

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

### OPINION

**Paperless agendas: Hills council members reminded to not forget about public access./A12**

### COMMUNITY LIFE

**Hot event: The fifth annual Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant on Sunday at Page's in Farmington was a rousing success./D1**

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## Reform candidate joins state House race



**Eric Borregard views himself as the only real challenger so far in the 37th District state House race. He expects to face incumbent Andrew Raczkowski and former Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi.**

BY JONI HUBBARD  
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Eric Borregard considers himself the only candidate in the 37th state House race who isn't an incumbent. Those keeping a close eye on the probable match-up between declared Democratic candidate Aldo Vagnozzi and Republican Andrew Raczkowski (who has said he'll run but hasn't for-

mally announced his candidacy) might find that puzzling. To Borregard, however, the major parties offer little in the way of bridging the gap between liberal and conservative citizens. "I think I'm the only candidate who is actually a challenger," Borregard explained Thursday. "I think they're both incumbents in their own way. Mr. Vagnozzi is still status quo. I think if you vote for him you're going to get

pretty much the same, if not more of the left."

Having filed Feb. 20 as a Reform Party candidate, Borregard believes he can accomplish more than just political posturing and get to the heart of what people really want from their government. He entered the race out of his desire to do something about the world in which he lives.

His family moved to Farmington Hills in 1971. Borregard was 15 and recalls working on the school newspaper with Vagnozzi's daughter at Harrison High.

With an educational background in commercial art and applied science, he



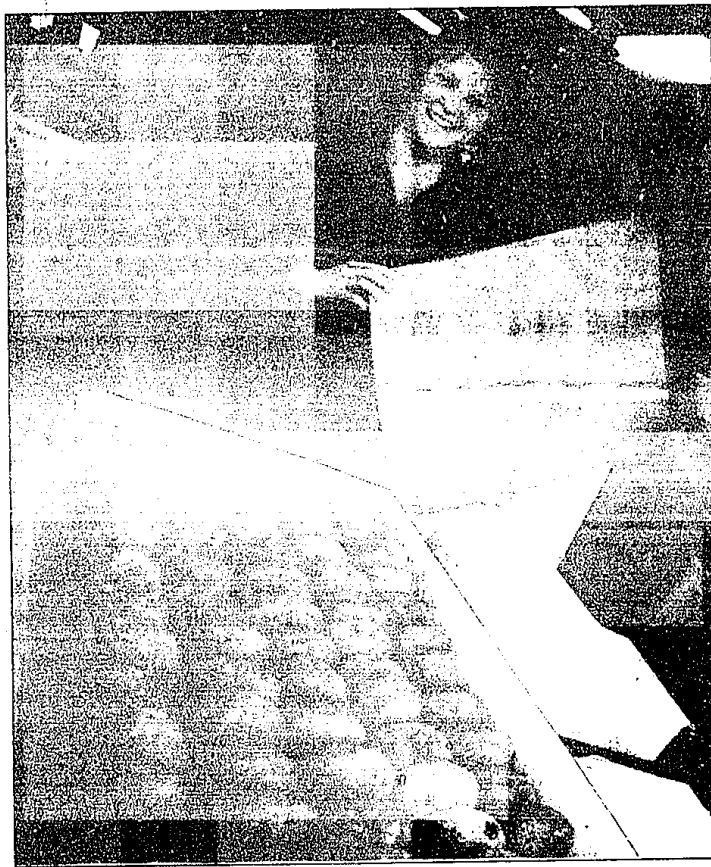
Eric Borregard

owns a publications and graphic arts company in Livonia called Artich Inc. Borregard said he feels grateful to have the flexibility and time to take on a new challenge.

"I think you have a duty, if you have the time, to guide your community," he said. "I'm actually thrilled to be able to do this."

Please see BORREGARD, A2

### Get your paczkis here



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGER

**Ready to eat: Before customers roll in on "Fat Tuesday," Becky Burns, co-owner of the Farmington Bakery, displays a large and heavy box of paczkis on the last day before Lent.**

Please see GILL, A5

## Officials, merchants: Let's talk about fest

BY TRACEY BIRKENHAUER  
STAFF WRITER

The newly named Farmington Area Family Fest has been mired in controversy mostly concerning lack of communication between the Downtown Development Authority, and the recently re-organized Downtown Farmington Business Association.

At the city council's Monday night meeting, FAFF president Jim Stark called for increased communication. At the DDA's Tuesday morning meeting, DDA member Mike Nowak did the same. DDA executive director Judy Downey said she was pleased everyone was talking.

"We need to make sure we're doing a better job of making sure the information gets to the public," Stark told the council.

In a roundabout manner, he apologized for past miscommunication. "You get so close to the processes, you forget to relay some information to people."

These people include area business owners, many of whom were upset when they were asked to pay a \$50 fee to display merchandise on sidewalks during the June 22-24 festival, something they weren't asked to do in the past.

What business owners and the public must realize, Stark said, is the festival is self-supported. In the past, the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce covered any losses in revenue. There are no state or other funds available.

"That's the genesis of contributions being asked of everybody," he said. "This is a group effort. It doesn't work unless everybody cooperates and gets involved."

The former Farmington Area Founders Festival was run by the chamber. When the chamber said it no longer wanted the responsibility, people interested in downtown Farmington's success formed Farmington Area Family Fest, Inc., establishing a nine-member executive board and the necessary by-laws to run the annual event.

Please see FEST, A5

## Year-round school gauges parent interest

BY TINI SMITH  
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Recalling their own childhoods, Mark and Nicole Taylor of Farmington Hills thought 10 weeks of summer vacation was too long.

"I remember the last couple weeks of summer, saying 'Come on,'" said Nicole Taylor, following Monday night's parent information meeting about the Gill Year-Round K-5 program.

Mark and Nicole were among 30 parents who attended the meeting - most residents from outside the Gill attendance area. The Taylors live in the Hillside Elementary School attendance area, but they want to enroll their son, Joshua (who soon turns 5), into Gill Year-Round, which is a school-of-choice program located in one classroom wing at Gill Elementary School.

One reason they like the year-round concept is the fact there are only six weeks between school years.

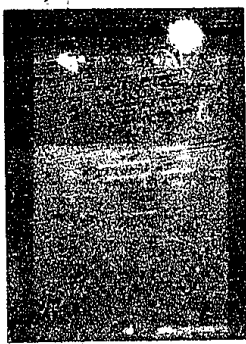
"It's a good break," Mark Taylor said. "But it's enough time to still remember what was learned the year before. With 10 weeks off, they're going crazy and so are

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGER

**Roward: After the presentation, firefighter Feichtner gave the Scouts a ride in the bucket of the ladder truck.**

## These Girl Scouts 'fired up' to help

BY JONI HUBBARD  
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It used to be that when Farmington Hills firefighters got an emergency call, they had to rely on outdated maps that could sometimes be difficult to manage.

These days, firefighters consult accurate, clearly drawn maps of both the entire community and their own districts. On Monday night, they formally thanked the two teenage girls who put those maps together and expressed admiration for all the work that went into them.

"Even the fire hydrants are located, which is important to know," said Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci.

Filling in all those little red dots, along with street names, public buildings, apartments, condominiums and mobile home parks took Girl Scouts



**Thank you: Girl Scouts Julie Barber (left) and Karen Berger worked over 500 hours to produce accurate street maps for the Farmington Hills Fire Department. Chief Rich Marinucci presents them with certificates in appreciation for their work.**

Please see SCOUTS, A8