

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 85

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1995 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 132 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1995 Suburban Communications Corporation

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Hear yoi Hear yoi: Residents a historic and bucolic area will have a chance to make the case for keeping it that way. /2A
Having a ball: A grant, a foundation, and a gala ball could all support teen program in Farmington Hills. /2A
Let 'em eat pie! And eat it they did at the Farmington Founders Festival Pie Baking Contest. /16A

OPINION

Powerless people: Detroit Edison, the power monopoly in this town, could be doing a lot more to keep its product flowing. /14A
Write on! Many Observer readers aren't at all shy about sharing their opinions on a variety of subjects. /14A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Happiness is a choice: Guest columnist and Farmington Hills resident Florine Mark, owner of the WW Group Inc., gives a prescription for happiness. /17A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Jazzfest: The suburbs sizzle July 27-30 with the sounds of live jazz. /1B
Theater: Broadway professionals help local high school students "Jumpstart" their theatrical careers. /1B

SPORTS

Race winners: Male and female champions were crowned Saturday in the annual Founders Festival road runs. /1C
Tourney champs: The NFWB Braves won a district title Sunday in Pony League Mustang Division baseball. /1C

AT HOME

The best-laid plans He tried, but the historic combination is attracts just a little interest. /1F

INDEX

Calendar 6C	Rentals 20
Classified C,E-H	Community News/17A
Announcements 41I	Entertainment 1B
Autos 81I	Focus 5A
Crossword 11F	Obituaries 14A
Employment 5G	Options 14A
Home Services 61I	Personals 6B
Merchandise 61I	Police/fire 5A
Pets 81I	Sports 1C
Real Estate 10F	Street Scene 10B

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newroom: 810-677-8480
 Newroom Fax: 810-677-8722
 Sports: 313-653-2141
 Reader Comment Line: 313-653-2042
 Classified Advertising: 313-651-0800
 Display Advertising: 313-651-2300
 Home Delivery: 313-651-0800
 Cable/TV Weekly: 313-653-2162

Officials frustrated with Edison



Once again, the winds blew, the rains poured down . . . and the power blinked off. And, once again, Farmington Hills officials are not happy with Detroit Edison.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

While most who lost power during a series of storms late last week have it back, Farmington Hills officials aren't falling over each other to pat Detroit Edison on the back.

As of Monday, only about 400 Edison

customers in Farmington Hills were without power after 9,600 had been without after July 13. But despite some improvements, the utility's response was not what a lot of residents and city officials had expected.

"This kind of response is just not

acceptable any more," said Hills Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, who wants to reconvene a citizens' committee that was created when Vagnozzi was mayor in 1991 and a storm knocked power out for a week in some areas.

"I'm also proposing that Edison provide a response center in the community and that they provide information on when people can expect power to be restored," Vagnozzi said.

Although all the numbers are preliminary, Edison did a better job in some areas than it did in July of 1991

when about 700,000 Detroit-area Edison customers were without power, some for eight days.

The current storms, which struck the evening of July 13, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, left about 550,000 without power at one time or another over five days.

Jim Padgett, engineering supervisor with the Michigan Public Service Commission's Electrical Division, said the utilities' response was much better this time around.

See EDISON, 4A

'Dignity Rights and Respect for All'



SHARON LEMMEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hills protest: Paul Pollicicchio (center), president of Local 79 of the Service Employees union, takes part in a local informational picket. The union is involved in a statewide campaign called "Dignity Rights and Respect for All."

Workers picket Mercy Health Services

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

While shaking pop cans filled with rostral and singing union songs, 50 nursing home workers made a plea for dignity in Farmington Hills Tuesday morning.

Service Employees International Union Local 79 members demon-

strated outside Mercy Health Services headquarters on 12 Mile Road. Farmington Hills police were present, but there were no incidents.

Protesters tried to get inside the building, but were denied access. The legion of picketers went to nearby Delta Dental office by mistake.

"We can always be successful even if we go into the wrong building," said Local 79 president Paul Pollicicchio to protesters before they left on a bus.

Local 79 represents 7,000 nursing home employees in 120 facilities statewide and is affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Negotiations between

Mercy Health Services and the union have been ongoing.

Workers, who include nurses aides, laundry workers and dietary staff, want improved wages, increased staffing and pensions. Demonstrators wanted Mercy officials to

See WORKERS, 4A

Soaring temperatures wilt festival crowds

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

If the sun smiled any brighter, the 31st-annual Farmington Founders Festival would have been renamed the Farmington Deep-Fried Festival.

Soaring heat in the 100-degree range, coupled with furious storms, put a crimp in attendance figures for this year's event. Usually 80,000 people attend the three days' worth of festivities.

This year, organizers estimate only more than half that number visited. "I think (the weather) was fairly significant," Farmington/Farmington

Hills Chamber of Commerce Director Jody Soronen said. "At no time during the three days did we see the crowds we normally do."

"It was just too hot. The rainstorms didn't help either." As a result, sales wilted at craft and food booths. People bought cold drinks and anything else with ice, but that was it.

"This is one of the worst (festivals) we've had," said Henry Lum of The Great Wall of China in Farmington, whose boos and egg rolls are a festi-

See FESTIVAL, 3A



SHARON LEMMEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Festival fare: Norma Roncato of Redford shops among the flowers and crows at the Founders Festival. The crafters are Rachelle and Mark Martin of Troy.

Levin outspends winner Enberg in schools race

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The post office, printers and sign makers enjoyed this year's Farmington School Board race. They made money while candidates spent it.

Candidate Jennifer Levin put more than \$5,702 into an unsuccessful bid for a four-year seat in the June 12 school election, according to campaign expense records. A school board position pays \$600 a year.

Linda Enberg, who won by a 2-to-1 margin, spent \$2,891. Enberg received \$2,291 in both direct and in-kind contributions.

"I enjoyed running," Levin said. "I didn't win,

but I had fun.

"I don't think the campaign was won by who spent the most money. It was (about) who people had faith in."

Enberg said she spent more than expected. A bulk of Enberg's costs were consumed in mailing and printing.

Though Enberg was known in the school community, she felt she lacked name recognition. She expected that to be a factor, especially with the Oakland Community College millage question on the ballot, which draws voters from outside school circles.

"It's silly (school campaigns) run into that

much money," Enberg said, "but to run a full campaign it runs into that kind of money."

Such spending is probably on the "high side," said Michigan Association of School Boards spokeswoman Gail Braverman.

Several school board candidates run successful campaigns for \$1,000, and in some cases, for as little as \$250.

"Because it's not a partisan election and it's not linked to a general election, (candidates) tend not to get caught up in the spending spiral," Braverman said.

See RACE, 4A