

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 104 NUMBER 69

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1993 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 90 PAGES

FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Who loves a parade?: A whole lot of people, if the attendance at the recent Memorial Day parades are any indication. The 1993 edition is coming up. /2A

All about 'A': Farmington officials discussed the upcoming vote on Proposal A and how it will affect their city. /3A

Another election: An election to provide funds for the Farmington Community Library may be held in August. /4A

COUNTY NEWS

AIDS awareness: A local community steps up to a disease that's in its neighborhoods and in yours. /6A

OPINION

The very nerval: The recent meeting of the liberal minds in Farmington Hills — and the subsequent reaction from the conservatives — was interesting and fun to cover. /18A

Number, please: The recent Michigan Bell rate hike for directory assistance calls has us wondering what high tech can do to help. /18A

SPORTS

Regional triumph: North Farmington earned a share of a Class A girls regional championship in track and field Saturday. /1B

Catholic League meet: Farmington Hills Mercy tried to win its fourth straight A-B Division title in girls track Tuesday. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Big screen: See our Going to the Movies page to find out what critic John Monaghan thinks of "Sliver," starring Sharon Stone. /7B

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Teen's fatal fall stuns school



BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The somber mood inside Farmington High School matched the cold, gray day outside, as students and teachers tried to come to grips with the death of one of their own.

James John Sawulski, 16, died

Tuesday morning from head injuries suffered after he was thrown off the back of a car. Sawulski and a friend apparently were riding on the moving car.

"It's just sort of a depressed, somber feeling here," said principal Jim Myers. "It's a downer. He was a

handsome, bright kid."

Myers said social workers and a special grief counselor from Botsford Hospital came to the school Tuesday to help students cope with the tragedy. The students were informed Tuesday morning of the accident that killed the Farmington High sophomore.

Farmington Hills police said Bridget Ann Fleet, 16, of Farmington was driving a 1984 Oldsmobile north on Hunt Club. Jason Scott Borin, 16, of Farmington Hills was in the front



See ACCIDENT, 5A

James John Sawulski

Doing the dip!



A prom for seniors: Gene Emerson dips Harrison High sophomore Michelle Guichard while slow dancing during a "senior prom" for senior citizens organized by the Harrison students. The event, held at Harrison, attracted about 176 seniors and 76 students. The seniors came from independent living homes in the Farmington area.

Local product Stein aims to fine-tune

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Kenneth Stein is a product of the Farmington Schools. He has no gripes.

After all, Stein recently earned a law degree from Wayne State University. He has an engineering degree from the University of Michigan.

Also, Stein was part of the gifted program at Wood Creek Elementary and is an accomplished cello and guitar player who attended Interlochen.

"I feel I received a great education in Farmington (Schools)," said Stein, 24, who also attended Warner Middle and North Farmington High. "Anything I was interested in was available to me."

So, it's rather surprising to hear that a sterling example of the system

wants to change the east. Stein does, though. He's a candidate for the Farmington School Board.

He is one of nine contenders for two seats on the board. The school election is Monday, June 14.

Stein trumpets new technologies, calls for research of other schools systems, and tosses out buzzwords such as proactive. Sometimes the momentum of his enthusiasm gets weighed down in generalities and the need to clarify.

He stresses his notion of change is only to make the good even better.

"We have an opportunity to take the lead, to jump ahead," he said. "I wouldn't say we're outmoded. We're in line . . . We have a chance to really take some big steps."

Stein doesn't map out those steps. Details would presumably follow later.

He has opinions, especially on the subjects of teaching and Proposal A. Through friends who are educators, he's learned about some of the job dissatisfaction.



Kenneth Stein

"Farmington is a good school district in that a lot of the students are literate. A lot of the students can read, whereas in some school districts you have 20 or 30 percent literacy rates," Stein said.

"And yet children are generally disinterested in course work. So, you have teachers who are trying to force information down a child's throat, which can be a thankless task. How does a teacher feel rewarded in their job if they can't feel rewarded from the students?"

As a result, Stein said, those rewards are sought through salaries and benefits. A new system would produce a better learning atmosphere, he added.

On Proposal A: "I don't want to see the taxpayers in this community paying more for the same or less. If Proposal A passes, the Farmington taxpayers will be paying more for the exact same education their children are receiving now."

School finance is met with faith, but Stein admits all hinges on Proposal A.

"If cuts need to be made, I don't think the citizens of Farmington Hills are going to let that happen as

See STEIN, 5A

A Rouge to rescue

Look out, log jams, trash and debris that have been clogging the tributary of the Rouge River that flows past the Botsford Continuing Center in Farmington Hills.

A whole lot of volunteers, organized and sponsored by the city, want you out there.

The local version of the eighth annual Rouge Rescue will take place Saturday, June 5, at Botsford Continuing Center formerly the Farmington Nursing Home, 30405 Folsom Road, north of Eight Mile and east of Orchard Lake.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. at the site. The cleanup will take place from 8:30-11:30 a.m., and a lunch will be served at noon. Since the work can be dirty and wet, volunteers are advised to wear

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old clothes, boots and gloves.

Volunteers can simply show up at the site. For more information, call the Farmington Hills Department of Public Service at 473-9520.

Cops run for kids

The Farmington Hills Police Department will host a benefit 10-kilometer run — called the Cops for Kids Run — at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 5.

The run, which begins and ends at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College,

winds through several subdivisions. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

New this year is a five-kilometer run/walk and a one-mile fun run. Area businesses are partners with the police department in the effort to raise funds for MDA. Brett Marquardt, a client of MDA, and his mother Terry Marquardt are expected to attend the race.

Last year, about 150 police and civilian runners participated. Anyone interested in running in this year's race should call Lt. Marty Beddoe at 473-9694.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.