

THE WEEK AHEAD

Farmington Planning: On the Commission's Monday, June 11 agenda is consideration of a site plan for a building addition at Cowley's Old Village Inn restaurant in downtown Farmington and a request to rezone property for the Suburban Family Credit Union Expansion. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street.

MONDAY

Hills City Council: Officials will meet in the lower level conference room at City Hall for a study session at 6 p.m. They'll hear a presentation about a Regional Transit Authority and the Parks & Recreation Commission's recommendations regarding a dog park. The 7:30 p.m. agenda includes a public hearing on the 2001-2002 budget and a proposed Special Assessment District on Stockton Ave. City Hall is located at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads.

THURSDAY

Summer concert: Heritage Park's "Stars in the Park" series kicks off with *Shout! A Beatles Tribute*, at 8 p.m. The park is located just off Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile Roads.

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RECEPTIONIST
Supplier of coatings to auto-mobile manufacturers has immediate opening for receptionist.

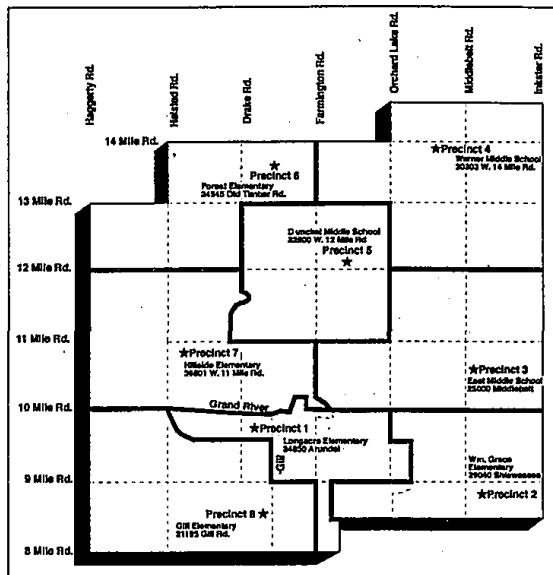
We had a good response and hired someone using the ad.

Company representative,
Southfield

1-800-573-5511



To place a classified ad: 734-591-0900



Precinct Locations

Votes may be cast at the following locations (please note school precincts are different from other election precincts):

Precinct 1: Longacre Elementary School, 34850 Arundel

Precinct 2: William Grace Elementary School, 29040 Shawassee

Precinct 3: East Middle School, 26000 Middlebelt

Precinct 4: Warner Middle School, 30303 W. 14 Mile

Precinct 5: Dunklel Elementary School, 32800 W. 12 Mile

Precinct 6: Forest Elementary School, 34545 Old Timber

Precinct 7: Hillside Elementary School, 36801 W. 11 Mile

Precinct 8: Gill Elementary School, 21195 Gill Road

Voters head to the polls Board members, millages on the ballot

Voters in Farmington Public School District will go to the polls from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, June 11, to cast their ballots for two of the six candidates for school board positions and to determine renewal of millages for the local district and Oakland Community College.

Pam Christian, Pam Charleston-Lyons, Terence Elsey, John Gashorn, Phil Neuman and incumbent Frank Reid are each seeking

one of two four-year terms.

The local millage renewal, which would generate \$48,891,000 in 2002, re-instates an 18-mill levy on non-homesteaded properties and a 13.7352-mill levy on homesteaded and qualified agricultural properties for a period of five years.

The OCC levy, .8 mills for 10 years, is also a renewal of an existing millage. It is estimated to raise \$34 million in its first year, 2002.

Qualified voters ages 18 and older who have registered in their district may vote in this election. For information, call (248) 489-3341. Information regarding the local millage can be found on the Farmington Public Schools' website, www.farmington.k12.mi.us

Note: Due to the high volume of letters received for this election, we have published those which raise no new issues on pages 7 and 8.

Neuman, Brouillette spar over letter

■ A letter written by School Board member Priscilla Brouillette harshly critical of Phil Neuman's board candidacy made its way into his mailbox.

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
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Farmington Public School board member Priscilla Brouillette has sent letters to 294 of her supporters and friends urging them to vote for both incumbent Frank Reid and newcomer Pam Christian in Monday's election.

Her letter also said she is troubled by Phil Neuman's candidacy. But Neuman found a copy of that letter in his mailbox last week. His name was on the address label; the return address was marked "confidential."

Brouillette, who was first elected in 1995 and whose term expires in 2004, said she usually doesn't speak negatively about a school board candidate. "I couldn't let taxpayers not know."

Brouillette writes: "In his campaign literature, he accuses the Board of deficit spending to the tune of \$6 million — a blatant untruth which shows either a lack of understanding of district finances or a desire to paint the district (which has received the Meritorious Budget award for four years in a row) in an unfavorable light."

In addition, Mr. Neuman recently orchestrated a meeting of disgruntled Forest parents at Faith Covenant Church to discuss fourth and fifth grade teachers. There is a right way to make change in a school by involving administrators, teachers and parents in a dialogue. Mr. Neuman's method is devious and demoralizing, not to mention ineffective. I am very wary of a board candidate with such destructive instincts."

Neuman responds

Neuman respectfully disagrees with Brouillette's statements. He wishes

Please see LETTER, A2



Joyful hug: Graduate Michael Isaac Schwartz greets teacher Linda Gold.

Students celebrate victory over graduation challenges

BY JONI HUBBED
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The evening included Pomp and Circumstance, a stirring rendition of the Blues Brothers' mega-hit "Soul Man" and a trip down memory lane.

And when it was all over, the Farmington Community and Alternative Schools and William Miller School Classes of 2001 were transformed, from students to graduates. For most of the 89 young men and women, getting a high school diploma was just the first step, according to Adult Education Director Terry Klenczar.

"Eighty percent plan on con-

tinuing their education," she announced at the Thursday evening ceremony, held in the auditorium at Farmington High School.

Klenczar said the graduates were a diverse group, almost equally divided between the sexes; 85 percent worked while studying, and 90 percent were under the age of 28. They came to classes full and part-time, during the day or the evening and sometimes both.

The Alternative Academy graduates represented that program's largest class in its 10 years and the first to graduate from the Academy's new home

Please see GRADUATES, A3

Farmington tax rate drops slightly, budget approved

BY SUE BUCK
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The City of Farmington's tax rate for the coming fiscal year dropped less than one hundredth of 1 percent, from 15.1477 in 2000-01 to 15.1382 in 2001-02.

That means unless a home goes up in taxable value, the city's share of tax bills will drop slightly. Farmington residents with an average \$200,000 home (a \$100,000 taxable value) can expect to pay \$1,514, in city taxes, according to City Manager Frank Lauffhoff.

The council adopted the new budget Monday following a public hearing. Bill Liba, the only resident who spoke, had only positive things to say.

"Frank Lauffhoff has done a good job in how we will disburse our budget," he said. "Taxpayers and the city are getting their dollars worth."

The budget, which takes effect July 1, calls for expenditures in the general fund of \$6,756,290 and will require a

total operating millage rate of 10.96 mills. In order to pay off existing debt, the city will levy about 2.5 mills.

The balance includes 1.5782 mills for a voter-approved road improvement program and .10 mills for sidewalk improvements.

"People need to be reminded, too, that they are not being assessed for roads anymore and they are not being assessed for sidewalks," Lauffhoff said in an earlier interview. "Voters approved a road millage assessment in 1994 and repaired or replaced over 40 roads in the community over the last five years. This year we are in Belaire finishing up. Next year, we will be in Woodcroft subdivision."

In three or four years, the city will be caught up with all streets which were in desperate need of repair, he said.

Lauffhoff said every four years the city goes through half the city and inspects and replaces the sidewalks

Please see BUDGET, A3



Reigning champ: Last year's top honors went to the Northwestern/Middlebelt Shell Station.

Beautification awards change

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
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If you're the type of person who nearly causes accidents when you notice a good marigold display, then Farmington Hills has a contest for

you.

The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission is looking for people with an eye for good landscaping to nominate Farmington Hills properties for beautification

Please see BEAUTY, A4