

Farmington Observer

MONDAY, MAY 15, 1995 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 36 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 66

© 1995 Suburban Communications

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Commission report: Establishment of a volunteer center was the major accomplishment of the Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth, and Families. /2A

Top marks: Superintendent C. Robert Maxfield makes the grade with the school district, gains a 3-percent raise. /2A

Ahead of the game: Oz (rhymes with "knows") Pearlman can be numbered among the district's top math students. /3A

Safe stuff: National Safe Kids week was marked in Farmington Hills with a visit to Borders bookstore by local firefighters. /3A

Caress the stress: Where can a tense person go to get away from it all. How about a spa? /8A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Fine Art of Living: Neiman Marcus salutes Le Cordon Bleu with cooking demonstrations for shoppers. /6A



Foundations first: Linda Bachrack shops for undergarments that support summer styles. /6A

TASTE

Marvelous muffins: Gutsy gals "batter up" at Sunshine Treats in Farmington Hills. /1B

Pop that cork: Don't miss buying some French Burgundies from the 1993 vintage. /1B

SPORTS

Playoff picture: Farmington Hills Mercy begins the Catholic League softball playoffs as one of the favorites. /1C

Soccer triumph: North Farmington knocked off state-ranked Livonia Churchill for its biggest victory of the season. /1C

INDEX

Agenda 10A	Obituaries 4A
Classifieds B-D	Police, fire 5C
Lakwell 8A	Sports 1C
Mails 6A	Taste 1B

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newrooms: 810-477-8480
 Newsroom Fax: 810-477-9722
 Sports: 313-853-2141
 Reader Comment Line: 313-853-2042
 Classified Advertising: 313-891-0900
 Display Advertising: 313-891-2300
 Home Delivery: 313-891-0500
 Cable/TV Weekly: 313-853-2182

Student driving drill hits skids



Knock 'em down, said a few FHS students who were involved in a driving drill Friday. Knock it off, said the instructor, who abruptly ended the project.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A driving instructor slammed the brakes on the antics of a few Farmington High School students Friday. Instead of skid marks, school officials were feeling run over with embarrassment. Some 500 students were

scheduled to drive a specially equipped Neon auto on an obstacle course in the FHS parking lot. A crew chief shut down the demonstration after some students attempted to run down pedestrian figures that popped up on the course. The car is programmed with the

driver's weight and a hypothetical number of alcoholic drinks, delaying braking and steering responses. The Neon simulator is designed to drive home the message about drunken driving.

Several weeks of planning went into program. Staff and members of Farmington High's Students Against Driving Drunk chapter arrived at 6:16 a.m. to set up.

First hour went fine, Farmington High Assistant Principal Ken Dean said. School Board President Cathy Webb drove on the course, as did

Farmington High Parent Advisory Group President Linda Enberg.

During second hour, three or four kids hit the pop-up pedestrians. The crew chief asked them not to do it again, but the next driver did.

"He said, 'That's it. We're done,' and he shut the whole thing down," Dean said. "We asked him, 'Why didn't you let us know there was a problem?'"

Added Dean, "We feel sick about it."

See DRIVING, 2A

From a junior to a senior



SHAWN LAMIRKO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From front center: Cecilia Grossman (left) and Harrison High junior Karina Forgerger are all smiles during the fourth annual spring dance for Farmington-area senior adults May 11 in the high school gym. The event was sponsored by the Senior Adult Division and Farmington Community Education. Music was provided by the Harrison High School Jazz Band and a disc jockey.

Attorney Sowerby sets sights on Hills mayor job

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

Paul Sowerby, a local attorney and former city councilman, has announced his decision to campaign to become the first directly elected mayor of Farmington Hills.

"Farmington Hills is the largest city in Oakland County, and the eighth-largest city in Michigan," said Sowerby in a prepared statement. "As mayor I will reach out to the county, state and federal governments to make sure my neighbors in this city are getting a fair return on their tax investments."

"I'm very encouraged by the number of people who are supporting this campaign and by those who join the campaign daily, indicating their agreement with the issues, priorities, message and opportunity for a new beginning."

Sowerby has had terms on the Parks and Recreation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, including the chairmanship, Quaker Valley

ELECTION

Homeowners Association, Year 2000 Committee and for the past four years, he has been a senior services volunteer.

He was a member of the city council in 1989.

"I believe in a strong city manager type of government," he said from his office at Farmington Hills-based Sowerby & Marr, where he is a practicing litigation attorney.

He said he believes city council members running for the office of mayor should relinquish their spot on council.

"They should do what is right instead of what is allowed," he said.

Although he has been off the council for a number of years, Sowerby says he has kept his thumb on the pulse of things in the city.

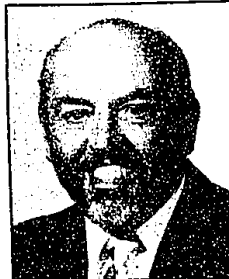
"There is too much divisiveness between our business and residential

communities. I say put aside all the nonsense. I intend to run the city like a business. When business people can't even address the council until 10:30 p.m. because of all the nonsense, something needs to be done."

In a press release, Sowerby identifies the issues in this campaign as leadership, unification of the communities' common goals, ending the divisiveness between business and residential constituents, providing a common community-based agenda, maintaining and improving the city's infrastructure and services, and in the process making it more user friendly and providing a new era of leadership.

Sowerby also remains active in several professional organizations including the Oakland County Bar Association and the state Bar of Michigan, of which he is a member of the board of commissioners, character and fitness committee.

A graduate of Detroit College of Law, he has lectured on various legal



Paul Sowerby

subjects for the Oakland County Bar Association and Womens Council of Realtors. He is conducting a speaking tour addressing "A Sense of Confidence in the Law and Society."

There will be no primary. The general election will be on Nov. 7.

Art is out at Mercy

Student art will be displayed for show and sale 3-7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, May 15-16, in the lobby of the premises at Mercy High School, 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads, Farmington Hills. No admission will be charged. Call the school at 476-8020.

An Exchange speaker

Margo Gorchow, director of public affairs and community relations at Botford Community Hospital, will speak at the regular meeting of the Farmington Exchange Club, 12:15-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, at the Brass Pointe Restaurant on Orchard Lake Road north of 10 Mile. The meeting is open to the public.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Team Farmington opens house

Team Farmington, the local Special Olympics club, will host an open house 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, at its new office in the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas St.

"This is our way of thanking the community, the contractors and the school district," said Todd Lips, Team Farmington coordinator. "It's been a real community effort to establish that office."

Sale in Springbrook

Furniture and baby clothes will be among the many items for sale in the Springbrook subdivision garage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 20. The subdivision is bounded by 10 Mile, 11 Mile, Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads.

Memory Lane

From the May 19, 1955 edition of the Farmington Enterprise: "Driving skill was put to the test in the annual Teen Age Road-o-o outside Farmington Junior High School. Roger Fendt drove a 1955 Ford through a twisting course to win the contest."