

Men find their niche in 'friendly skies,' 1D



Salem nips North, 1C

Students don T-shirts in anti-drug war, 3A

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farmington FOCUS

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CITY symbol. Farmington councilman Ralph Yoder wants the logo used by the beautification committee to become the city's official mark. The logo, which includes a tree and three figures that look like a family, is usually seen with the words, "Keep Farmington beautiful." "I believe this is the ideal logo for our city," he said. A three-member committee, including city manager Robert Deedman and council members William Hartsock and Shirley Richardson, are reviewing the possibility of a new logo.

School bus safety violations up

Bus care an everyday effort, 6A

By Casey Hans staff writer

Most recent state figures on school bus safety rate the Farmington school district only "fair" and show that nearly one quarter of the district's fleet had safety violations during the 1988-89 school year.

That rating was a reduction from the previous year, when only a handful of buses were affected and the

Farmington school officials stress that no buses were pulled from service due to the state police inspection.

district received an excellent rating. Farmington school officials stress that no buses were pulled from service due to the state police inspection, done annually for all school buses across the state. Records show any Farmington

buses with problems were repaired during the same day, and took from several minutes to half an hour to complete. No "red tags" for safety were physically placed on Farmington bus windshields, said bus garage supervisor Malen Terry.

"We did have more (violations) this year — that didn't bother me," said Lynn Nutter, Farmington's assistant superintendent for operations. "None of our buses were ever red-tagged to take them off the highway. The thing I want to emphasize is that our buses passed 100 percent."

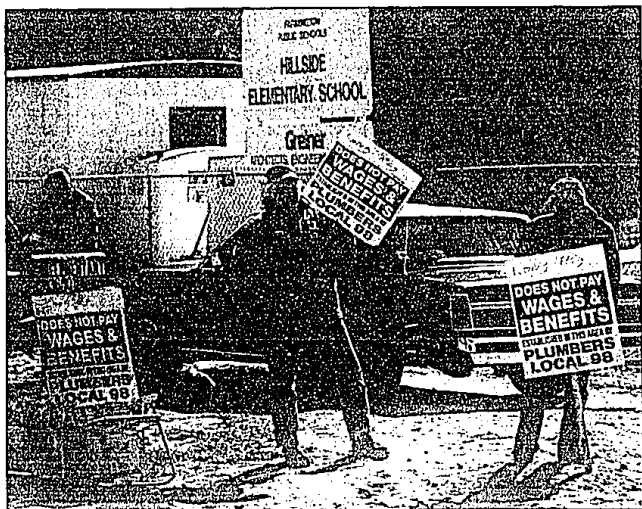
All BUSES must eventually pass inspection to be considered roadworthy, but the Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Division grades districts on initial inspections done by 17 inspectors.

during the 1988-89 school year showed 21 of the district's 98 buses were placed in a "red-tag" category for safety violations. Another 11 were in a "yellow-tag" classification for non-safety problems and 52 passed the initial inspection, said Sgt. Carl Schembri, commander of the school bus inspection unit.

Sixteen buses in the Farmington fleet are used as spares, but these must also pass inspection. Any buses not scheduled for road use during the school year are not inspected.

Farmington's initial inspection

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Union plumbers stage an informational picket School in Farmington Hills Wednesday, at the construction site of Hillside Elementary

Plumbers local pickets Hillside

By Casey Hans staff writer

Picketers at the site of a new Farmington Hills elementary school last week have not slowed work on the building, say school officials, who are monitoring the situation daily.

The district is working on a tight schedule to complete and open the 600-student Hillside Elementary School by next fall. Ground was broken in June.

"To my knowledge, there's been no interference with work," said Lynn Nutter, Farmington schools assistant superintendent. "Of course, we're not pleased they elected to do that, but they're free to do so in this country."

Members of Plumbers Local 98 began walking the picket line early Wednesday morning, in protest over the district hiring of Long Mechanical of Northville, a contractor that had the lowest bid but is also a non-union shop.

On the scene last week, Local 98 president Butch Smith said the picket is informational in nature and will continue indefinitely.

THERE APPEARED to be no blocking of the work site or violence in the area, although two unmarked trucks were parked and blocking half of 11 Mile, forcing drivers to stop and view the picketers before driving around the trucks. Work was continuing at the site, with the handful of protesters in the public right of way at the entry.

"The purpose is to inform the public that Long Mechanical does not pay the rate of wages and fringe benefits as approved by Local 98," said Birmingham attorney Boaz Siegel, who represents the union.

Such informational picketing is done when the picketers' target is on the job, he said.

"I assume they're (Long Mechanical) working there today," he said. He would not say whether it was the union's ultimate intention to halt work on the project.

"I guess people decide what to do when they see a picket line," he said.

Nutter said he receives several updates per day on the situation, which is being monitored by both the school architect and construction manager.

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Focus of peace march has blurred — organizer

Reaction mixed to march, 8A

By Susan Buck staff writer

The Farmington man organizing a peace march for racial harmony on Sunday said the focus is being lost amid publicity about an expected clash between two outside groups.

"My main focus is to gain racial harmony and to express love to get

people united for one cause," said Derwin Success, 32, a lay staff member at Berea St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Highland Park.

"Together, let's show our support for the right of every person to live in peace and harmony," reads the cover of the unity walk brochure for Love Force United, Success' support group.

The appearance of the Security Services Action Group, a neo-Nazi National Socialist group that will demonstrate against the peace

marchers, and the International Committee Against Racism and Communist Progressive Labor Party (InCAR/PLP), a self-described revolutionary group that will counterprotest the Nazis, is obscuring the thrust of the unity march, Success said.

The anti-racist group, which police said has violent tendencies, passed out fliers Oct. 1 at the Downtown Farmington Center and for a

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Forensic report seen as Bonelli's defense

By Darrell Cline staff writer

Defense attorneys for a Farmington Hills teenager accused of drowning his girlfriend hope that a forensic report will help them prove the defendant was insane.

Attorney Howard Wittenberg said the report being prepared by the state Forensic Center in Ypsilanti will recommend whether Anthony Bonelli, charged with open murder in the drowning death of

17-year-old Kristina Marie Frachia, is competent to stand trial.

Wittenberg also said the report will contain an evaluation of whether Bonelli should be held criminally responsible for the death of Frachia, a Farmington Hills 11th grader and former glee club member whose fully clothed body was pulled from Orchard Lake on March 17. The case will be delayed until the report is completed.

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Memory lane

50 years ago:

Howard Otis, well-known Farmington businessman, will serve as a city commissioner for the remainder of the present term.

Forty-four awards totaling \$104,350 will be paid to land owners in Farmington Township following approval of condemnation proceedings.

— Farmington Enterprise, Oct. 12, 1939

This week

MEET the 13 Farmington Hills City Council candidates at a candidates forum at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the city hall council chambers, 31555 11 Mile, at Orchard Lake Road. Following formal remarks, candidates will field audience questions.

what's inside

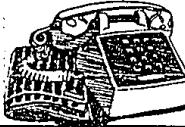
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'Innovative' fireman is honored by peers

By Susan Buck staff writer

Personable Don St. Clair, a career firefighter and emergency medical technician, is this year's recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award in Farmington Hills.

A former soda pop company general manager, life insurance salesman and apartment manager, St. Clair, 31, said he draws on the people skills he acquired during his sales career in his everyday contact with the public.

A full-time firefighter by day, by night he is a lieutenant in the fire department's paid call-back section. He is also an instructor of public fire safety.

He and fellow firefighter Wally Kurzeja provided on-the-scene medical care to Tara Heichel, 20, the recent victim of a near-fatal electrocution in Farmington Hills. Ironically, they were the same two men who helped cut the Southfield woman from her car during an auto accident last November.

"The reward with Tara Heichel is that she is alive," said St. Clair. "How many jobs can you think of where you can get that kind of satis-

people

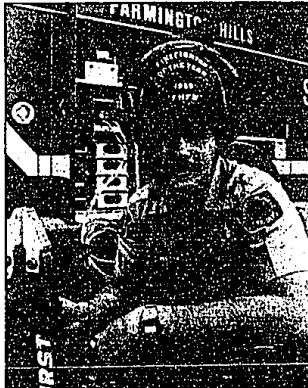
faction? When you get something like this (the award) on top of it, it's just the icing on the cake. Tara's lucky star was shining. I did the CPR part of it and Wally did the (automatic) defibrillator."

IT WASN'T the first time St. Clair used his expertise in a life-or-death situation. In 1981, while a part-time firefighter, he assisted in reviving a man through cardiopulmonary resuscitation at Drakeville Lanes. The man was in cardiac arrest and considered dead.

"Certain ones stick in your mind. Those will be with me for the rest of my life," he said.

Most of the time, his professional life is routine. Building inspections take up a large chunk of his day.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Don St. Clair, Farmington Hills firefighter of the year, is shown with the Jaws of Life, an extrication tool used to pry victims of car accidents from their vehicles.

He heads list of winners

Mayor Terry Sever paid tribute to the Farmington Hills Fire Department at its fifth annual recognition banquet Sept. 26 at Glen Oaks Country Park.

"It takes a special breed of person to have the courage to be a firefighter," Sever said. "It takes a special breed of person to endure many of the strains that go into serving the public."

"As long as we continue to have these kinds of people, we'll continue to have a great fire department."

U.S. Rep. William Broomefield, R-Birmingham, whose district includes the Farmington area, couldn't attend the banquet, but he sent a letter praising the department for its dedication "to a cause beyond yourself — your fellow man."

Award winners included:

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