

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Another accident: There was another accident along a stretch of Middlebelt Road near East Middle School involving a student. /2A.

Now that's exciting: If enthusiasm were measured in water, Farmington Public Schools might have to invest in sandbags after the first year of its summer learning program. /5A

OPINION

Profits on ice? The Farmington Hills Ice Arena — and a nice one it is! — opened recently. Let's not forget what the consultant told us about managing it. /10A

The very nerve! The recent Observer story on four parents who left the public school system must have struck a nerve if the letters are any indication. /10A

COMMUNITY LIFE

A matter of tradition: Korean children learn about the traditional wedding customs of their homeland. /13A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Love of art: Franklin artist Maxilian Shaye is passionate about art. A 40-year retrospective of his colorful paintings will open at the Preston Burke Gallery in Farmington Hills next week. /1B

Touching exhibit: Quilt authority Merry Silber of Birmingham and doll artist Kathleen Bricker of Farmington have put together "Keep Me Ever Warm," an exhibit of quilts and dolls with a heartwarming cause. /1B

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LOTTERY

The Wednesday Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$3.8 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Wednesday, Sept. 6, are:

DAILY 3:
6, 5, 2

DAILY 4:
9, 2, 2, 9

CASH 5: 3, 15, 17, 29, 36

LOTTO: 5, 7, 11, 29, 38, 42

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

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Publisher guilty of larceny



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A publisher of a failed Farmington ad shopper newspaper has been found guilty of charges that he deceived advertisers by taking their money without producing a publication.

A jury convicted Derek Paul Gendron, 30, on all five counts of larceny by conversion for more than \$100 in Oakland County Circuit Court on Tuesday. Sentencing is 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, before Judge Jessica Cooper.

The conviction is in connection to the Homefront Delivery Corp., which

operated out of The Winery on Grand River Avenue. Larceny by conversion is a felony and is punishable by up to five years in jail or \$2,500 fine.

Several businesses, including Prime Time Sports in Farmington Hills, paid for advertising in the edition scheduled for March 17, 1993. The paper was never published.

Employees arrived to work March 5, 1993, and found the office empty with a note on the door saying the business had gone bankrupt.

The Farmington Observer reported the newspaper's closing and quoted

employees who said they had not been paid.

Gendron said he didn't write the bankruptcy note on the door, which included a bogus forward mailing address in Virginia. He intended to publish, he said.

Gendron testified he tried to get credit from printers and followed up on advertising leads.

"The sales leads . . . told me flat out they weren't interested because of the Observer article," said Gendron, who took the stand in his defense.

See PUBLISHER, 2A

Ice Arena is hot stuff in Hills



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

For openers: Five-year-old Drew Ostin of Farmington skates with a little help from his dad, Tom Ostin, Saturday. The facility was open over the weekend to give residents a taste of what to expect. For a story and more photos, see Page 3A.

Diversity is focus of forums

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington/Farmington Hills Multiracial/Multicultural Community Council has a message: Bring it on home.

The council enters its third year presenting multicultural awareness forums, kicking off with Tuesday's presentation by William Brooks of General Motors Corp.

The discussion starts at 8 a.m. at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas, one block north of Grand River between Warner and School streets.

Brooks, who will discuss GM's diversity programs, will be one of only a handful of outside speakers during the series. Richard Lobenthal of the Anti Defamation League will speak in December.

Invitations have also extended to other community leaders, including the Rev. William Cunningham of Focus: Hope.

In the past, though, the community council has relied almost entirely on guest speakers. This year's different.

Homegrown program plans include panel discussions by community leaders and students as well as a presentation by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. Organizers want to reach beyond the initial core of people who regularly attend.

"While we felt we need to do some outside fertilization, we also need to open it up to people so they can interact with one another," said Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield. "We feel there are some good things happening here."

Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick and Maxfield were part of a group, which visited Cleveland Heights, Ohio. The city is well-known for its diversity programs.

In October, there will be a video presentation and a panel discussion with those who went.

Farmington school students will discuss diversity in a panel discussion in November. Members of the district's Student Roundtable have taken on multicultural issues in the past.

Success of the council's forums can be measured beyond attendance figures. The council — and many community members — lent support to the Jackson family after their home was destroyed in what was initially thought to be a racially motivated incident.

Rrrring! It's Farmington 1955

BY TOM BARR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington was nudged closer to suburban Detroit status 40 years ago when telephone operators stopped saying "Number, please," and telephone dials started going "tictictictictictic."

It was a huge community event when dial telephone service went into effect at 2:01 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 21, 1955.

The change meant that Farmington's Michigan Bell customers could dial up just about anyone in the Detroit area — and even beyond. James Tennant, Farmington's city manager, made the first dial call, direct to McKeesport, Pa., during ceremonies at the Botsford Inn. The shindig attracted business and civic leaders, as well as Michigan Bell officials.

Judging from the article and advertisements about the new dial system in the local newspaper of the day — The Farmington Enterprise — the change was viewed as progress, even if it did mean

that Farmington was less a country town and more a big city suburb.

Bill Dix, a longtime Farmington resident and a Michigan Bell installer in the '50s, recalled the changeover and the old "common battery" dial-less phones that went before.

"There were eight party lines out in the country," recalled Dix from his retirement home in Rogers City, Mich., "with one ring, two rings, longs and shorts. You had to know your ring."

Dix's wife, Sally Gildemeister Dix, another longtime Farmington resident, also remembered operator-assisted calls.

"Operators were always nice, polite and nice," she said. "Of course, it was a small town then. You knew everybody . . . even the operators. With the party lines, people were always picking up and listening in. You know how that goes."

See LOOK BACK, 4A

GREENLEAF 4

is coming to FARMINGTON Sunday

Out of the shell: Enterprise ad announces new phone system.