

IN THE PAPER TODAY



Warm welcome: Lubna Grewal, a senior at Harrison High, greeted guests who attended an open house at the Tawheed Center in Farmington Hills Saturday. The full story is in our Hometown Life section. / C1

Harrison marches on: The Harrison High marching band took top honors in state competition held at the Silverdome in Pontiac Nov. 3. Farmington High marchers finished 10th. / A3

OPINION

Cornucopia comments: We think it's time to implement some new ideas for the annual Cornucopia Ball – or at least to lower the ticket prices. / A6

American Education Week: Join us in celebrating the special glory of America's public education system. / A6

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Federal funds on tap for sewers



BY SUE BUCK
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Farmington City Manager Frank Lauffhoff was cautiously optimistic but thankful this week about an announcement that federal aid may be available for the city's sewer project.

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills) announced he has secured

Farmington officials learned this week that \$1.5 million in federal aid may soon be on its way toward a project designed to rehab aging sewer lines, thanks to Republican Congressman Joe Knollenberg's efforts.

\$1.5 million in federal aid to assist the city in its efforts to line a failing, 60-year-old wastewater pipeline.

"The President still hasn't signed it," Lauffhoff said.

Though it will reduce the amount of the bond, neither Lauffhoff nor Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock knew the exact amount Tuesday.

"We are excited and very grateful to be receiving this federal funding,"

Hartsock said. "The federal funds that Congressman Knollenberg has secured for the project will help significantly with the cost. Farmington and surrounding areas will benefit greatly when the relining project is completed."

Farmington residents voted Nov. 6 to authorize a maximum of \$1.8 million to pay for the project. The city was .34 mills or \$34 a year on a home that sells for \$200,000.

Federal assistance will reduce the cost of construction and the tax burden.

The unsteady state of affairs in the country has Lauffhoff holding off on celebrating until Bush signs the bill, which is expected soon. Chris Close, Knollen-

berg's assistant in Washington, D.C., said President Bush is almost certain to sign the bill.

The VA-HUD Appropriations Act passed by a vote of 401 to 18. It included this money, under the Environmental Protection Agency's budget, Close said. The State and Tribal Assistance Grant is used to eliminate discharge of pollutants and maintain a safe supply of water, he added.

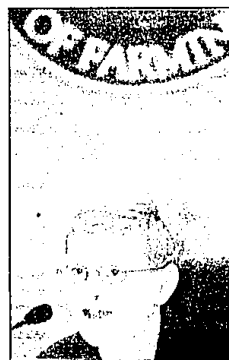
Knollenberg is a member of the subcommittee that writes the bill. He is expected to be at the Dec. 3 Farmington City Council meeting.

Please see SEWERS, A2

Students' Council



Manager on duty: Above, Ann Marie Brouillette served as Farmington's city manager when students took over city hall on Student Government Day. (Bottom left) Tim Moore was sworn in as councilman and (bottom right) Andrew Kravis served as Mayor.



'Council' takes on city's troubles

■ A whole new group of candidates were sworn in as elected officials Tuesday, during Student Government Day at Farmington City Hall. The new city council voted on some interesting solutions to typical problems faced by council.

BY SUE BUCK
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Farmington Councilwoman Mary Bush stepped out of her elected position briefly Nov. 13 to do some role playing as an angry resident seeking help at a Farmington City Council meeting on Student Government Day at Farmington City Hall.

The event has been sponsored by the city and the Farmington Rotary for more than 20 years.

"I live in downtown Farmington," Bush began. "In back of me is this jerk. You just cannot believe what is going on at his house. I think he's here tonight. I'm not sure, I never met him. But I don't want to meet him, really."

Ninth graders from Farmington High School listened intently as they assumed the roles of city officials and employees. Real-life situations blended with both logical and unlikely outcomes.

"There's abandoned cars, no license plates on the cars," Bush continued. "His house probably hasn't been painted in at least 20 years. The gutters are falling off. He has loud parties all the time. Plus, he's putting this huge addition on his house, because he said he's

Please see COUNCIL, A2

Volunteer, political activist announces state house bid

■ Farmington resident Valerie Knol said she's ready to take her drive for community service to a new level, seeking the seat vacated by term-limited State Representative Andrew Raczowski in 2002.

BY JONI HUBRED
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Farmington resident Valerie Knol has turned a desire to give back to her community into a run for the 37th District's House of Representative seat.

Term-limited Rep. Andrew Raczowski, a Republican who has explored bids for U.S. Congress and Senate, will be leaving the post in 2002.

"I started thinking about it a couple of years ago," Knol said of her decision, announced this week. "I've been involved in politics for quite a while."

Currently a Marketing Manager at Johnson Controls, an automotive supplier based in Plymouth, Knol served on the Boards of the Farmington Area Republican Club and the Oakland County Young Republicans as well as her current Oakland County Executive Committee seat. Additionally, she has

served as a precinct delegate and, most recently, a City of Farmington Election Official.

"I believe strongly in the political process," she said. "I feel strongly about giving back to the community. That's why I'm interested in going to Lansing. I want to promote legislation that's good for Farmington and Farmington Hills."

Knol said her involvement with several Farmington area committees including the Governor Warner Mansion Committee, Farmington Area Jaycees, Farmington Playhouse Com-



Valerie Knol

Please see KNOL, A4



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Jill Pines, special projects coordinator for DPSServices, is in the business of saving trees.

America recycles today

BY KEVIN BROWN
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Today is America Recycles Day, a fitting time to renew a commitment to recycle.

That's the message from Jill Pines, Farmington Hills special projects coordinator in charge of city office paper

recycling. She also promotes the bin recycling program year-round to community groups who invite her as a speaker and via printed materials.

"I talk about our curbside pickup program, our green bin program, just to refresh people. They tend to take

Please see RECYCLE, A5