

# Farmington Observer

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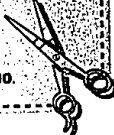
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## Look for coupons this week

• Cut your weekly grocery bill an average \$20 to \$30 a week clipping coupons by Kraft, General Mills, Kodak and others that will be inserted into today's issue of your home-delivered Observer newspaper.

• While you are clipping turn to the Taste section in Monday's paper for quick and easy recipes your family will enjoy.

• Don't miss out on the savings. To have the Observer delivered to your home, call 591-0500.



## DDA makes vroom for prix plan



Gentlemen (and ladies), start your engines! Farmington's Downtown Development Authority has come up with an idea for a "Mini Prix" for the streets of the city.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Brazil, Monaco... Farmington? The last named might not make it on Jackie Stewart's top-10 list of alluring places for motor car racing, but the Farmington Downtown Development Authority is revving up the idea of a "Mini Prix" for its streets.

The proposed event would feature go-carts powered by lawn mower-type engines in three individual races and take place Sunday, May 22, in the Downtown Center parking lot on Grand River and Farmington. "It's a fun event for people to watch and to get excited about," said DDA director Judy Downey. "It's a very

successful event."

Ideally, the promotion would bring visitors to downtown on what is usually a slow shopping day.

The DDA is also looking at a possible profit from the event, which is being organized by Gelman & Grant Management.

One DDA in Allentown, Pa., has been running a similar event for seven years and nets a \$30,000 take annually, Downey said.

Organizers project the Farmington DDA could make \$4,000 in the first year. That money could be used to sponsor other promotions, including

a possible concert series during the summer, Downey said.

South Haven is the only other city in the state that has go-cart racing, which is where organizers conceived of the idea.

Though the DDA board approved of the concept at Tuesday's meeting, there are several details to be worked out.

Farmington City Council would have to OK the event, especially if nearby streets need to be closed off. Orchard and Grove streets run adja-

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## 'Young Media Makers'



SHARON LEMMINK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Proud winners: Farmington teacher Margaret Culver (third from right) stands with (from left) Jay Nelson, Michael Rose, Andrew Erickson, Lauren Laicu, John Cohen and Tracy McLeod.

## Teacher projects kids' films to silver screen

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Margaret Culver, a special education teacher at Harrison High School, seems to be achieving her goal of making sure that Detroit-area student filmmakers have an opportunity to display their work. Award-winning student "media makers" will show their work and

talk to Elliot Wilhelm, curator of the Detroit Film Theater at an upcoming program.

The program, hosted by O'Dell Nalls from Club Connect, a nationally shown TV show produced by Channel 56, airs at 5 p.m. on that channel, Sunday, Jan. 16.

Featured will be high school stu-

dents John Cohen and Zac Fink, both from West Bloomfield; Lauren Laicu, Troy; Mike Brower, Muskegon; Quincy Hinton, Detroit; Andrew Erickson, Dearborn; and Tracy McLeod, Port Huron.

"That's how the idea germinated," Culver said. "How can we provide a forum for student work to be seen?"

The featured students were among the Best of Show winners in the 1993 Michigan Student Film and Video Festival.

This program was made possible through the contributions of Culver and co-producer Michael Rose, an independent West Bloomfield pro-

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## School board upholds sibling priority policy

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Oh, brother. After facing a roomful of parents supporting the district's sibling priority policy, the Farmington Board of Education Policy and Board Operations Committee decided to leave it be.

The practice of giving preference to family members who have a sibling attending two of the district's elementary schools of choice programs — Highmeadow Common Campus

and Gill year-round — remains. Committee members agreed to look at a broad-based attendance policy at a later date.

Highmeadow students are selected through a random lottery, Gill pupils through letters of application.

Trustee and committee member Bobbie Feldman asked that the policy of sibling priority be reviewed. She said some have questioned the fairness of the policy, which would conceivably deny spots to some students in favor of those who already have a

brother or sister attending a school of choice.

However, when confronted by the turnout of parents, Feldman appeared a bit overwhelmed.

"This doesn't have to be an angry meeting," Feldman said.

Highmeadow principal Janice Colliton addressed Feldman's concerns about fairness, pointing out the lottery system is random and non-discriminatory. Colliton also said the pluses outweigh the minuses.

"My concern with sibling priority is

the greater good," Colliton said. "(Former superintendent) Mike Flanagan always talked about putting families first. I see how hard (parents) work to meet the needs of the family.

"I know there's a fairness issue, but you have to juggle this with families first."

Other committee members, trustees David York and Helen Prutow, echoed Colliton's sentiments. York,

See SIBLINGS, 3A

## Memory Lane

From the Jan. 7, 1954, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

- Pride Cleaners at Grand River and Orchard Lake Road advertised a special on shirts — five for \$1.14.
- Classified ad: "FOUND — Small amount of money in the bank. (Telephone) Farm 3064-W."
- Mrs. William Lancaster was hostess and chairwoman of a holiday party for members of the Farmington Women's Christian Temperance Union at the Methodist Church.
- Stewart Rouse, Farmington volunteer fireman, was injured in an auto accident en route to a fire Dec. 24, 1953, and was reported in "alightly improved" condition at Veterans' Hospital in Dearborn.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### 'King's Dream Revisited'

The Rev. Charles G. Adams, pastor of the Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, will speak to a suburban audience on "King's Dream Revisited" at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the Farmington Training/Conference Center, 3300 Grand River, Farmington. The program, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Council. Community forums on cultural and/or racial issues are sponsored each month by the group. The next forum will be Tuesday, Feb. 8.

### They're staying!

No, they're not moving and they're not going out of business. That's the message that Robert F. Christ, president of Executive Office Supply Inc. in downtown Farmington, wants to deliver to his customers. Apparently, a "For Lease" sign on the outside of the building at 3304 Grand River and a mailing by a real estate broker have created some confusion. "What we are trying to do is lease a small portion of our building," said Christ in a letter addressed to "Dear Valued Customer." The business sells office supplies and furnishings. Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21596 Farmington Road, Farmington 48335.