

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Going Greek: Some Farmington-area students staged a mock trial based on the "Odyssey."/3A

Helping hand: Some local employers were honored for their efforts to help the handicapped./3A

Hitting back: The Oakland County prosecutor wants funds to create a new unit to handle the increasing number of domestic violence cases./12A

OPINION

Readers write: The Observer's opinion page contains letters on a variety of subjects./10A

TRAVEL

Adventurous travelers: The bible for a new breed of enthusiasts is a magazine called *Outside*/5B

STREET SCENE



Making it in Motown: You would think that being from Detroit, Code Industry would be making it in Motown. But not so. The four-man band had to go to Europe to gain recognition for their industrial dance music, which may explain the anger reflected in their verses./7A

SPORTS

Tennis champs: North Farmington captured the Western Lakes Activities Association championship in girls tennis./1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Speakers Row" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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Drugs are illness, employers told



BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Employers must view the workplace as a family, especially when confronted with employee problems like substance abuse, a therapist told Farmington-area business people last week.

More than 100 people gathered for a seminar on "Drug and Alcohol Abuse in the Workplace" at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., where they learned about employee substance abuse and addiction problems, how to cope with them, and the impact of new federal and state laws

which address drug and alcohol addiction as a disability. "American business is, in a way, family," said William Harshman, a therapist with Eastpointe Clinic and a former addict himself. "We are all connected in our human condition."

"I spend at least 10 hours a day in my office — I'm very lucky if I spend 10 waking hours with the people I love," he said.

Harshman told those attending the seminar they need to understand their employees before they can deal with the problems of substance

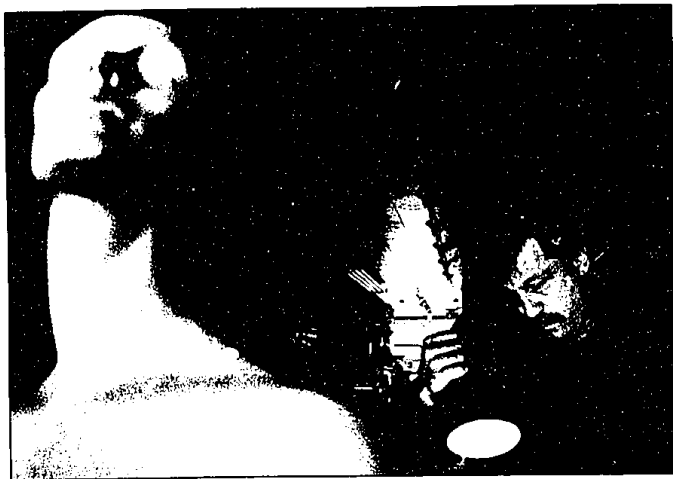
abuse. He encourages treatment, saying without it, the negative impact on the workplace will only grow.

"You're either part of the solution, or part of the problem — you can't be both," he said.

Drug and alcohol use can cost businesses in absenteeism, on-the-job accidents, safety issues, medical costs and performance, according to Harshman. According to The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, society pays a total of \$102 billion per year, passed on to con-

See DRUGS, 2A

Lights out!



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The old ways: Larry Sallen, owner of Clothes Encounters in Farmington, resorts to a flashlight and paper filing during a power outage Thursday. For a story and more photos, see page 2A.

Disaster system tested

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Some of the victims were leaning out of windows pleading for help. Others were too injured to make themselves known in the dark nooks and crannies of the Clarion Inn.

"Help, I'm stuck up here," shouted a victim on the second story. From a

READINESS

window below, another woman gasped, "Help, I'm having trouble breathing."

As fire departments, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, rolled in to help, smoke billowed from the hotel and Tivoli restaurant at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

Thankfully, the victims who awaited rescue — and some who were never rescued — didn't suffer. The disaster Monday morning at the hotel wasn't real. It was a practice drill put on by the Farmington Hills Fire Department and of Real Estate Management.

"She's a victim," Farmington Hills deputy fire Chief Peter Baldwin said of a woman lying face down in the Tivoli restaurant moments before the first blast that would shake the facility and kick-off the morning's practice disaster.

The whole idea was to show real estate managers from the Detroit metropolitan area, as well as Chicago, New York, Ohio, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, just what it is like when an explosion triggers a fire followed by chaos and destruction.

"I had some people tell me it was the best seminar they ever attended," said Jane Buiting, the national vice chairwoman of emergency procedures for the institute.

See DISASTER, 2A

Hills rethinks SAD policy

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Special assessments for water, sewer or roads are on a lot of people's minds these days, including the Farmington Hills City Council members.

After a brief discussion at a Thursday night study session, the city council appears ready to take another look at its policy that establishes districts and subsequent costs for improvements.

"I happen to be under the opinion

that the policy is unfair," said Mayor Jonathan Grant.

What concerns Grant is what some residents have charged is "gerrymandering" of districts that allows a minority to get an improvement after the majority has opposed it. "Putting myself in their position, I too would feel that is unfair," he said.

In short, Grant said, the policy needs adjusting. He suggested increasing the percentage majority required to move forward with a project. If more than 50 percent of residents

in a certain district are in favor, that a majority under the current policy.

Grant also suggested limiting how the districts for special assessments can be drawn or re-drawn once a majority has opposed a project.

City engineers should look at a project area first and determine what district would be the most economical. If a petitioning effort in that area fails, perhaps a certain length of time should be enforced before another ef-

See POLICY, 4A

Dolan rounds bases in Lansing

BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Safe at home . . . that baseball expression seems to apply to State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, who seeks re-election to a third term in the 37th House District.

And if she's been successful in office, Dolan said, it's because she's learned to "play ball" in the state Capitol.

"To get anything done in Lansing, it takes bipartisan support — getting into the policy and out of the politics," she said in a recent interview.

"I approach the issues . . . the majority of them are not partisan issues."

Things seem to be going well for the veteran legislator these days as she rounds the bases in another campaign. Her opponent in the Nov. 3 general election is Democrat Robert Jurczyk.

Even the recent redistricting seems to favor Dolan. The new 37th (see 6th) includes just Farmington and Farmington Hills, where she's well-known and respected.

Her popularity and House seat in

the Republican district have been secure, despite liberal stances on certain issues. Take abortion . . . she can't be shaken from her pro-choice stance.

"I'm fortunate that by now most people know how I feel on it," she said. "The decision (to end a pregnancy) belongs to a woman and her family. The boys in Lansing can't make a better decision than that woman."

"When life begins is a religious be-

See DOLAN, 2A



Jan Dolan

Alcohol and the media

A discussion for parents on alcohol and the media will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Dunclel Middle School, 12 Mile Road between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

The program will be presented by Suzanne Dream, the community education coordinator for the Farmington Area Advisory Council, which offers counseling services for young people and families.

Slides will be shown and refreshments served. The public is invited to attend. For more information on the group, call 477-6767.

It's a book fair

October is a red-ribbon month in the Farming-

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ton area because of the substance-abuse drive sponsored by Farmington Families In Action.

Now Farmington's Little Professor bookstore is involved. A book fair will be held Oct. 21-25 at the store, Grand River and Halsted. Customers mentioning Farmington Families In Action when making a purchase will cause 15 percent of the total to be donated to the group.

'Conspiracy of Silence'

The B'nai B'rith Women, in conjunction with the Farmington Hills-based St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center will present a free, community-wide

program "The Conspiracy of Silence . . . Changing the Patterns of Family Violence" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Southfield.

A panel discussion, moderated by Sherry Margolis of Channel 2, will include Richard Thompson, Oakland County prosecutor; William Tullock of the Troy police; and Jamie Roth of The Haven, a shelter for battered women in Pontiac.

Memory Lane

From the Oct. 23, 1952, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

More than 40 men and women were arrested following a State Police gambling raid at Hilltop Gables, a huge castle-like home at the southwest corner of Middlebelt and 11 Mile roads in Farmington Township.