

# Farmington Observer

Volume 95 Number 62

Monday, May 14, 1984

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

©1984 Observer Communication Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## Not so grand

### Hills merchants discuss ways of sprucing up sad-looking Grand River

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

Some Farmington Hills merchants along Grand River are trying to attract the attention of their business neighbors in an attempt to spruce up the major thoroughfare.

"It is a beautiful suburban area. However, this is the entrance to the area and it's very bad," said Botaford Inn public relations director Angel Bakos, who with other merchants is spearheading a budding beautification effort along Grand River.

"There have been a number of people who have expressed concern about how Grand River is going," Bakos said. "It's anything but beautiful."

In mid-April about 13 merchants calling themselves the Grand River Avenue Beautification Committee met to seek ways to halt deterioration and improve the level of maintenance of both public and private properties along the thoroughfare.

At this point, Bakos said, efforts will be concentrated along Grand River from the eastern city limits at Eight Mile to M-102, west of Middlebelt.

and overgrown median is one of the area's foremost problems, Bakos said merchants are hoping to "do more than beautify the median."

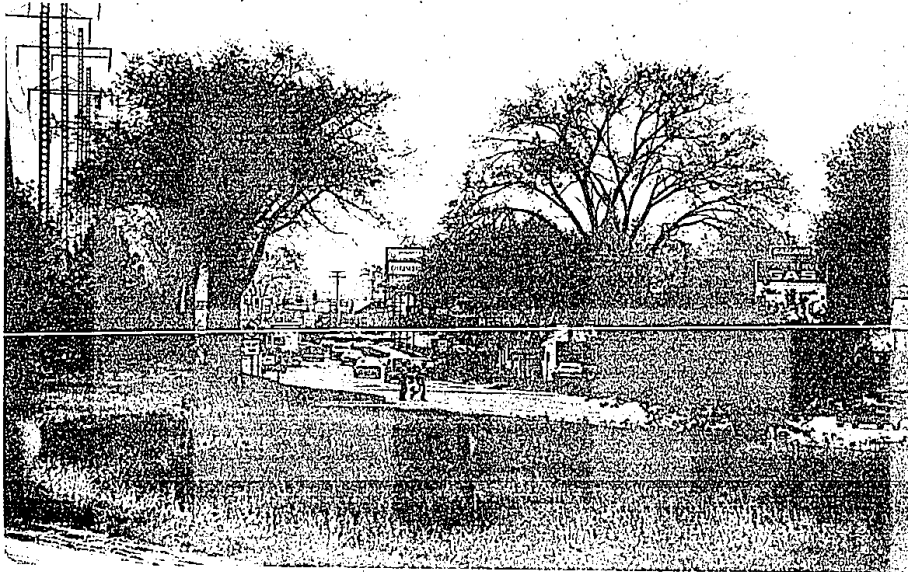
Besides median and intersection improvements, beautification suggestions include landscaping front yards, and improving the appearance of outdoor storage facilities and building exteriors. Eventually, merchants also hope to coordinate a plan for improving the overall appearance of the area, starting with signs.

"If we don't get started now . . . boy, what's it going to look like in three-to-five years?" Bakos said.

Much of the problem in getting a program on its feet is encouraging merchants' interest in beautification projects. That's why the committee is now in the process of developing a survey.

The survey will tap merchants' opinions about "just what level of interest there is" in sprucing up the thoroughfare, Bakos said.

"It brings it again to their attention," Bakos said, about encouraging merchants' interest in a beautification program.



Looking southeast on Grand River — "It's anything but beautiful," said Angel Dakos, Botaford Inn's public relations director.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

ALTHOUGH the at-times unsightly

Please turn to Page 6

## Police seek electrocuted youth's friend

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

Detroit Edison officials say evidence revealed in their continuing investigation shows that another person was with a 15-year-old Farmington Hills boy when he was electrocuted by a 4,500-volt wire on April 29.

Jared Lee Case, 25088 Pimlico, was electrocuted while walking through a wooded area 50 yards north of Rocky Crest, 100 yards east of Orchard Lake, between 10 and 11 Mile roads, Sgt. Al Havner of the Farmington Hills Police Department said.

"Evidence suggests that someone was with the boy, but we haven't been able to identify that person," Edison spokesman Mike Maurer said.

Farmington Hills Detective Al Havner, who has been heading the po-

lice investigation, was unavailable for comment.

CASE, WHO had left his home sometime after 7:30 p.m. to buy a pair of tennis shoes from a nearby store, apparently was taking a short-cut through the wet, wooded area when he was electrocuted, Havner said in April. Case's 16-year-old brother, Nathan, found his younger brother lying on his back on a trail in the wooded area. The older brother told police he had seen live electrical wires lying on the path for seven to 10 days, police said.

But Maurer said "A thorough search of our records indicates that the company (Edison) had no prior notification that a wire was down. We had not had any customers reporting loss of service."

Meanwhile, Edison is continuing its investigation, Maurer said.

## Strike sets club folks scrambling

By Karen Hermes Smith  
staff writer

Members of Oakland County's post, private country clubs are scrambling to find alternative places to have their weddings and other fancy parties this spring.

Culinary workers in 24 private clubs in the tri-county area last week went on strike or were locked out after they broke off contract negotiations with club owners.

Please turn to Page 4

## Board hopefuls to speak

### school board race

Voters and other interested citizens who wish to meet the candidates for the Farmington and Clarenceville boards of education should mark May 24 and 31, successive Thursdays, on their calendars.

Meet-the-candidates nights have been scheduled for those dates. On May 24, the Farmington and Clarenceville candidates will present themselves at 8 p.m. at Botaford Inn, 28000 Grand River, Farmington Hills for a candidates night sponsored by the Farmington Democratic Club.

Farmington candidates will speak first, since Clarenceville's hopefuls — especially the two incumbents — probably will be attending a regular meeting that night.

On the following Thursday, May 31, the Farmington candidates only

will appear at 8 p.m. at Dunckel Middle School, 32000 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. That session is sponsored by the Farmington Branch of the American Association of University Women.

IN THE Farmington District — which includes Farmington, most of Farmington Hills and a small portion of West Bloomfield Township — the field includes an incumbent and four challengers for two openings.

Helen Ptutow, the incumbent, is

running for her third term. Trustee Jim McGilincy, whose term expires in June, has said he will not seek re-election.

Farmington challengers include James J. Abernethy, J. Thomas Buck, Roxanne M. Fitzpatrick and Edmund V. Starrett.

The two top vote getters will serve four-year terms.

The Clarenceville District, which straddles the Oakland-Wayne county line, includes a small section of southern Farmington Hills. Incumbent Richard Richard J. Wood and Michael Manoro face challengers from Daniel S. Bibik and George T. Roberts for two four-year posts. A one-year term drew a single candidate, Linda M. Ahert.

## what's inside

- Amusements . . . 3C
- Classifieds . . . Sections C-D
- Community Calendar . . . XX
- Editorials . . . 6A
- Engagements . . . 6B
- Inside Angles . . . 2A
- Obituaries . . . 2A
- Oral Quarrel . . . 8A
- Shopping Cart . . . 1-2B
- Sports . . . 1-2C
- Suburban Life . . . 3-7B

NEWLINE . . . 477-5450  
CLASSIFIEDS . . . 391-0900  
HOME DELIVERY . . . 591-0500

**RECRUITMENT HELP WANTED**  
Classified Advertising Begins in SECTION C of today's paper.



First places in the recent Excellence in Music competition were won by Sandra Taylor (left), Elizabeth Greiner, Phillip Ross, Brooke Bereah, Angie Chen and LaAnne Richardson.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Music winners to perform

The winners of the Farmington Musicale Scholarship competition will perform in a recital to be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at the Farmington Hills Library, 12757 12 Mile Road.

The program, called Excellence in Music, features competition in instrumental, vocal and piano.

The winners in the instrumental-vocal competition, held April 14 at Farmington Harrison High School, were Phillip Ross, North Farmington senior, alto saxophonist; Les Anne Richardson, Farmington High freshman, cello; Elizabeth Greiner, Warner Middle School ninth-grader, violin.

The Sirey-McCallum Piano competition held at Nardin Park Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, produced the following winners: Angie Chen, North Farmington freshman; Brooke Bereah, Warner Middle School seventh-grader; and Sandra Taylor, Detroit Country Day School eighth-grader.

Judges for the piano competition were Evelyn Eyon, chairman of the Marygrove College Music Department and teacher of applied piano and theory; and Pegora Borovits, professional pianist and teacher.