

Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Staying put: Despite recent rumblings, Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said he's not interested in throwing his hat into the ring for the Oakland County Sheriff's job. /2A

Awareness month: Farmington Families in Action kicks off a month-long, anti-drug campaign Tuesday morning with a breakfast for ninth-graders featuring speaker Eric Worley. Several activities are planned for October. /3A

COUNTY NEWS

First in nation?: Thanks to persistence by some local residents, college students can now choose an alcohol-free room in any of Michigan's public universities. /5A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Security-minded: Police departments hint they may be setting up mini stations in some area malls. /9A

STREET SCENE

Star time: A producer with the code name "Yoda" and an independent record label out of Chicago have made Frank Allison one happy musician with the release of his "Pig Out" album. /6A

TASTE



School lunches: Find out what kids really like in their school lunch boxes. /1B

SPORTS

Grid results: Harrison attempted to go 2-0 in the Western Division when it played Livonia Franklin Friday. /1C

Golf tourney: The Farmington high school golf teams competed Friday in the annual boys city tournament. /1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Cosmic Connection" on local access Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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Schools howl over financial fix



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Board of Education meeting christened a new and more open format. At times, it was more like open season on state Rep. Jan Dolan.

Educators and the community joined in a town-hall type discussion on school finance Tuesday.

Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, voted yes on Senate Bill No. 1, which eliminated property tax for schools. The cut means an \$86 million loss in revenue to Farmington Public Schools — 95 percent of the district's budget.

"I don't know if there was a feeding frenzy up there or what," said trustee R. Jack Inch, "but to eliminate \$8

billion in one night without one cent of replacement revenue in place . . . I hope you are worthy of the challenge."

The informal meeting was a chance for officials and residents to vent concerns and discuss possible solutions for state funding of public schools.

Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, joined the meeting. Faxon voted no on the bill, which passed both the Senate and House July 20.

Dolan said she's optimistic the state Legislature will come up with a school funding plan before a self-imposed deadline of Dec. 31.

Gov. John Engler is expected to unveil a plan on Oct. 5. Whatever is adopted, public education will be radically changed. Dolan shared her ideas on school finance reform.

For example, she suggested things as labor contracts and transportation could be handled at the intermediate school district level.

Magnet or schools of choice, like Highmeadow Common Campus, will be more prevalent. Dolan allayed some concerns over a voucher system, pointing out the state constitution doesn't allow for public money to pay

See **SCHOOLS**, 2A

Two big smiles



STANSON LAMIRER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student service: Members of Harrison High's Interact program, Amy Bahr (left) and Jennifer Clerui, socialize with patrons as they pass through the food line at Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

Students get into the act to help needy

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Community service and involvement runs in the Bahr family.

Last year, Amy Bahr's sister, Allison, now graduated, was president of Interact, a popular service organization at Harrison High school.

Today, Amy, a junior, has assumed her sister's role. Interact is a program of the Michigan Rotary Club.

"It opens our eyes to the rest of the world," Bahr said.

Bahr and 11 other Harrison High students who participate in In-

teract, recently worked at The Open Door program of the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Detroit.

Each week since 1968, the church has provided a range of services to the poor. These include a soup kitchen, a clothes closet, medical

services and haircuts.

According to Don Hill of Grasse Hill, who serves as co-coordinator with George Irwin of Livonia, some of the barbers themselves have had rough financial times.

See **STUDENTS**, 2A

Residents' concerns No. 1 with Oliverio

Cheryl Oliverio is one of six candidates, including four incumbents, running for the Farmington Hills City Council. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

For Cheryl Oliverio, the concerns of residents should be the top priority for the Farmington Hills City Council.

The stay-at-home mother of four is running for city council because too often her concerns, and those of her neighbors, haven't been considered.

"I decided that if I got involved, I could make a difference," she said. Although Oliverio is running for



the first time, she is not a political neophyte. She helped her husband Ron in his two unsuccessful city council campaigns and also campaigned for recently appointed Circuit Judge Jack McDonald in his run for District court.

Those campaigns and this one have helped Oliverio better understand concerns of residents, which are sometimes overlooked by the council, she said.

"I love going door-to-door," she said. "I've found that the residents have a lot of good ideas that could be put to good use. And I think they find me approachable, someone they can tell their concerns to."

Oliverio, 39, has lived in Farmington Hills for the last six years and been active in the school activities of four boys, the council's unmet family needs committee and others. She said while other council members have other professional careers.

And because residents sometimes think the council does not share their concerns, the lines of communication breakdown, she said. An incident in-

See **OLIVERIO**, 4A



Cheryl Oliverio

Candidate forum

The Farmington Democratic Club will sponsor the first candidates forum for the upcoming Farmington Hills City Council election 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, at the Farmington Hills City Council chamber, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

The meeting is open to the public and will be televised on Channel 8 and repeated later on Channel 12.

People don't have to be members of the Democratic Club to attend or ask questions. Each candidate will make a two-minute opening statement before the questioning starts. The forum is expected to last until 9 p.m.

Food for needy

The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency will be distributing commodity food from 10

FARMINGTON FOCUS

a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 5, at St. Alexander's Catholic Church, 27855 Shilwaukee, Farmington Hills.

People eligible, but who have not registered, may do so at the site by bringing Social Security cards for all household members, verification of household income, and photo identification.

Hazardous waste day

Residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills

may dispose of household hazardous products from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, at the 47th District Court, 32975 W. 10 Mile Road. Technicians from Chemical Waste Management will be on hand.

Residents can get rid of hazards such as cleaners, solvents, turpentine, aerosol cans, pesticides, herbicides, gasoline mixtures, glues, wood stain and antifreeze. Latex or water-base paint will not be accepted.

Household Hazardous Waste Day is a cooperative effort between Farmington and Farmington Hills, Waste Management Inc., and Chemical Waste Management.

Memory Lane

From the Oct. 5, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Voters passed a hunting ban by a 2-to-1 majority in a special election. The final vote was 780-382.