

From the Archives
peek at college life

East-ditch softball, 1D

Local hospital joins Medicaid lawsuit, 2A

Farmington Observer

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farmington FOCUS

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LOW spenders. All four candidates who ran for the Farmington school board in June filed waivers with the Oakland County Elections Commission by the July deadline. Candidates spending more than \$1,000 must file a detailed spending report with the county; a waiver means they spent less. Candidates included incumbents and eventual winners Jack Cotton and Helen Dilshazy and first-time challengers John Akouri and Robert Hanny.

STEPPING in. Laura Miner is the new principal at Power Middle School, replacing Robert Brown, and Buhl Burton is the new principal at O.E. Dunckel Middle School, replacing Donald Keen. Both were appointed by the Farmington school board in July after serving as assistant principals in the district. Keen and Brown retired in June.

QUOTE of the week
"God intervened. He said, 'Derwin, you have to stay and fight. You can't run.'"

— Farmington resident Derwin Success, a black minister whose biracial family has been a target of racial slurs. Story: Page 1A.

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Observer & Eccentric Classifieds Work!

"The paper hit the street at 6 a.m. and I received 2 calls at 6:03 a.m. and 6:05 a.m. I sold the car on the 1st call!"

M. Katz

One call does it all
WAYNE COUNTY
591-0900

Youth says pair admitted robbery

Testimony continues in McDonald's exam

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

Two men charged in the stickup of an armored truck courier at a McDonald's Restaurant in Farmington Hills July 10 told a friend they had committed the robbery, according to testimony in 47th District Court Tuesday.

At a preliminary exam before District Judge Fred Harris of Farmington, Charles Constantine, 18, said Raymond Edward Shavers Jr., 16, of Detroit, and Douglas Lee Parks, 18, of Farmington Hills, came to his Farmington Hills home July 10 and told him they had committed the robbery at 10:45 a.m. at the McDonald's on Orchard Lake Road, south of 10 Mile. No one was hurt in the stickup.

Constantine said Parks told him he drove the getaway car and parked about a block away from the restaurant while Shavers walked inside with a gun and carried out the robbery.

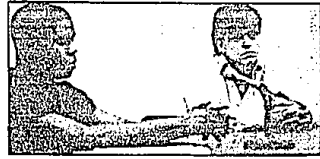
Parks said Shavers fired a shot because employees thought the stickup was a

prank. Constantine testified.

Parks and Shavers claimed no one recognized Shavers during the crime because he wore a mask and gloves that did not allow anyone to even see his skin color, Constantine said.

ARRAIGNED JULY 13, Shavers, a four-year employee of the restaurant, pleaded innocent to eight felony counts: two counts of assault with intent to commit murder,

Raymond Edward Shavers Jr. (left) of Detroit and Douglas Lee Parks of Farmington Hills listen as charges are read against them.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Happy trails

Animal lover says goodbye to raccoons

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It's never easy to say goodbye. But Beverly Cornell grasped one thought last week as she bid farewell to the hand-fed pair of raccoons she has raised since infancy.

"They are born to be free. As much as I love them, my job was to

release them to be free. They were not raised to be kept in a cage," the Farmington Hills resident said.

The unrelated male raccoons, Charlie Brown and Linus, were released to the wild Saturday near Lake Orion, where they will continue to grow and live with their own kind.

"They were getting very independent. Releasing them is a favor to them," said Cornell, licensed by

the state Department of Natural Resources to care for orphaned wild animals.

"They would have had to be caged when we left the house. And they would be miserable. They would have become destructive," Cornell continued. "They wanted that freedom. It's not fair for them to live in a subdivision."

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Council tables rezoning plan; protests mount

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Tempera flared Monday when residents of Hillside Estates Condominiums and the Independence Hills and Independence Commons subdivisions protested a proposed industrial-research-office facility in their neighborhood.

Homeowner comments elicited a decision by the Farmington Hills City Council Monday to table rezoning the 14.5 acres pending further discussion Sept. 25.

"I don't see the advantage. You don't have to downgrade zoning to encourage additional growth."
R.W. Haverstroh
Witherspoon resident

Rezoning was introduced for enactment by a 5-2 vote July 17. Council members Jean Fox and Aldo Vagnozzi dissented. They oppose extending the IRO zoning into residential areas.

Rezoning the acreage immediately south of Hillside Estates and north of Indoplex Circle, in the Drake-Grand River area, is under consideration. The acreage would be rezoned from office service (OS-1) to industrial research office (IRO).

RESIDENTS FEAR the unknown. They oppose pharmaceutical manufacturing, experimental product development and contract-based medical facilities with resultant hazardous and toxic wastes. In an area becoming increasingly dense with development; they say an accident would be even more far-reaching than one that might have occurred a few years ago.

"It's a fear the people of Independence Hills should not have to live with," said one resident.

"We don't want a health hazard in our subdivision. We are adamant. We do not want IRO in the area. We do not want industry in our subdivision," said Larry Mazy of Carrollton, former Independence Hills Homeowners Association president.

He said council members rejected the same rezoning in 1981. The reasons are even stronger now to oppose, a neighbor said. "Please don't introduce a health hazard into this highly populated area," she said.

"Why does the city want to take a master plan that was developed many years ago and deviate from it when it was so wisely put together and showed a lot of wisdom?" asked R.W. Haverstroh, who lives on Witherspoon in Independence Hills.

"You don't have to downgrade zoning to encourage additional growth. I wouldn't be misled by developers who show plans and specifications of one thing and later on will be in here to put up what they feel like."

He said council members rejected the same rezoning in 1981. The reasons are even stronger now to oppose, a neighbor said. "Please don't introduce a health hazard into this highly populated area," she said.

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Minister, target of slurs, mulls over peace march

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

A black minister in a biracial family victimized by racial slurs in their Farmington neighborhood hopes to stage a peace march through the community this fall.

"I'll do it if I can," said the Rev. Derwin Success, still unsure what city permits are required. "It's something I feel is necessary. I think I need to make a stand. Somebody has to take a stand for humanity."

Success, a minister at Berea St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Highland Park, hopes to enlist sup-

port from local ministers and city officials.

"We as a community just can't tolerate such hate," he said. "It's not a black-white issue. It's a right-wrong issue. I feel like a prisoner in my own home to a great degree. I feel like a foreigner in Farmington."

Derwin, his wife, Dianna, and their two children, Matthew, 11, and Sarah, 6, have been targets of hate messages since moving to their well-kept home on Shawassaw four years ago. Dianna and the kids are white.

Matt said he'd be proud to march alongside his dad.

"I think our family has to do

something," said the East Middle School sixth grader. "I'll do whatever God has us do — march or whatever. I really wish our family could live in peace and not have to worry about racism anymore."

IN THE MEANTIME, Success is installing a tall stockade fence around his back yard to keep out vandals and to deter taunts.

"I'll make my family more secure when I'm not here," he said, fearful they will become innocent victims of a racist.

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staff photo by BOB SKLAR

Controversial eatery at golf course opens

□ Related opinion: 12A

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Amid a backdrop of controversy, the On the Tee restaurant and renovated clubhouse at Farmington Hills' city-owned San Marino Golf

Course celebrated their grand opening Wednesday.

The issue came to the fore in May when the Farmington Hills City Council, in a 4-2 vote, agreed to co-sign a long-term \$250,000 loan for golf pro Al Marmion to add the 2,400-square-foot restaurant and to remodel the clubhouse.

Council members Jean Fox and

Aldo Vagnozzi opposed the co-signing. Their feelings were shared by councilman Paul Sowerby, who was out of town for the May 22 vote.

Pure and simple, they said, the city shouldn't be in the business of co-signing loans for anybody.

Sowerby continues to be concerned. On July 14, he wrote a letter to city attorney Paul Eiboux asking

for clarification on life insurance premiums, loan provisions, default obligations and a pending liquor license.

Marmion, who manages and operates the 25-year-old golf course and related facilities, is determined to dispel whatever doubts may still linger in anyone's minds.

"I've been here 18 years," said

Marmion, responsible for all pro shop and restaurant inventory. "I love this city more than anybody. Taking the city to the cleaners is the furthest thing in my mind."

"What I would like to do, and I discussed this with my banker, is, basically, when I get my loan paid down

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