintaining muscle," said Sheltrown, who, like all Farmington district physical

education teachers, is the owner of a college degree in the field. "That doesn't mean you have to be a body builder."

So, the idea of toning up is something everyone can relate to — and retain as a lifetime habit, Sheltrown added.

Farmington's progressive philosophy — a report assembled by the district's physical education study committee

Please see CURRICULUM, A4



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