

Farmington Observer

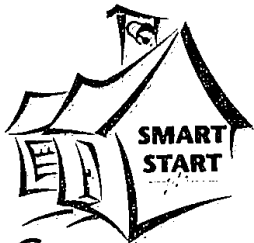
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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Getting political: Mike Breshgold, Farmington Hills resident and candidate for Congress, shared the platform with gubernatorial nominee Howard Wolpe at the Oakland County Democratic convention. /3A

Change in store: Grocery shoppers were used to the two initials, but they still think the switch from A&P to Farmer Jack is OK. /7A

Word barrage: A truce in the war of words might help the meetings being held between a developer and residents who are against the Farmington Hills development. /12A

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Get ready, Farmington Observer readers. On Thursday, Sept. 8, your home-town coverage of restaurants, music, movies, travel, theater and concerts will expand.

Let's Go! is a new section designed to make your entertainment planning easier and fun. This colorful, contemporary section covers the suburban entertainment scene.

In the feature section you will read about local symphony orchestras and highlights of the upcoming local community theater season. Read about new, updated, improved area restaurants and a new travel page.

In addition to Let's Go!, our community life features: weddings, engagements, births and local festivals normally found in Section C. We'll notify you of the festival in Section C. Please feel free to tell us what you think about our changes. Call me at 881-0600 or drop me a note at the Observer, 38251 E. 14 Mile, Farmington, Mich. 48335.

I look forward to hearing from you.

—Steve Barlow



Gov. John Engler

Engler trumpets project



Gov. John Engler wheeled his Tax Cut Express into Farmington Monday to add some political flavor to a groundbreaking at Nine Mile and Gill, site of the proposed Motorama Engineering facility.

By LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER

When it comes to campaigning, Gov. John Engler isn't afraid to see the dirt fly — especially if it is a groundbreaking for a new development he can attribute to the pro-business climate cultivated during his term.

Engler, pulling up in a bus labeled the Tax Cut Express, visited Farmington Monday to mark the building of a new 76,000-square-foot facility by Motorama Engineering.

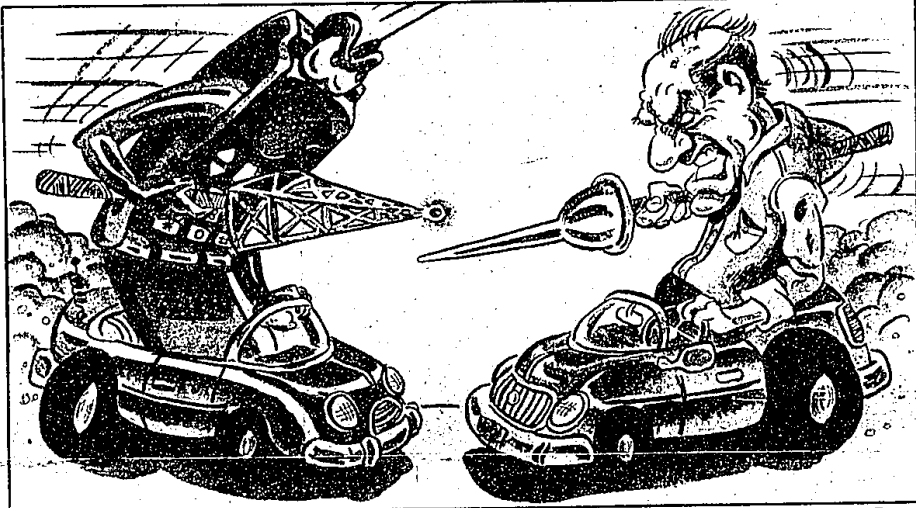
Engler and Republicans seem strong in the Farmington area. He's not taking it for granted, though.

"In the Farmington and Farmington Hills area, we've got tremendous support," Engler said. "Obviously, one of the key things we want to do is to make sure everyone gets out and participates in the election."

"When you have a constituency that is strong, you want to make sure it's a constituency that is voting." At Monday's groundbreaking, Engler received a hearty round of applause.

See ENGLER, 2A

No 'phoney' battle in Farmington Hills



MARYN TEEPLES

Towering informo

Cellular phones tools or troubles?

By BILL COUTANT STAFF WRITER

The cellular phone has found a niche in modern, mobile America. The phones provide convenience, save businesses time and even help save lives.

But the hand-held ticket to communication has sounded a fearful toll among residents in Farmington Hills and other parts of the country. Cellular phone service requires the use of towers to connect calls.

"They're (towers) not appropriate in areas where there are children," said Gary Heberlein, a resident of the Heritage Hills subdivision in northern Farmington Hills.

Other residents have used even stronger language to describe their outrage at a proposal by Cellular One to lease subdivision land to build a 100-foot tower. Exactly how much Cellular One offered the residents there has been hard to pin down.

"No extensive studies have been done that indicate this is safe," said Debra Rowe, a professor of environmental engineering at Oakland University, adding that she'd like to see more definitive studies before allowing her children near the towers.

Although the towers are located throughout the area — including

one on Northwestern Highway behind the Office Max store — putting them in residential areas has caused a lot of opposition.

"Unfortunately, this is not the first time we've had to deal with this issue," said John Murphy, a real estate manager with Cellular One. "This is a new field. People don't realize the benefits to them and that there has been no proven health hazard."

"It's like the microwave," Murphy said. "At first there was a lot of concern about possible health hazards. Now everybody has one. The FCC considers this a non-issue."

'No need to panic'

While there has been little research to prove that the towers are safe, as Rowe asserts, the scientific community has not put a halt on progress either, at least for now.

"To date, there have been no definitive studies linking cellular telephones to brain cancer, and there is no need to panic," said Dr. Richard Adamson of the National Cancer Institute's division of cancer etiology. "Studies under way at NCI will provide information to clarify this concern."

See TOWER, 2A

Hills pedals for bike path of least resistance

By BILL COUTANT STAFF WRITER

In an effort to get a bike path back on track, the Farmington Hills City Council met with about 45 residents in a study session at the Heritage Park Visitor's Center Monday night after taking a stroll down so-called alternate routes.

The path started as a non-issue in July of 1993, when the federal govern-

ment, through the Michigan Department of Transportation, awarded the city a \$50,000 grant to build a section of bike path from Heritage Park to 10 Mile. It has received a chilly reception from residents along Farmington Road.

After delaying a decision on what route to take, which side of the street to build the path on, and how wide to build it, the council is poised to make

a decision later this fall.

"I'm confident that we (the City Council) can come up with a plan that will make everyone happy," said Mayor Larry Lichtman.

That assessment is an optimistic one, especially in light of opposition to the city's proposed 8-foot-wide bike path that would run from the park to 10 Mile.

Signs telling the city to choose a

"safer" path that would cut through a subdivision from Rafael to 10 Mile have sprouted on the lawns along Farmington Road.

"I think the city has one proposal (an 8-foot path across property on Farmington Road) in mind," said Jeanette Allen, a Farmington Road resident and educator who ques-

See PATH, 6A

Art on display

The work of Farmington Artists Club members Gilger, Scoble and Shirley Oring will be displayed at the downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library, State and Liberty, through September.

Auction coming up

The eighth annual Salvation Army auction is planned for noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Farmington Hills Salvation Army Corps community center, 27800 Shilawassee.

The auction items include furniture and gift certificates. Proceeds are used to help the Army's youth activities and camps. For more information, call the Salvation Army at 477-1153.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Church plans festival

Carnival rides, food, activities for children and "non-stop fun" are some highlights of the Family Fall Festival at St. Alexander's Catholic Church Friday-Sunday, Sept. 16-18, at the church, 27835 Shilawassee, Farmington Hills.

The alcohol-free festival begins at 5 p.m. Friday with the annual bicycle decorating contest for children. The Fugh Show Carnival rides begin at 6 p.m. Food, entertainment and games of skill are also part of the fun. Bingo games are planned for the church's social hall.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, Sister Collette holds her free games of chance for youngsters.

Festival hours are 6-11 p.m. Friday, noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. Parking is free. For more information, call St. Alexander's at 474-5748.

Memory Lane

From the Sept. 2, 1964, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ About half of Farmington was without water over the weekend because of a sudden drop in the level of the municipal wells that served the area.

■ The National Guard was to help Farmington police patrol Grand River over the Labor Day weekend.