

# Farmington Observer



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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Gotta dance!** For years now, students of dance have tapped instructor Shirley St. Mary's expertise. /3A

**Twirlers triumph:** Derek Sharvi, who teaches baton twirling at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, has some winners for students. /13A

## COUNTY NEWS

**Off and running:** The Oakland Community College course on the Kennedy assassination kicks off with some students who already know a lot about who shot JFK. /7A

**Books R Us:** Local members of the American Association of University Women prepare tomes for the group's annual sale. Proceeds go to local scholarships. /9A

## OPINION

**Worth a try:** Special meetings with a town hall format might work well for the Farmington Board of Education. /20A

**Our guest says:** Keeping quality in public education is a "fateful battle." /21A

## SPORTS



**Soccer showdown:** North Farmington beat Harrison in soccer action Monday. /1B

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Birmingham Theatre:** Stella Parton stars in the season opener, "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes." /5B

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# Bike path plan hits rocky road



A bike path through Farmington Hills? "Not in my front yard, you don't," say quite a few residents who turned out at Monday's council meeting to oppose the plan. Residents and the city manager agree that the project has suffered from misinformation.

BY BILL COULTANT  
 STAFF WRITER

A grant to complete a bike path linking the community seemed like a good thing. Pat Nowak, the state director of transportation, even braved a rainstorm to show up for a groundbreaking ceremony last week.

But about 40 residents who live either on or near an 8-foot-wide bike path route that would link Heritage Park to 10 Mile told the Farmington Hills City Council at Monday's meeting they want nothing to do with it. "To spend it (grant money) because it's there is not a good reason,"

said Bob Craver, who lives along the proposed route.

Craver and other residents complained that they had not been asked if they wanted what they called "an 8-foot scar" running through their property. The residents would have to maintain the bike path, or "safety path," as the grant calls it, and they said the path would destroy valuable landscaping and ruin the area's beauty.

"There has been a lot of misinformation about this," Craver said. "We're afraid that once this begins, there will be no room for input."

Janice Sutcliffe, who lives near 10 Mile on Farmington, said she had spent two hours at city hall Monday trying to find out what was planned, with little success.

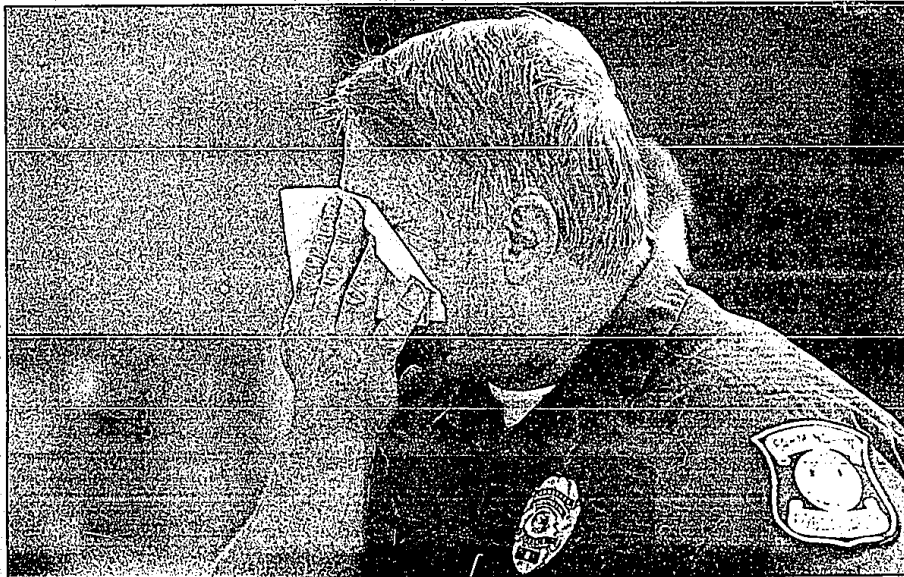
"I left with a major headache and not a lot of information," she said. "I have no confidence that nothing definite has been decided."

City manager Bill Costick agreed there had been misinformation about the project, which has not yet been engineered.

He said the concern that the path

See PATH, 6A

## Adding aerosol to the arsenal



STAFF PHOTOS BY GUY WARRICK

Showing the effects: Commander Chuck Lee of Farmington Public Safety reacts to pepper spray that came out of a can like the one pictured below.

# Spray spices up police work

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
 STAFF WRITER

Say it or spray it, oleoresin capicum and orthochlorobenzalmalonitrile are a mouthful.

Not to mention an eyeful and a noseful. Just ask Farmington public safety director Gary Goss, who was squirted along with others in the department as part of a training routine.

"It's like someone pulled the rug right out from under you," Goss said.

Said officer Terry Purves: "Awful.

It basically forces you to keep your eyes shut, and you have a burning sensation come over your face."

Added Commander Charles Lee: "You don't exist. It's like you're in suspended animation."

The concoction is known as pepper spray, which is being used by a growing number of police departments to help subdue an unarmed combative person. It's an alternative, to using a baton or gun.

Farmington Public Safety officers are being trained in the use of pep-

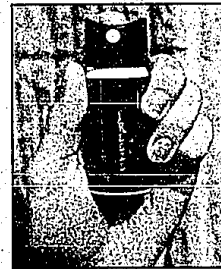
per spray. Farmington Hills police officers already carry it.

A quick squirt into the face causes mucous membranes to secrete, gagging and the eyes to close. The effects only last 20 minutes, long enough for officers to apprehend a person resisting arrest.

The addition of aerosol to the arsenal is part of an overall effort to update police procedures on the use of nonlethal force.

"It's the right thing to do," Goss

See SPRAY, 10A



# District opens the book on new report cards

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
 STAFF WRITER

The new elementary school report cards were unveiled last Tuesday. The cards include an additional grading code as well as room for teacher comments.

Comments from parents are what prompted the changes.

Some 600 people responded to a

survey during a pilot program last school year.

Parents wanted a third code, mainly as an incentive to achieve to a higher standard. Students can be graded as: "developing grade level skills" or "demonstrates grade level skills" as well as the new code, "exceeds."

They also wanted an area for teach-

er comments.

"We got a lot of constructive feedback, and we took it as that," said Judy White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and staff development. "As a result of that, we made the changes that were necessary."

The new report cards indicate how children are doing in core curriculum such as math, science and reading.

They're also graded for attitudes and behaviors with a plus, check or inverted slash.

The report cards are also more in line with the district's student learning outcomes, which are attributes a student would ideally possess upon graduating from the Farmington Pub-

See CARDS, 10A

## Homecoming change

Farmington High School's homecoming has been changed to Saturday, Oct. 2. The homecoming parade will start at 11 a.m. on Farmington Road, north of M-102. The parade route will go through downtown and on to the high school on Shiawassee. Walled Lake Central will be the football opponent.

## Any old school photos?

If you have any information about or photographs of one-room schools in the Farmington area — especially the old Noble School, the one that burned down in the 1920s — the Farmington Hills Historical Commission would like to hear from you.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

The Historical Society of Michigan has initiated a new society, the Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association, and the local historical commission has joined.

The local group seeks recollections, memorabilia and any pertinent material from anyone who attended one of the former Farmington-area one-room schools: Coleman (on Stone), Fairview, German, Green, Ni-cle, Noble, Thayer or West Farmington.

Anyone with information should call Kay Briggs (474-5608), or write the Farmington Hills Histori-

cal commission, c/o City Clerk's Office, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48336.

## Event is in sight

Sight First, an international fund-raising effort by the Farmington Area Lions Club, will take place Friday, Sept. 24, through Sunday, Oct. 3, throughout the community.

Sales of mint candles by Lions will take place during that time with proceeds being used to fight preventable blindness, especially in children. Last year, the Farmington Lions raised about \$19,000, passed out to 25 agencies.

For more information about the local Lions Club, contact Klom Jaske at 575-2427 (days) or 474-1362 (evenings).