

Your hometown newspaper serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 116 years

# FARMINGTON Observer

**Party time**  
Liven spring parties with salmon, strudel and strawberries.  
Taste, B1



**SUNDAY**  
March 23, 2003  
75 cents

www.hometownlife.com

©2003 HOMETOWN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

## Our Towns

### 101 years young

Mary Solomon, a resident of Farmington Hills Inn, will be celebrating her 101st birthday March 31. The Windsor, Ontario, native was born March 31, 1902, and still has three sons - Robert, Jack and Arthur - living in the Detroit area.

### DFBA

They may be small in number, but the Downtown Farmington Business Association has big plans for the year ahead.

At a recent meeting, members learned plans for a Spring Easter Hunt at Memorial Park on Sunday, April 13, were moving forward. The Downtown Development Authority has pledged \$250 toward costs.

The year's biggest project may well be organizing a holiday display of Christmas trees at the Masonic Temple, which would be piloted after the Festival of Lights at Cobo Mall. Donors at various levels, from \$250 to \$1,000, will sponsor custom decorated trees. Organizers are planning a charity preview as well.

Also on the horizon are customized Downtown Farmington holiday ornaments. Cast from a mold, they'll reflect a different downtown building each year, starting with the historic Village Mall. Ornaments will be available through local retailers later this year.

Many volunteers are needed, and the organization is always looking for new members. For information, call president Barbara Goins at (248) 615-1804.

**American Red Cross**  
Register, we can save a life

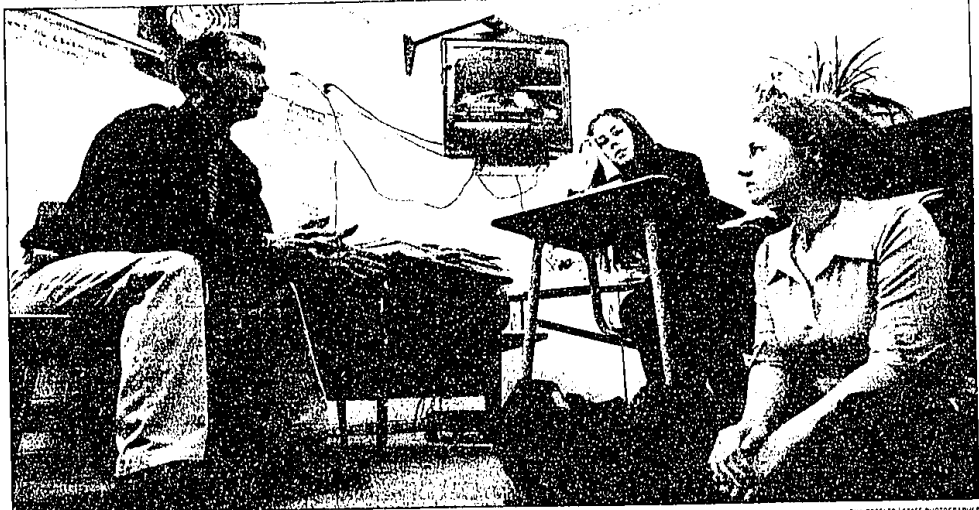
### Blood drive

Orchard United Methodist Church will hold their Spring Blood Drive from 1:30-7:15 p.m. on Monday, March 31.

Call (248) 626-3620 to sign up. Orchard United Methodist Church is located on Farmington Road in Farmington Hills, between 13 and 14 Mile roads.

### Aldo visits

State Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills, has announced the second date of his monthly coffee hours. The next one is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 5, at Leo's Coney Island, 37580 W. 12 Mile, in the Farmington/12 Mile Shopping Center. His next local office hours will be 11 a.m. to noon Monday, April 14, at Farmington City Hall and Monday, April 21, at Farmington Hills City Hall. Call (517) 373-1793 for details.



North Farmington High School teacher Jim Demko moderates a drop-in discussion on the war. Students Julie Swerdlow and Stephanie Salwen were among those who came to talk and listen.

## NFHS teens share war concerns

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Students interested in foreign affairs at North Farmington High School have been meeting Thursdays after classes to discuss U.S. relations with Iraq. As war against the Middle East country began late Wednesday, about 20 students stopped in the meeting led by Elias Khalil, who teaches international issues.

As MSNBC channel broadcasted the

latest reports on a television set with the volume turned off, teachers Jim Demko and Chuck Steinius also joined in the discussion.

Many students still wanted to know what led to the war and what would happen once Operation Freedom Iraq was over.

Some students felt the attack wasn't yet warranted.

Demko talked about Iraq violating the United Nations order to disarm its weapons of mass destruction and said

President Bush doesn't want the weapons used later against the U.S. or sold to "rogue" nations.

However, he did point out the U.S. gave military aid to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in the 1980s, when the U.S. opposed neighboring Iran's leadership.

"We chose the lesser of two evils," he said.

Khalil told the students an uncle who used to live in Iraq but now lives in Canada told him the other day the

people "feel Hussein is a terrible person."

Student Brandon Leopold, 17, said with the war underway, she had a gut feeling that something bad would happen in the U.S. in the form of retaliation.

"I think Bush is making a mistake," she said. "Through I support him because it's an executive order."

Teachers also talked about what

PLEASE SEE DISCUSSION, A5

## Initial war moves draw little attention

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

At Page's Food and Spirits Thursday the war in Iraq was being broadcast on three televisions, but the lunch crowd appeared far from interested in the latest developments during their meals.

Owner Dennis Page said patrons aren't saying much about the war "unless it gets serious."

Otherwise, he said, "Nobody is paying too much attention to it."

Page said during Monday's St. Patrick's Day celebration, the restaurant was packed. But when President

Bush's speech came on at 8 p.m., everyone stopped and paid close attention.

He said the regulars he's talked with are overwhelmingly for the war in Iraq. A salesman at the ABC Warehouse store on Orchard Lake in Farmington

PLEASE SEE ATTENTION, A5

## Hills shows off efforts to make city look good

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock and former manager Bill Costick spoke to the dozens of beautification committee members from around the metro area Thursday.

Their presentations were part of the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan's quarterly meeting, held at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Displays were set up to illustrate different clean-up and beautification projects in Farmington Hills and Farmington public schools.

Brock pointed out Farmington Hills' major parks and also showed a map of properties with undeveloped land in the northwest portion of the city.

"The challenge is redevelopment," he said. "We see North Orchard Place (at 14 Mile and Northwestern Highway) as an area where we used innovative ways to put in a storm water management system."

He said the city "tries to encourage

PLEASE SEE HILLS, A5

## Historic downtown bank building has new owners

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

One of downtown Farmington's historic landmarks has a new owner.

Manufacturers Financial Corporation has purchased the historic bank building, whose pillars have stood on Grand River since 1916.

"We are a full-service mortgage lender/broker and look forward to earning the business and trust of the community," said Richard Stephens, president and CEO. "Manufacturers is dedicated to customer service and our goal is to build long-term relationships with our clients."

The company handles new mortgages, refinancing and debt consolidation and owns Apartment Capital Group, a subsidiary.

Company officials held an open house and ribbon-cutting cere-



PLEASE SEE BANK, A5

CEO Richard Stephens wields the scissors with help from Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell and mortgage broker Scott Thomas. The crowd gathered to celebrate the opening of Manufacturer's in the historic bank building.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**ASSISTANT**  
Dental Practice needs a friendly, cheerful, experienced...  
"The ad worked great for us we were able to fill the position fast. Thanks!" M.W. Royal Oak  
**1-800-578-SELL**  
FOR MORE CIRCLES VISIT: WWW.CC.COM

**CONTACT US**  
Newport • (481) 471-5452  
Newport Tn. • (423) 473-7222  
Cincinnati • (513) 259-9611  
More delivery • (734) 591-0500  
**HomeTown**  
SERVICES

**INDEX**

E2	Movies	B5	Stand up
E3	Obituaries	A2	In Thursday's A&E section:
D.E	New Homes	D1	Friends laugh at your jokes, but
D1	Service Guide	E1	do you have what it takes to
D4	Sports	C8	make it as a stand-up comic?
E4	Travel	B6	

### LOOKING AHEAD

Stand up  
In Thursday's A&E section:  
Friends laugh at your jokes, but  
do you have what it takes to  
make it as a stand-up comic?



**World of Floors** **EXTENDED ONE WEEK!** **FREE CREDIT FREE LABOR** **1 YEAR** **With any Green Tag Carpet**  
bld Interest • No Payments  
Farmington Hills 29221 Orchard Lakes Rd. (2nd Block S. of 13 Mile) 849-234-6769  
Canton Township 43771 Ford Road (Between 13 Mile and 14 Mile) 734-855-6769