

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Goodbye mud: Farmington Hills has approved paving two streets — Randall and River Glen — possibly before next year's spring thaw. The project will cost an average of \$2,960 per resident./4A

Cop calls: The Farmington area's police and fire departments have had a busy last few days./6A

COUNTY-NEWS

Eight Mile corridor: Antics of County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's representatives at meetings to reinvigorate that critical boundary line puts Oakland County's commitment at issue./5A

OPINION

Code words: Educational groups acting under the authority of outside agitators can be recognized by the jargon they use, and it pays to keep a look out for it. That's the opinion of Tim Richard on today's Points of View page./10A

TASTE



Kiddle menu: Busy, budget-conscious families discover restaurants that cater to them./1B

Winner dinner: Jonathan Linton, 11, plays hockey, baseball, collects sports cards, and enjoys throwing together dinner for his family./1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

"Green clothing": Those shoes are made for walking — out of recycled coffee filters, old magazines and more./10B

SPORTS

Hawks triumph: Harrison High posted a pair of impressive victories Thursday in their first boys and girls division dual meets./1C

INDEX

Classifieds . . . C-D On the Agenda . . . 8A
Auto D Opinion 10A
Employment . . . C-D Personal Scene . . . 8B
Index 6C Police, fire calls . . . 8A
Real estate . . . C,D Sports 1C
Crossword puzzle 6C Street Scene . . . 5B
Malls 10B Taste 1B
Obits 11A

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Publisher faces felony charges



Farmington police say felony warrants are in the works for the former publisher of a defunct newspaper. Derek Gendron said he'd publish an edition March 17, but no paper has been seen.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office has requested four felony warrants for the former publisher of a Farmington-based newspaper.

Derek Gendron, described as the owner of Homefront Delivery Corp., which operated offices at The Winery

on Grand River, is being sought by the Farmington Public Safety Department on four counts of larceny by conversion for more than \$100.

Requests for the warrants came as a result of an investigation into complaints made by several business owners. They said they paid for advertisements to appear in a March 17

issue of The Homefront News, but that it was never published.

"I have made contact with 12 of those (businesses)," said Farmington Public Safety detective Dan Dellar. "All of those people are interested in pursuing this . . ."

Prime Time Sports in Farmington Hills is one of the businesses whose owners said they paid more than \$100 for ads that had not appeared.

Dellar said two more warrants could be issued.

Larceny by conversion for more than \$100 is a felony, which carries a maximum penalty of five years in jail

or a \$2,500 fine.

People turned up for work at Homefront's office March 5 and found the place empty. A building manager at The Winery said Gendron moved out the previous night.

A note on the door said the business went bankrupt.

Spotless Cleaners and Compulink also operated out of the office.

A forwarding address was given in Washington, Va., but a postal employee said there was no such box number.

See PUBLISHER, 4A

Tools of an artist



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At work: Donna Cruz, a Farmington Hills artist, organizes her drawing pencils and chalk before starting on a project.

Disabled woman finds art an outlet

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

An artist often explores the soul, exposing its fears and bewailing its dreams. Mostly, such a discovery comes out of necessity.

Donna Cruz knows. The Farmington Hills artist has cerebral palsy, which makes speech a struggle and denies her

of total muscle control.

Anger cannot be punctuated with a flat pounding on a table; happiness cannot be expressed easily in a gleeful song. Her limbs and voice won't comply.

Instead, drawing and painting unlock those walled-up feelings and opinions about the world

around her.

"I'm speaking out," said Cruz, 30, a 1981 graduate of Harrison High.

Chalk, acrylic, Crayolas and occasionally oils become her words; white drawing paper her sounding board. Her mixed-media renderings include everything from de-

tailed portraits to compelling abstract art.

In the latter, grays and browns billow broodingly; light blues and greens exalt joy.

Cruz's work is revered in area artistic circles. She's had several exhibitions.

See ARTIST, 3A

Hills considers viewer call-in for meetings

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Council members like the idea of more public participation in their meetings, and a proposal by councilman Aldo Vagnozzi for viewers to call in questions to the council during meetings has precedent.

Finding a way to have a workable

call-in format is the hard part.

"It takes a few people to make it work," said Pam O'Malley, assistant to the superintendent for the Farmington Public Schools.

O'Malley should know. She was in charge of the school's informational program before the Feb. 2 school tax vote. The show was designed specifically to answer questions over the air

that had been called in by viewers.

"We answered about 25 questions," O'Malley said. "We answered all but about three or four on the air. Those last questions came in too late in the show. But we did call them back with an answer."

Vagnozzi has suggested that viewers could call a number at city hall once the city council meeting

started, up until and including the time for public comments and questions.

"We could limit it to three calls from the TV audience," Vagnozzi said. "I think it's doable."

"I think it's a good idea," said

See CALL-IN, 8A

'My Vote Counts'

Your vote really does count. If you don't believe it, switch your TV set to cable Channel 12 just about any Wednesday, Thursday or Friday this month and next and watch "My Vote Counts."

The series, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation, focuses on voting for all citizens.

April's show features an interview with Dan Potter, director of Special Services for the city of Farmington Hills, who explains how government is responsive to the voters. Gail Haynes, active in homeowner's groups, is the host. There's also an update on the parks and recreation millage use.

In May, high school student representatives to the Student Leadership Summit arranged by U.S. Rep. David Bonior are interviewed. Host is Richard DeVries, former candidate for the Farmington

FARMINGTON FOCUS

board of Education.

Viewing times are 8 p.m. every first and third Wednesday, every Thursday at 2 p.m. and most Fridays by viewers' choice — call 563-7303, Ext. 252.

Opinions and reactions to the programs are encouraged. Please call Julieann Hovanessian, chairwoman of the Television Sub-committee, at 474-3770.

'Up With People'

The Highmeadow Common Campus PTA will host a concert featuring the 160-member "Up With People" group at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, in the auditorium of North Farmington High

School on 13 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road.

The event is a fund-raiser for Highmeadow's PTA. About \$5,000 will be raised "if all goes well," said Herman Zicherman of the PTA.

Some members of "Up With People" — an international group of young adults — need places to stay while in the Farmington area. Residents interested in housing performers should call Zicherman at 661-1778.

Tickets, at \$12 for adults and \$10 for children under 16, may be purchased at Highmeadow, 30176 Highmeadow, or at Veena's Hallmark card shop, 12 Mills and Haledale roads, both in Farmington Hills.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21899 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office or faxed to 477-9722.