

Vegetables comprise meat of this issue, 1B



Let them play, 3D

Repair shop owner will pay refunds, 8A

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 3203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

**GHOSTS**, ghouls and goblins will command center stage at the Farmington Area Jaycees Haunted House Oct. 18 through Nov. 1 in the parking lot at Tally Hall, 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

**Farmington Hills.** The fund-raiser will be open 7-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$2 per person.

Says the Jaycees: "In this Haunted House, your nightmares become reality."

**CALLING** potential sponsors.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Founders Festival Committee plans to seek corporate sponsors for the three major events of the annual summertime festival — the parade along Grand River, the fireworks at Oakland Community College and the showmobile at the Downtown Farmington Center.

Such sponsorship will play a big part in assuring the festival remains self-sufficient. The intent is to avoid having to dip into general chamber revenue to support the festival. Other sources of funding also are being considered, said committee chairman Jonathan Grant.

This year, festival expenses topped \$25,000. Chamber financial support came in the form of office staff assistance and sponsorship of a Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant entrant.

**MONEY** - saving move. Farmington will buy more than \$10,000 worth of fire hose through a bid obtained by the Oakland County Fire Chiefs Association.

Using this group, the purchase will be under budget by several hundred dollars offering the city "substantially lower prices," according to an administrative report. The 1986-87 budget allocated \$10,500 for the purchase. West Shore Services of Allendale received the county group's bid.

**GAINING** a gift. The Farmington Area Advisory Council has received the gift of an upright vacuum cleaner from Electrolux Corp., a subsidiary of Sara Lee Corp. The vacuum was one of 38 such gifts to 32 Torch Drive-supported agencies in the tri-county area.

Valued at \$10 million, 20,000 vacuums have been donated to charities nationwide through United Way of America's Gifts in Kind program. Locally, vacuums are being distributed by Detroit-based Gleaners Food Bank, a Torch Drive-supported agency.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Alleged sexual misconduct at five Oriental health spas in Farmington Hills, resulting in 17 arrests, may be linked to an international ring that recruits U.S. servicemen to marry Korean women and bring them into the country, Police Chief William Dwyer said. The U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization, the IRS and the FBI are heading the nationwide investigation.



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Spirit Week kicked off Homecoming '86 at North Farmington High School Oct. 8-11. Each day took on a special theme, including the traditional Brown and Gold Day. The week-long celebration culminated in a football victory over Plymouth Salem, 22-14, Saturday afternoon. Above, North students cheer their team on to victory. For the story and more pictures, see Page 14A.

## Industrial spur State pilot program aids manufacturers

By Casey Hans staff writer

It was a win or lose situation, and Bruce Moore wanted to win. Five years ago, management of the H.R. Krueger Machine Tool Inc. recapitalized, spending \$2.5 million in computer equipment to make themselves a marketable vendor, according to Moore, president and co-founder of the corporation.

They serve the auto, farm imple-

ment, truck and off-highway equipment industries.

Between the computer investment and a new state pilot program introduced one year ago, the Farmington manufacturing company on Grand River rounded the economic bend in a major conversion to computer production.

"We were crawling into a recession," Moore said. "We realized the world would never be the same... and we had to radically change the

way we did business. "We suddenly had a number of problems to solve."

HAD THE investment not occurred in 1981, Moore said, the 10-year-old business would have been closed. If it weren't for the Michigan Department of Commerce's Technology Deployment Service program, the system would not be working efficiently today.

Moore's story, plus details of the state-subsidized TDS program — at the end of its first pilot year — were given during a press conference Friday at H.R. Krueger. Company officials and members of the commerce department staff participated.

The TDS program is one that offers small manufacturing companies of less than 500 employees:

- an operational performance review;
- access to a TDS field representative who is on leave from the private sector and on the program's payroll;
- assistance in designing a custom employee training program for the new computer technology;
- grants to fund the training programs.

H.R. KRUEGER was the first company to participate in the state pilot, which now serves more than 70 manufacturing businesses in the

## Group home plan sparks Hills debate

By Joanna Maliszewski staff writer

A proposed group home for mentally ill adults has come under scrutiny by neighbors and Farmington Hills officials.

City council members Tuesday were taken aback when a resident — one of many who strongly oppose the home — presented information detailing alleged complaints lodged against applicants seeking a group home license from the state Department of Social Services.

"I would just suggest that all the information be turned over to the administration," Councilwoman Jan Dolan said. "They (administrators) have not even seen the information."

City council members Tuesday voted 6-0 to turn over copies of the resident's information to administrators for study. A report is expected to be presented to council within the next few weeks.

Council's decision came during discussion of a proposed license for a group home for six mentally ill adults at 28605 Grayling in a subdivision off Grand River, between Inkster and Middlebelt.

The proposed home makes good an earlier promise from state Department of Mental Health and Ypsilanti Regional Psychiatric Hospital officials that Farmington Hills would be one of many Oakland County communities where patients with histories of psychiatric hospitalization would be placed.

THE PROPOSED group home would not be within 1,500 feet of another — the only control a local government has over group home sites.

But city officials have notified the state that code violations exist in the two-story Grayling house.

City officials told the DSS that the house has electrical, heating and structural problems. Farmington Hills building staff will not issue an occupancy permit until the problems are corrected. City Manager William Costlek said.

"The state won't license the home until it is brought up to code," Costlek said.

Though residents expressed con-

cern about the code violations, much of the concern Tuesday surrounded alleged complaints about the group home license applicants, who were not at the meeting.

"Everybody in the neighborhood is against the group home," said resident David Pilkinton.

Joined by other residents, Pilkinton asked council members to request a hearing before DSS officials because the house is in violation of city building codes.

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## Teacher training marches onward

By Casey Hans staff writer

Three local school districts are investing in their teachers' futures. They believe the payoff will be better schools.

Teacher training is at the forefront in Farmington Public Schools, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools and Clarenceville Public Schools this year — the districts covering Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Local plans dovetail into information given in a recent report from the state Board of Education's Future of Teaching Committee, which urges a new set of standards to improve teacher education at colleges statewide.

One provision addresses teacher training and development and making the teaching profession more competitive with other careers.

"I'm really concerned about the teaching profession," Clarenceville Superintendent Michael Shbler said. "And I'm pleased to see governmental groups studying this problem."

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## Poetry grabs spotlight

English teacher and nationally published poet Victoria Day Najjar believes "poetry is the basis of language" and all types of writing.

The Farmington resident and teacher at Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills brings something new to the Farmington Observer School Page (Page 3A) this month — a lesson plan and samples of some local student poetry with a Halloween theme.

She developed the idea for the page during her sessions as guest speaker and writer at schools in Bloomfield Hills, Plymouth-Canton and Troy, where she realized "there was no vehicle for the students to be published."

Also inspiring her was completed poetry from workshops she con-

ducted at the Farmington Community Library.

"If we want a nation of readers, they have to start with teaching poetry, which has heavy noun and verb usage. There's something about poetry that brings people closer together."

Najjar originally became interested in poetry by reading it in grade school. She didn't begin writing it, however, until her teaching internship at Farmington High School in 1978.

Not only can other types of writing be developed through the use of poetry, but other artistic mediums, such as painting and photography also can stimulate creative writing, she added.

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"We have the makings of a real (industrial) revolution here. We're making national history in Farmington."

— Doug Ross, director  
Department of Commerce

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