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**Indoors, outdoors: Inviting sunshine, and introducing other outdoor elements indoors, can change the mood of any room - and maybe even help you forget about the cold, C1**

### HOMETOWN LIFE

**Friday's Child: Jenny VanReuter has found a way to turn gifts of condolence into unexpected bouquets of happiness, C5**

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## Shoppers still like their Kmart

By Sue Buck

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An enthusiastic Amie Weddle was happy to explain why she shops at Kmart.

She pulled out the \$8.97 furnace filters and the large, 48-cent can of spaghetti sauce in her basket.

She, like other Farmington Hills resi-

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dents who regularly shop at the neighborhood Kmart store located on Grand River and Halsted, hoped a demise wasn't imminent now that the national chain filed for bankruptcy and protection from creditors while reorganizing Tuesday.

"I feel bad about that," Weddle said. "What will we do without Kmart? I'm not crazy about Target. I would probably go to ACO. They always have those filters on sale. But, never for \$8.97."

Many of Jenny Forrester's senior citizen friends come to Kmart daily for lunch. Seniors also work at the Kmart store.

"I hope they don't close. I like it," she said. "I like coming down here. I've shopped at Kmart for years."

Forrester, her sister and a cousin were S. S. Kresge employees who worked years ago in downtown Detroit. "We worked there during World War II," she said.

Kresge preceded the Kmart stores. George Giza was disappointed about the news.

"I like Kmart," Giza said. "I think their biggest problem is not financial, it's service. They should have a roving salesperson who can respond to customers' needs. When you go into the store you don't know whether you are going to find the article you need. In general I appreciate their pricing. I think they are competitive. I hope everybody sticks with them."

Kmart was the main news of the day, according to Sylvester Jones.

"I thought Kmart was doing a good job with what they needed to do to stay above board," Jones said. "They made sure their executives got their bonuses on time. Maybe if they had managed their money a little bit different."

Please see KMAT, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRASLER

Honored: Harrison High School Dance Company performs "Judgment Day."

## Paying respect to King's legacy

By Paul R. Pace

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People in the Farmington/ Farmington Hills community took time to pay tribute to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. this past Sunday and Monday.

On Sunday, the Farmington/ Farmington Hills Multicultural/ Multiracial Community Council held its second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Walk at the Costick Activities Center. There was music and prayers and different performances by local middle and high schools as well. The group walked to

Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

Karen Bolsen, co-chairwoman of the Multicultural/ Multiracial Community Council, said about 500 people attended the walk.

"It was another strong attendance," she said. "I was real happy with it."

King's famous "I have a dream" speech was enthusiastically read by Alexandria Marshall, a junior at Mercy High School.

On Monday, the city of Farmington Hills held a special tribute to the slain civil rights leader with speakers

Please see MLK, A2



Remembering the dream: Mercy High School junior Alexandria Marshall recites King's "I Have a Dream" speech.



Long walk: Darryl Hutton and Lasenia Jones lead a crowd of marchers from the Costick Center to Nardin Park United Methodist Church during the Multicultural/ Multiracial Community Council's second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Walk.

## Dangerous home finally razed

By Kevin Brown

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The crunch of a metal demolition arm through shingles and roof boards was sweet music to some Karen Court neighbors gathered in the cold Monday. They were on hand to watch the long-awaited demolition of the boarded, flooded and black-mold infested house at the northeast corner of Nine Mile and Karen Court. Some said the house posed a danger to curious neighborhood youth, as years of water damage had rotted the floor.

As the teeth of the metal demolition bucket ripped

through drywall and siding, Luella Hempel looked on from the family Taurus wagon, idling at about 1 p.m. on the 30-degree, overcast day at the rear of the corner lot. Husband Conrad sat behind the wheel, recording the proceedings on a camcorder through his windshield.

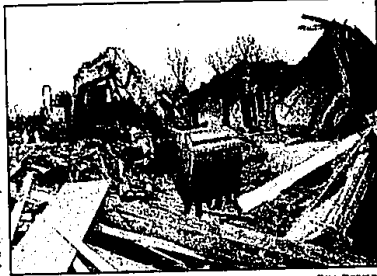
"I'm thankful for the city listening this time," Luella Hempel said, adding she first approached city council about problems with the home when it was under construction in 1987. She said her feeling upon watching the house come down was "one of gratitude, one of justice. You hear that the wheels of justice turn slowly and sometimes you won-

der if they even turn."

Nancy Bass, also of Karen Court, smiled as she held a camera near the Hempel's car and watched the Cat tractor operated by a Sonoco Wrecking worker have its way with the rest of the structure. "I'm glad, I'm glad," she said. Husband Jim also looked on, behind the wheel of an idling burgundy GMC truck.

The house was last occupied in the late '90s. Since then, a kitchen water meter found to be leaking in 1998 was to blame for severe floor damage, said Farmington Hills building official Tom Williams.

Please see HOME, A7



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRASLER

Walls come down: The house at 29028 Nine Mile was razed Monday, after years of controversy and court battles.

## Rocky announces U.S. Senate bid

By Paul R. Pace

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State Rep. Andrew Raczowski (R-Farmington Hills) plans to announce Monday his official bid for U.S. Senate.

His father, who recently passed away this month, gave him an early morning phone call, encouraging him to go for it. "I talked with my parents about it and they thought I was on a suicide mission," he said of the night before his father's phone call.

"I was ready to go back to the public sector," said Raczowski, whose term limit ends this year.

"My dad called me the next morning and said 'I want you to run.'"

Raczowski plans to announce his

senate bid at his alma mater, Harrison High School, in its auditorium at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

The representative admits he faces a formidable battle if he wins the Republican primary to face longtime incumbent Democrat Carl Levin, who has served since 1978.

But the 33-year-old Raczowski said he plans to work hard, shake a lot of hands and meet the people to find out what's on their minds.

"I'm running as Rocky, not as a Republican or a Democrat," he said.

He said the Senate needs new blood and that Levin has not done enough for the state when it comes getting federal funds to fix the state's dilapidating

infrastructure.

"I can't tell you what (Levin) has done for Michigan," he said.

Among the issues he stands for:

The military: "It's not up to par to what it used to be."

Education: "Bring it back to the local level."

Health care: "I'm sick and tired of politicians using prescription drug costs as a platform and do nothing about it," he said. "They go after the problem without fixing it. I'd like to bring a comprehensive plan of distributing prescription drugs under Medicare... We got to come up with the right answers."

Saying he enjoys public service,

Please see ROCKY, A4

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