

For people who play money games, 1B



Soccer outlook, 1D

Profanity spurs review of OCC station, 5A

Farmington Observer

Volume 101 Number 51

Thursday, March 29, 1990

Farmington, Michigan

96 Pages

Fifty Cents

farmington FOCUS

To write The Observer: 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; weekend line, 591-2305; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0800; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

A FUN job. In his State of the Cities address at a Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce-hosted breakfast March 22 at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick quipped: "It's really fun being a city manager — spending your whole life talking about garbage, roads, gutters. . . . 'Have you ever thought about that, Bob?' Costick added, glancing toward Farmington City Manager Bob Deadman.

MIGHTY strong. Farmington councilman Bill Hartsock took advantage of the mike at that same breakfast to quip about neighboring Farmington Hills' "unusual" form of city government.

On the heels of a controversy surrounding an ill-fated ad hoc facilities study committee, he in just described Farmington Hills' form of governing as "strong mayor, strong city manager and a strong city council."

QUOTE of the week

It's in the best interest of the city to pass the (basketball backboard) amendment. To not pass it would be a real political basketball.

— Farmington Hills resident John Tomey, in addressing the city council Monday. Story: 1A.

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 4B
- Building scene . . . Sec. H
- Business . . . Sec. C
- Cable connection . . . 10B
- Classifieds . . . Sec. C, E-H
- Index 6G
- Auto Sec. C, F
- Real estate . . . Sec. E, H
- Employment . . . Sec. C, G
- Community corner . . . 4A
- Creative living . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 10E
- Entertainment . . . 7D
- Obituaries 8B
- Opinion 16A
- Police/fire calls . . . 4A
- Sports Sec. D

Building Scene

An informative guide to new home, condominium and commercial developments in your community, plus advertising and interesting notices designed to help you on top of the building scene. Now appearing in every Monday and Thursday edition.

Observer & Realtime

For Display Advertising call 644-1100 591-2300

2 teens robbed in parking lot brawl

Police step up patrols on Orchard Lake Road, 3A

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Two teenagers were robbed and at least six were beaten in a fight that spanned the parking lots of three businesses on Orchard Lake Road, north of 13 Mile, Friday night, Farmington Hills Police said.

No one was seriously hurt in the fight, but a 17-year-old West Bloomfield resident suffered a swollen nose. A 20-year-old adult and a 16-year-old juvenile have been charged with two counts of unarmed robbery, a 15-year felony, and one count of assault and battery, a 90-day misdemeanor. Both males are from Farmington Hills.

AT THE height of the fight, at

least six teens from West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake and Farmington Hills were attacked by a group of 15 other young people, police said.

It marked the second straight Friday night a fight broke out along the business strip that includes the Taco Bell, 29925 Orchard Lake Road. The week before, one teen was hurt and one was arrested.

Last Friday's brawl followed a verbal exchange at 10:30 p.m. inside the Taco Bell. One teen accused the

17-year-old West Bloomfield resident of involvement in the fight there the week before.

According to police reports, after the West Bloomfield resident said he didn't know anything about that fight, he and his friends were threatened. Shift manager Simon Greenstreet, sensing trouble, ordered all of the teens to leave.

While going to their car parked outside the nearby New York Carpet World, the West Bloomfield resident

and his friends were confronted by the suspect group. The group unleashed kicks and punches — and the fight was on.

ONE ATTACKER demanded money from two 16-year-old males in a threatening way on the sidewalk between Taco Bell and New York Carpet World.

After the robbery, the victims ran to the Ground Round, where the

Please turn to Page 3

Hills eases hoop restrictions

Residents: Backboards can be ugly

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Despite opposition from many Strathmore subdivision residents, pole-mounted basketball backboards will be legal by mid-April in Farmington Hills.

"I think we need to have rules as to where these hoops are and what color they are," Strathmore resident Jane Toomajian said. Strathmore is a new subdivision south of 13 Mile and Haggerty.

But the city council didn't buy residents' arguments that pole-mounted backboards are unsightly, can lead to property damage from bouncing balls, cause noise problems and lower property values.

The city council Monday enacted a zoning amendment liberalizing use of garage- and pole-mounted backboards by allowing one per front or a minimum side yard per house.

Pole-mounted backboards must be within the third of the yard nearest the house at the front or the side. Backboards have always been allowed in rear yards, some side yards and on garages. Residents can have only one backboard on a pole.

If a resident has a garage-mounted backboard, they can still have a pole-mounted one in the rear yard. Mayor Jean Fox and councilman Aldo Vagnozzi opposed the amendment.

"I don't think we need to any more regulate people's use of their property," councilwoman Nancy Bates said. REMINDING RESIDENTS that Birmingham lost its fight in court to ban the backboard poles, councilman Lawrence Liehman said, "I don't think Farmington Hills is going to rise and fall aesthetically on this."

Advocates spoke of having kids play at home and the lack of recreation facilities in the city. They said other ordinances exist to prevent kids from damaging property or playing late at night. Ordinances also exist to prevent the backboards or poles from being unsightly.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Neighborhood youngsters play basketball on the driveway at Keith Gallagher's Strathmore subdivision house in northwest Farmington Hills Monday afternoon.

"I think it's a lot better if our children are playing basketball (at home) . . . It's much more preferable than having to transport them to other places or have them join clubs," resident Barbara Munn said.

Resident Joe Miller said parents

should teach their children responsibility about damaging other people's property and when to play.

Resident Keith Gallagher said he almost lost a sale on his house because he wanted to take his basketball backboard with him. "Beauty

is in the eye of the beholder," he said.

"It's in the best interest of the city to pass the amendment. To not pass it would be a real political basketball," resident John Tomey

Please turn to Page 2

Stores may lose booze license

By Bob Sklar and Joanne Maliszewski staff writers

Three Farmington Hills stores could lose their liquor licenses after the city council Monday voted to recommend nonrenewal or revocation, based on a history of liquor law violations.

By resolution, the council voted to recommend to the state Liquor Control Commission that licenses be revoked or not renewed for:

• Last Stop Party Store, 29154 Grand River; Steeva Hesano, licensee.

• Grand Square Liquor Shoppe, 38411 Grand River; Dawood Toma Soroki, licensee.

• Convenient Food Mart, 29405 W. 12 Mile; Deogun & Associates, licensee.

"We have no comments at this time. We have legal counsel to take care of it," said Soroki Tuesday.

Neither of the other licensees could be reached for comment. Convenient Food Mart is closed for business.

The practical effect is if the city council recommends nonrenewal or revocation, the LCC "is obliged to follow that recommendation unless something is wrong," said Ronald Aho, Farmington Hills special counsel.

"The majority of the (liquor law) violations consisted almost exclusively of sale to minors," said Sgt. Charles Nebus, Farmington Hills Police Detective Section supervisor.

THE CITY'S 83 liquor licenses come up for renewal each April 30.

The city council's call to revoke or not renew three licenses was based on a recommendation from City Manager Bill Costick and police Chief Bill Dwyer and on evidence and documentation presented at due-process hearings March 15.

No evidence was submitted by the licensees to adequately rebut the testimony it heard from city officials, the council stated in its resolution.

These three operations do stand out in terms of both the frequency of

Please turn to Page 7

Cities count on tax dollars dealt according to census

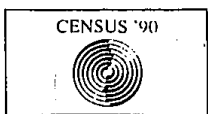
By Casey Hans staff writer

Not being counted in the 1990 census could cost your city \$1,000 over the next decade.

Each resident of the cities is worth up to \$100 per year in federal and state money used to fix roads and operate facilities, officials in Farmington and Farmington Hills say.

"Looking at what we get today, without any increased revenue, if we were to lose one person, it would cost the city \$1,000," said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

"That's 100 bucks a year, roughly." "The most important factor is that



we get money back from the state based on our population," said Hills City Manager William Costick.

"It gives us a new basepoint — it's important we all be counted."

THE CENSUS will also influence grants for which the cities can apply,

and the number of liquor licenses allowed in each city.

It will also give each city an idea of its age, income and ethnic makeup, said Rick Lampi, Farmington Hills community development coordinator.

"It may start to reinforce some of the information out of the Year 2000 report," Lampi said, referring to the recent community study that sets quality-of-life goals for the city.

"When we get the '90 data, it will give us a comparison of the makeup of the community."

CENSUS FORMS were sent to

Please turn to Page 7

Local cable guide to debut Monday

Tired of hunting through your cable TV book to match programs to the local cable channel?

Look no further than Suburban Cable Weekly, which debuts Monday in the Farmington Observer.

The 40-plus page guide will be part of the paper each Monday. Listings will be from Monday through Sunday.

Suburban Cable Weekly will include programming for all VHF and UHF channels as well as all cable channels available through Metro/Vision of Oakland County.

The channels listed will be Metro/Vision's channels. Viewers won't have to search for a grid in the front of the book to find which channel to tune in.

The book will also contain trivia, a crossword puzzle, a horoscope, news, interviews and a column by Lark Samouelian, executive director of the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission.

"It's designed to be user-friendly," said Richard Laham, O&E general manager. "It's matched to the local cable dial. That's what we aimed for."

— Bob Sklar, editor