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Budget update: Farmington Hills City Council passes new budget, which includes money for coveted sidewalk. /A3

Path of serenity: The Memorial Garden at Hospice of Michigan in Farmington Hills blooms into tranquil setting. /A13

OPINION

Survey says: Farmington area residents are urged to return questionnaire regarding their view on cultural arts. /A18

COMMUNITY LIFE

Help for parents: If you have a young teen at home and think 98 Degrees refers to a temperature reading, you need to read "The Teen Music Scene." /B1

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Author from India receives warm welcome

BY TIM SMITH
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Wherever Victor Shah goes, he carries trinkets, gifts, symbols of his homeland India. Usually, he brings his open hands together, bows forward in a welcoming gesture and bestows those very items on whoever he is greeting.

An accomplished professor, social worker, lecturer, journalist, author (114 books), television correspondent and library trustee in India, Shah is making the rounds in Farmington and Farmington Hills to help the eastern and western worlds better understand each other.

That's one reason. Of course, it doesn't hurt that his son, Pinkesh, recently took on a computer engineering position with Southfield-based Netrex and resides in a Farmington Hills apartment.

"He (Pinkesh) likes it over here," said Victor Shah's wife, Manjula. "Nice villa, nice people."

The family bent over backwards to accommodate their guests on the kind of hot, sweltering day that one might encounter in Bilimora, Gujarat, the region of India where they hail from.

■ Manjula offered visitors a taste of India with spicy samples of gulab jamun, ganthia and dhokra.

■ Victor's mother, Shenabben D. Shah, 76, doesn't speak English, but she filled the apartment with her wide smile.

■ Meanwhile, Victor — who goes by the name Vasant in India — presented a photo

Please see VISITOR, A7

Incumbents prevail amid low turnout

BY TIM SMITH
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Another abysmal voter turnout for a Farmington schools election returned incumbents Linda Enberg and Gary Sharp to the board of education.

With only 1,760 ballots cast out of 57,900 registered voters (representing 3 percent), uncontested Enberg won her second four-year term while Sharp won his single-year stint, beating challenger Melody Jaske.

Enberg captured 1,476 votes. Sharp took about 69 percent of the votes in the race for the unexpired term, receiving 1,207 votes to Jaske's 534.

"I'd like to think it's a validation of the positions we've taken during the campaign," said Sharp following tabulation of the eight precincts at Farmington Hills City Hall. "Of course, with such a low voter turnout it's hard to make that jump."

Sharp complimented Jaske for bringing "to the

Please see ELECTION, A12

FARMINGTON School Board Election RESULTS	
FOUR-YEAR TERM	
✓ Linda Enberg (unopposed incumbent)	1,476
ONE-YEAR TERM	
✓ Gary Sharp (incumbent)	1,207
Melody Jaske	534

Helmet law doesn't pass without flap

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

People of all ages came before Farmington Hills City Council Monday to oppose the proposed helmet ordinance, which passed in a 6-1 vote.

The ordinance requires that all persons age 16 and younger wear helmets when riding bicycles, or using inline skates or skateboards.

Council approved amending it to include a warning period lasting through Dec. 30, 1999. After that, violators can be ticketed for second offenses, with fines beginning at \$5. Violators can get the civil infraction charges removed if they prove that they have recently bought a helmet.

The sole council member voting against the ordinance was Cheryl Oliverio.

Most of the audience spoke against the ordinance. A child told council she would rather walk than wear a helmet. A young boy said it was his parents' duty to encourage him to wear a helmet. Most adults said the

■ 'I'm here to say I won't wear a helmet and my friends won't (wear helmets). We'd rather walk.'

Kay Buckner
—Middle school student

Please see HELMETS, A4

NEW PUBLISHER:

Rosiek heads Observer management team



Observer team: Heading up the Observer Newspapers management team is new publisher Susan Rosiek (left). She is working with Peg Knoespel, retail advertising manager; Mark Warren, circulation director for the Observer & Eccentric; and Larry Geiger, circulation manager of the Observer Newspapers.

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUSCHMAN

Sheepskin shake



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BARBER

Diploma handoff: North Farmington High Principal Deborah Clarke gives senior Joshua Sklar his diploma during commencement at Compuware Arena.

North celebrates grad tidings

A little of the past and a little of the present typified the 1999 graduating class of North Farmington High School.

1950s icon James Dean provided the class their motto: "Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today." Prince or the Artist Formerly Known as Prince provided the class song with "1999."

The evening commencement Sunday, June 6 at Compuware Sports Arena kicked off with the school bands and orchestra performing the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" and the "Star Spangled Banner."

Marni Zack, president of the graduating class, gave an address, which was preceded by greetings from Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

Teacher Krista Newcomb led the seniors in changing their tassels on graduation caps and she was later assisted by Jeffrey Simpson in roll

See photos, graduate list on page A16

call. Farmington School Board President Cathy Webb talked about the graduates' futures. She told them about an author who recently interviewed people in the twilight of their lives and asked them if there was something they could change if given the opportunity to do so.

"Well," said Webb, "they wished they had taken more time to truly live their lives, to reflect on the big picture, the spiritual aspect of their life."

Diplomas were presented to the graduating class by school board members Bobbie Feldman and Gary Sharp.

The commencement ceremony was brought to an end with performances by the school bands and orchestra, directed by Carl Gippert.

Principal Clarke to step down

BY TIM SMITH
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The transition to block scheduling at North Farmington High School won't be all that is new there during 1999-2000. A different principal also will be on the job.

Deborah Clarke, at the conclusion of her ninth full year as principal at North, is resigning to take an administrative post with the Pontiac Public School District.

Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield Monday confirmed a rumor that Clarke is leaving North. An announcement was to have

been made during Tuesday night's Farmington Board of Education meeting.

Clarke, who couldn't be reached for comment, will begin as the assistant superintendent of instruction in Pontiac on July 1, but assured Maxfield she will be available after that to help with the transition.

The deadline for applicants, both current employees and those from outside the district, is Monday, July 12.

"We've just posted the position," Maxfield said. Besides the implementation of block scheduling

Please see CLARKE, A3

■ 'I'm honored and challenged by my new responsibilities.'

Susan Rosiek
—Observer publisher

and editorial departments of the Observer Newspapers.

"I'm honored and challenged by my new responsibilities," said Rosiek. "I look forward to working with a dynamic management team which remains dedicated to producing quality community newspapers and other local information products that meet the needs of our advertising customers and readers."

Community activities

A 25-year employee of the Observer Newspapers, Rosiek has been involved in many community organizations. She was most recently a member of the Livonia Family YMCA Board of Directors where she served as board chair for two years. She also served as president of the Canton Economic Club from

Please see PUBLISHER, A5



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