

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 9

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1994 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 88 PAGES

FIFTY CENTS
© 1994 Charter & Economic Newspapers, Inc.

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Halloween hoot: There'll be lots of fun for folks of all ages at the second-annual Halloween Fest Saturday in downtown Farmington. /2A

Commission challenge: Democrat Kurt Lopez is giving incumbent Republican Donn Wolf a run in the Oakland County Commission's 19th District. /3A

Merchants reach out: Twelve downtown Farmington merchants took their goods to the Greenery, an extended-care facility, for the shopping convenience of the residents. /4A

Getting around: Oakland County's roving homeless shelter will make its way to a Farmington Hills church. /11A

COMMUNITY LIFE

New in the Hills: Michigan's only private Jewish college to offer undergraduate degrees in secular studies recently opened in Farmington Hills. /13A

Life-saving skill: Guest columnist Barbara Seabolt pours her heart out on the importance of learning cardiopulmonary resuscitation. /13A

OPINION

The Observer supports: Endorsements are made for Circuit Court judgeships, 37th District State Representative and Proposal C. /20A

Write on! They come by mail, by fax and by personal delivery — letters, lots and lots of letters. /20A

LET'S GO!

Theater: Musician performing with the musical "Beehive" at the Gem Theatre in Detroit, is busy as a bee. /1B

SPORTS

Grid score: The regular-season football finale will be more like a playoff game Friday when Harrison visits unbeaten Oxford. /1C

Girls hoop: A long-awaited contest took place Tuesday when North Farmington and Harrison met on the basketball court. /1C

INDEX

Building/Business LF	Crossword 6E
Cable TV 8A	Let's Go 1B
Calendar 14A	Obituaries 9A
Classifieds B-F	Opinion 20-21A
Auto F,G	Personals 6G
Employment F,G	Police-Fire 6A
Index 4E, 6F	Real Estate 4A
Real estate 4A	Sports 10C
Creative Living 1D	

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 810-477-8480
 Newsroom Fax: 810-477-8722
 Sports: 313-853-2141
 Reader Comment Line: 313-853-2042
 Classified Advertising: 313-891-0900
 Display Advertising: 313-891-3300
 Home Delivery: 313-891-0900
 Cable/TV Weekly: 313-893-3123

Hills says can do to condo plan



When it comes to development, hard feelings remain among certain Farmington Hills City Council members — even when the vote is unanimous.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council unanimously approved a residential development, but the acrimony of an earlier, more controversial development remained.

The latest development, which will be built on 12.6 acres between Drake and Halsted on the south side of Nine

Mills, includes 22 detached condominiums with an open area of 2.6 acres on its south end.

John Salley, who lives in a subdivision bordering the proposed cluster option project on the west, said the open space did not provide space between his subdivision's houses and the new condominiums.

"I don't think that was the intent

of the code (for a cluster-option site plan)," he said. "The developer should reduce the number of units to 12 or 14."

But James Ludwig, representing T&T Development Co., said the detached condominiums, which would cost about \$250,000, included lots of 16,000 square feet, on average.

Under the cluster option, the project could have as many as 26 units and still fall within the density requirements.

Mayor Pro Tem Joane Smith praised the project, adding that the

property could not have been developed as a platted subdivision earlier, because the property was not available.

"It's nice to see this project going in," she said.

Claude Coates, the city's planning consultant, said the new condominiums will be on lots of about 16,000 square feet on average, as opposed to lots averaging about 14,000 in Bailey's subdivision on the west border. The proposal would save a large

See CONDO, 5A



Measuring father: Kati Kihade measures her father, Scott, as part of a student-parent math exercise held at Eagle Elementary School in the Farmington District.

Parents, kids add sum math

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Puzzled parents look longingly at their children. Numbers have left them numb.

"Moms and dads, if you're having problems, have your kids do it for you," said teacher Carol Lawrence.

The collective sigh could fill a hot-air balloon.

"Mathematical Night of Our Eagle Family," a program presented by Eagle Elementary, puts a different spin on an old adage: the family that solves geometry problems together stays together.

The program was one of three math nights presented by Eagle Ele-

Q: 'You often you hear from parents, 'I can't do math very well, either, it's OK.' You don't hear that with reading. Parents are cheerleaders when it comes to reading.'

Sue Johnson
Eagle principal

mentary staff. The idea is to get parents to encourage and work arithmetic into their child's daily lives.

The mini-classes were as popular as an electronic calculator is to an accountant using an abacus. Half the parents and their children turned out.

At this session, kindergartners and first-graders worked their way through measurement, geometry, calculator math, time and money and problem solving.

Math sort of gets obscured on the educational menu at home, Principal Sue Johnson said.

"Too often you hear from parents, 'I can't do math very well, either, it's OK,'" Johnson said. "You don't hear that with reading. Parents are cheerleaders when it comes to reading."

Some parents are more likely to wave a white flag than shake a pom-pom when it comes to math.

Asked if math was her hardest subject in school, one parent shot back, "Wasn't it yours?"

Of course, that was then. This is now.

Math is taught with more practical applications in mind, Johnson said. Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests are becoming more geared toward using math skills in everyday situations as opposed to merely memorizing facts and figures.

See MATH, 5A

Residents drive to preserve Power Road's beauty

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills residents living along Power Road north of 11 Mile feel like they're a part of history — a beautiful history.

In an effort to keep it that way, residents petitioned, and won tentative approval from the Farmington Hills City Council to designate the stretch as a National Beauty Road.

"My compliments to (city manager) Bill Costick and to the city staff," said By Koracki, president of the North Power Road Homeowners Association. "I didn't know the ground rules of the ordinance."

The ordinance would preserve the road with its natural beauty. It requires a majority of the residents along the road to sign a petition along with at least 25 residents who do not live along the road, in

It requires a majority of the residents along the road to sign a petition along with at least 25 residents who do not live along the road, in order for the city to consider the designation.

order for the city to consider the designation. Koracki said the road is part of the city's history, beginning, taking its name from Arthur Power who came to the area in 1834. The area includes century locust and hickory trees and a varied assortment of plants and wildlife.

In fact, city naturalist Joe Derek compiled a short list of 20 mammals, 24 species of flowers, 24 types of trees and shrubs, 53 types of birds and six types of reptiles and amphibians even though autumn was not the best time of year to make a thorough determination of the species in the area.

Council's unanimous approval Monday of the plan means there will be a public hearing at the city's Nov. 21 meeting.

The council also took up future use of space at the Farmington Hills Activities Center on 11 Mile.

A plan to convert 7,000 square feet back into a gymnasium, while maintaining its use for senior adult recreation and cultural activities has hit at least one snag — money.

See ROAD, 5A