SPOTLIGHT ON **Orthodontics**

by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.



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Young skater wins

international honor Merclith Gatt, a seventh-grader at Our Lady of Sor-rows School in Farmington, is a competitive figure skater in both individual and team synchronized skating. She skates for nationally renowned Team Elan, which represents the Detroit Skating Club. Her synchronized the United States in a international competition in Switzerland and came in first place.

first place. Meredith is the daughter of Michael and Maureen Gatt of Novi and has attended Sor-rows since first grade. She is an A student.

MORE OF **WEEK AHEAD**

Schools: The Farmington school bard meets Tuesday at the board office, at 32500 Shi-awassee Road east of Farming-ton Read, at 7:30 p.m. On the agenda will be a review of the Elementary Limited Boundary Study Committee recommenda-tions.

Study Committee recommenda-tions. In the Hills: Farmington Hills City Council will hold a study session Tuesday in the Lower Level Conference Room at City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads, at 6 p.m. On their agenda will be goal set-ting for 2001.

VFW

the officers' posts.

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A few years ago, more than 30 people would show up to help with poppy sales in May. This year, only five upheld a VFW tradition that dates back to the early 1920s, with proceeds from the sales going to assist veterans in need.

"I have three 86-year-old helping out at the club," Nafe said. "Iwo work Bingo, and one does clean-up, if you can imagine that."

Ira Wing has been a member-

inc that."

Ira Wing has been a member of the post since 1947, two years after he was discharged from the Navy SenBees.

"All we had back then was this long hall," he said, showing off the original building. Later, an addition was built to house

offices and meeting space.

About a third of the club's active members are World War II veterans, a third are Korean war vets, and the rest are from the Vietnam era. Almost half the club's total membership served during World War II.

"The problem is, it's been the World War II vets who have been helding down the fort," Nafe said. "Everyone's lost their community spirit...This is happening through all the veterans organizations, and other groups are facing the same problems." People are running such busy lives."

"It was a real active post,"
Wing said. "All of our members
did work on the building."
Now, the World War I veter-

ans have pretty much died off, and World War II veterans are entering their twitight years, Wing added.

"Im 85 myself," he said.
Members may still have a place to go; the club will soon vote on whether to merge with the Lawrence A. Simms Post in Wixom. That won't make it any causer to say read-by. Nafe wixom. That won't make it any easier to say good-bye, Nafe

"All the traditions and all

"All the traditions and all those things that have been accomplished makes it very hard to close the doors," he said. The building and property, located on a corner lot, sell for \$550,000. Kulbaba said the property is zoned for office uses.

Farmington Road

be impacted by the project, and to ask questions.

Farmington Road will be entirely torn up and replaced with new pavement, with a fifth lane added for the entire two-

mile stretch.

"That will be a huge improvement," said Bill Richards, assistant city manager for Farming-

ton.

Lauhoff said about 80 percent of the project will be funded by the federal government, with 10 percent funded by Oakland County and the remainder split between the cities of Farmington will be supported by the said Exprisents Hills. and Farmington Hills.

The local share will include state highway money and Tri-Party dollars stockpiled over several years.

According to Lauhoff, it was decided to split the project into two phases because it would not be as disruptive to the area. And with July's Founders Festival, many vehicles will need to use Farmington Road closer to Grand River.

"Splitting this into two phases will probably be better in the long run," Lauhoff said.

While the road is being reconstructed, water mains along that

structed, water mains along that stretch of Farmington Road also

will be repaired, he added.
At no time will the road be completely blocked off.
"There will be two-way traffic preserved," Lauhoff said. "But! it will be one lane (in each direction) in a lot of places."

During the informational meeting, however, subjects such as potential alternative routes will probably be discussed, Richards said.
The stretch of Farmington

The stretch of Farmington Road south of Nine Mile borders Farmington on the east and Farmington Hills on the west.

Orchard Lake

install a guardrail at the edge of Woodard's property. However, City Manager Steve Brock hopes something can be worked out.

"That's still something I'd like to see us do," he said. "I think we could do it tastefully. It's not our intent to clear-cut the land. We want to bo sensitive to the natural amenities."

Woodard didn't want his property along Orchard Lake Road takes care of stormwater. There is never any flooding affecting my home or any property touched, except for

property touched, except for

meandering creek, as the low valley and wetlands handles this nicely," he wrote in a let-ter to the Farmington Observ-

petition against the project last ter to the Farmington Observerar.

Last summer, Woodard said he felt a ditch draining into his creek from the north side of his property along Orchard Lake Road takes care of stormwater.

"There is never any flooding affecting my home or any neighbors from this small, we need to do our part as well."

■ D. Rothwell on Michigan's high tech future...see page D8 **

