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Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Bearing arms: A former Farmington Hills resident, denied a concealed weapons permit, has sued the local police and others to get it. /2A

A Green Queen: She came calling at Wooddale Elementary School in Farmington Hills with an environmental message. /3A

All hall volunteers: They play a vital role in the community's senior adult programs, and they were honored recently with a brunch at the Mercy Center. /13A

OPINION

Greasing the wheels: Farmington-area volunteers certainly deserve our thanks. /20A

Stop the killing: Guest columnist and Farmington Hills resident Ray Dubin has strong feelings about drunken drivers. /21A

SPORTS

Top athlete: Christie Duthie of Farmington Hills was named the most valuable swimmer on the Ferris State University women's team. /1B

Track champs: Harrison High was a double winner Saturday with its boys and girls teams taking first place at the Novi Relays. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT

At the movies: Be one of the first 15 to enter our "Bad Girls" contest, and you'll receive a T-shirt. /11B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Art galore: The Farmington Arts Commission is hosting an exhibit at the Spicer House in Heritage Park. /1C

CREATIVE LIVING

In focus: Distinguished photographers Monte Nagler of Farmington Hills and Tony Spina of Bloomfield Hills have an exhibition at the Livonia Civic Center Library. /1D

INDEX

Building/Business 1F Crossword . . . 11D
 Classifieds . . . B-G Entertainment . . . 8B
 Auto F-G Obituaries . . . 10A
 Index 10D,9E Opinion . . . 20-21A
 Employment . . . E,F Police, fire calls . 7A
 Real estate . . . D,E Personal Scene . . 6G
 Cable 5A Recreation . . . 6A
 Creative Living . 1D Suburban Life . . 1C

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Residents hit Maxx on expansion



Who ya gonna call? Some residents of Farmington's Slocum Street who wanted to complain about a nearby store expansion weren't sure with whom to lodge their complaints.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
 NIMM WHITE

When it comes to the expansion of a downtown discount clothing store, some Farmington residents feel they were short-changed.

They received a notice of a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting for April 6 about the proposed expansion of T.J.

Maxx on Grand River Avenue. Concerned, they turned up, spoke out and were thanked.

They say they were instructed to show up at the Planning Commission meeting April 11. They stated their opposition and were, again, thanked for showing an interest.

Not that it made a dent. The plan-

ning commission went ahead and granted permission for the addition of 7,000 square feet to T.J. Maxx.

Approval passed 8-0. Planning commission chairman James Pogue abstained because of "a business association relationship."

"Judging by the fact the vote was near unanimous, I think we're pretty much dead meat, A, and B, we're pretty ignorant of the system," said Slocum Street resident Abdul Elbrat. Added another Slocum Street resident Dan Graham: "It was a waste of time."

Residents on Slocum are concerned

about the expansion, saying it will increase traffic noise and cause a loss of privacy.

There's also concern about shoplifters from the store, who in the past, have run from police in the neighborhood, Graham said. Houses along Slocum Street border the shopping center and T.J. Maxx.

The building addition will run 57.8 feet south toward Slocum and 121.4 feet east to west behind the store. Additional space is needed to meet the store's corporate specifications.

See EXPANSION, 2A

Doing battle over books



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMISLAND

A good bet: Sarah Turbow (above left) and Melanie Stein of Warner Middle School sport that bookie look as members of the Bookies reading club, while Lindsay Watson (below) is a Hot Reading Hippie from East Middle School.

Library battle's 3 for the Booketeers

By TOM BAER
 NIMM WHITE

Break up the Booketeers! You could almost hear the also-rans in the fourth-annual Battle of the Books competition chanting that invective last week as manager Rosemary Martin's Booketeers won their third-straight reading championship at the Mercy Center.

The Farmington Community Library's Battle of the Books attracted more than 600 Farmington-area middle-schoolers who were organized into 60 teams.

Battle of the Books is a program designed to promote reading for fun

and to give recognition to those who participate. Team members read from a list of 10 "young adult" books and then compete with other teams by answering questions based on the content of the books.

Some of the books: "Land of Hope" by Joan Nixon, "Count the Stars Through the Cracks" by Billie Hotaling, and "Blues Hero" by Avi.

The program has been a success in Farmington as evidenced by the enthusiasm showed by the youngsters — most dressed in costumes — at the April 20 event.

See BOOKS, 4A



Streisand the ticket for charity

By LARRY O'CONNOR
 NIMM WHITE

Instead of turning scalper, Dennis Page is allowing himself to be scalped of his two tickets to the Barbra Streisand concert.

But the owner of Page's Food & Spirits in downtown Farmington is giving away the highly coveted tickets for a good cause: The \$125 seats for Streisand's May 17 show at The Palace of Auburn Hills are being raffled off.

All proceeds will go to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each. The drawing takes place 9 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at Page's, 23621

■ 'My wife wanted to go and I got tickets. Then this friend of ours offered \$1,000 for them. I said, "Wow, a thousand dollars."'

Dennis Page owner, Page's Food & Spirits

Farmington Road, one block south of Grand River.

"My wife wanted to go and I got tickets," Page said. "Then this friend of ours offered \$1,000 for them. I said, 'Wow, a thousand dollars.'"

Instead of "Evergreen," Page started thinking green for charity.

Page, who's a Farmington Hills resident, has worked on fund-raisers for Cystic Fibrosis and the American Cancer Society in the past.

He decided MDA would be the beneficiary this time.

His goal is to raise \$5,000. Nearly 500 raffle tickets have been sold.

Page hopes people will buy tickets with Mother's Day in mind.

One difficult part was telling his wife, Sharon, she wouldn't be seeing Streisand.

Page said she agreed it was for a good cause.

"I like her (Streisand). We both like her," Page said. "We don't go to many concerts. This is one we wanted to see."

"... I've got her on tape."

The raffle has been the talk among customers, Page said.

He's considering a similar charity fund-raiser with Eagles tickets for their show at Tiger Stadium as the price.

As for his friend who offered a \$1,000 for the pair, the person has bought four raffle tickets despite getting Streisand tickets elsewhere.

Said Page: "I think he's going to buy more raffle tickets."

'All that Jazz' at HHS

The Farmington Community Chorus will present its annual spring concert at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 13-14, at Harrison High School on 12 Mile Road west of Middlebelt.

The 70-voice chorus, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, will present a program of popular selections and long-forgotten favorites with the focus on jazz. The group is directed by Steven SeGraves and accompanied by Susan Garr.

Tickets at \$5 for general admission, \$4 for seniors and students and \$3 for children 10 and under may be bought at the door or in advance from any chorus member at the Department of Special Services office, 31500 W. 11 Mile Road.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

All about spraying

George Morrow, who is in charge of gypsy moth spraying in the Farmington area, will explain the spraying program at an open meeting of the Council of Homeowner Associations at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, in the downstairs meeting room of the Farmington Hills branch of the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile Road.

Oakland County will spray the Farmington area for gypsy moths in mid-May. Gypsy moths can be very destructive to trees during the moths' caterpillar stage.

Any objections?

Speaking of the gypsy moth spraying . . . an item in the current Council of Homeowners Associations newsletter advises anyone who might be allergic to the spray to call Steve Brock, assistant Farmington Hills city manager, at 474-6115 for a state exemption application.

Memory Lane

From the May 6, 1954, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:
 A proposal for an off-street parking lot north of Grand River in the center of Farmington's business district was made at a public hearing before the city council.