

Farmington Observer

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farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9222.

LEARNING experiences. Farmington High's American Legion Boys State representative, Matt Langdon, called his role as permanent convention chairman of the Federalist Party "one of the educational experiences of my life. "I learned a lot," he told the Farmington City Council, which paid \$170 to sponsor him at the June government program at Michigan State University. Langdon, a Farmington High junior, represented 18 cities and 450 Federalists at the Federalist Party convention. He got a crash course in public speaking. "I really feel I can talk in front of a lot of people without being nervous now," he said. "I'm sure you represented Farmington well. Thank you for accepting the challenge," Mayor Richard Tupper said.

Memory lane

25 years ago:
• Twenty-five candidates for Farmington Township elective office filed nominating petitions for the Sept. 1 primary.
• Francis H. Delaney, 19, of Wall Lake, drowned July 21 trying to swim across Coventry Lake, 14 Mile and Inkster, Farmington Township.
• The Farmington City Council July 20 took up the problem of traffic along Grand River to try to reduce accidents from Power east to the city limit. — Farmington Enterprise, July 23, 1964

This week

Farmington Youth Assistance will host a summer activities program open house from 7-9 p.m. Thursday at Grace School, 2904 Shawwassee, Farmington Hills. The program is for eighth graders through 16-year-olds.

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Reminders

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

Wish granted: death with dignity



David Rivlin — as he appeared in May at Oak Hill Care Center in Farmington, his home for three years until last week.

Rivlin's long struggle is over

By Casey Hans
staff writer

After a few bars of Beethoven and a moment with loved ones last week, David Rivlin said goodbye to life.

The 38-year-old quadriplegic, who for three years lived at the Oak Hill Care Center in Farmington, died Thursday afternoon at a friend's home in Brighton after listening to a favorite classic, "Moonlight Sonata," and saying farewell to a handful of friends and family.

Rivlin was brought into a home care program through the Southfield-based Hospice of Southeastern Michigan Thursday morning. He was sedated, removed from his ventilator by a doctor arranged through the hospice and

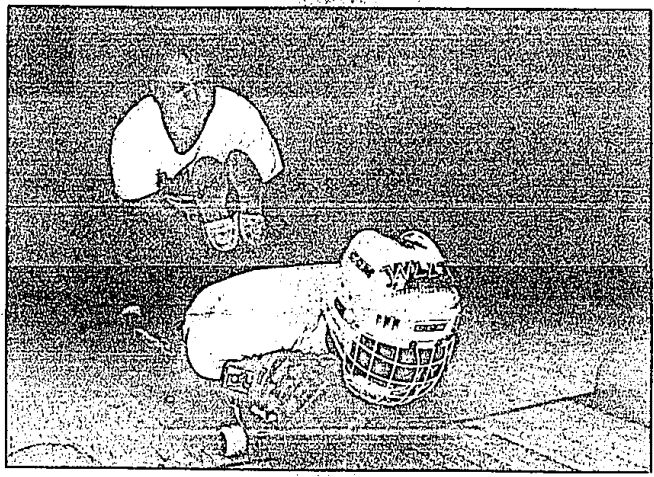
died at 3:24 p.m. "peacefully and without any distress," said hospice chief executive Carolyn Fitzpatrick-Cassin.

"After discussing it over a period of several weeks, we decided his goal was similar to those of the hospice program," she added.

Nothing was done to hasten death or cause him to suffer.

THE BRIGHTON location is the home of a nurse who befriended Rivlin while caring for him a few years ago; he had been moved from the nursing home Tuesday morning.

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DOUGLAS E. BUSALLA/staf photographer

Fast Eddy gives Dick the Bruiser, a.k.a. George Baler, a push down the alley during the first dwarf bowling tournament at Langan's Nor-West Lanes Wednesday. Baler's partner Jim Johnson of WLLZ is in the background.

Tables turned Dwarf event stirs controversy

By Norcen Flack
staff writer

Pre-event publicity may have misled the crowd and spurred disappointment at the first WLLZ-FM dwarf bowling tournament at Langan's Nor-West Lanes in Farmington Hills Wednesday.

The Farmington Hills radio station promoted the event but would not reveal who would be pushed down the alley on the "dwarf dolly," a mechanic's creeper customized with skateboard wheels, until tournament time at 8 p.m.

"We're here for one reason — that's to have a good time," said WLLZ disc jockey Jim Johnson.

"We do this strictly for fun," said Mary Langan of Langan's Nor-West Lanes. "We didn't do it to denigrate any class of people. Bowling is for everyone — regardless of their size, shape or color, or how old they are."

- One dwarf says rio to bowling event, 2A
- Liquor Commission says tournament violated license, 2A

"I don't approve of dwarf tossing," Langan said. "The only thing I want to toss is a party."

MANY OF the 400 spectators assumed the exhibition would involve a dwarf being pushed on the creeper in a competition between WLLZ morning drive-time hosts Jim Johnson and George Baler of J.J. and the Morning Crew.

Instead, the DJs were pushed by "Fast Eddy" — Edward McAvoy, a dwarf from Carleton. Ten frames later, Baler won, 250-210. Afterward, the DJs let spectators push them down the alley.

"I thought they were going to

throw the dwarf down the alley," said Dan Ambrose of Bloomfield Hills. "This is not the highlight of my evening."

CONTROVERSY AROSE the week before after a Grand Rapids nightclub risked losing its liquor license by hosting a dwarf-tossing tournament in violation of entertainment licensing procedures.

Opponents see dwarf participation in entertainment as exploiting dwarfs.

The dwarf bowling tournament at Langan's was intended as a promotion for WLLZ.

"For being such good sports about this," Mary Langan awarded checks to the Dwarfs Athletic Association and to Little People of America.

"We are more than happy to take our own pie in the face because we

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Council vet Soronen won't seek 4th term

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Veteran Farmington Hills city councilwoman Jody Soronen will not seek re-election in November, when five of the seven council seats will be up for grabs.

In the race for four expiring council terms, incumbents Ben Marks and Aldo Vagnozzi have filed for re-election and incumbent Philip Arnold has taken out a nominating petition.

Paul Sowerby, appointed in March to fill a vacancy, is required by a 1985 city charter amendment to seek election to fill the remaining two years of former councilman Joe Alkatech's four-year term. Alkatech resigned in February. Sowerby has taken out a petition but has not yet returned it.



Jody Soronen stopping down

SORONEN, A 25-year resident, has served three four-year terms on the city council. She was elected mayor by her peers in 1980 and 1988.

"It's been 12 years and there comes a time to retire from that sort of thing," she said in announcing her intentions Thursday.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I wouldn't have missed one year of it.

But it's time to lay down my city council packets."

She didn't cite a particular issue that colored her decision.

"I've given it a lot of thought," she said. "Obviously, I didn't make my decision lightly. It's the right thing to do and the right time to do it."

Soronen, who ran unsuccessfully

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3 seats open in Farmington

Farmington voters will fill three city council seats this November. Expiring terms are now held by Mayor Richard Tupper, completing his second two-year term, Mayor Pro Tem Arnold Campbell, completing his first four-year term, and councilwoman Shirley Richardson, appointed to fill the remainder of Alton Bennett's term in 1986. Bennett resigned and moved away.

Nominating petitions will be available this week at the city clerk's office in the city hall, Liberty at Grand River. Candidates must be duly registered voters.

Petitions must contain valid signatures of 50-75 registered voters of the city. Residents may sign only up to three candidates' petitions. Petitions are due by 5 p.m. Aug. 18. Candidates have until 5 p.m. Aug. 21 to withdraw.

The top two finishers in the Nov. 7 election will serve four-year terms. The third-place finisher will serve a two-year term.

Council members are paid \$900 per year. The five-member council meets the first and third Mondays of each month. Occasional special meetings also are held.

Farmington supports library millage plan

By Casey Hans
staff writer

It's unanimous. The Farmington City Council joined neighboring Farmington Hills last week in supporting the effort to fund a new main library, which will go to the voters for approval Nov. 7.

Voters are being asked to approve the measure, which asks for \$14.5 million in bonds over 20 years to build a new 80,000-square-foot main library and a maximum 1.5-mill operating levy for the two-branch library system. If approved, both cities have agreed by resolution to roll back operating millage by the amount usually allocated

to the Farmington Community Library system.

The main branch of the library "has continued to increase in usage," said library director Beverly Pappal. "It's become a challenge to meet the public demand."

No site has been selected for the proposed building, but Pappal said selection has "narrowed considerably" and that she would advise the council when a decision is made. She has had inquiries from the community about the site, as well.

IF APPROVED by voters, the current main library on 12 Mile could revert to the cities and

be used for any number of community purposes. If the cities decide they don't want the building, it could be sold and lesser amounts of bonds could be sold, or debt on the new building retired early, Pappal said she has already received inquiries from private sources about buying the building.

"It's a very substantial building," Farmington city manager Robert Deaman told the council. "They've simply outgrown it. The most economical thing would be for the two cities to use it." Pappal estimates the building to be worth several million dollars.

The \$14.5-million facility price tag will include land, construction, furnishings, architectural and legal costs. The 80,000-square-foot facility will house up to 300,000 volumes.

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