

Farmington Observer

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Managing problems: Diabetics need to take precautions, says Donna Rice, guest columnist./13A

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Bike helmet law won't ride



BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council decided that a cutting-edge bike helmet law might be too far ahead of its time.

In April, the city's Commission on Youth, Children and Families presented an array of statistics and anecdotes concerning the safety ben-

efits of using helmets when riding a bike. The council asked City Attorney John Donohue to review similar laws and present a draft of a city ordinance at Monday's public hearing on the matter.

After hearing from several community members, the council voted 5-2 to hold off on implementing a helmet law, but left the door open

for a future ordinance. "Education is the key," said Councilman Terry Sever, who opposed the law and cited the evolution of helmets for hockey players to almost complete compliance. "Let this evolve. Our police officers have a lot tougher responsibilities right now. Maybe this is ahead of its time." Sever and Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio had voted against considering the law at the April meeting, calling it too intrusive by government. They were outvoted at that time but were in the majority that included Mayor Aldo Vagnoni and council members Missie Kurzejo

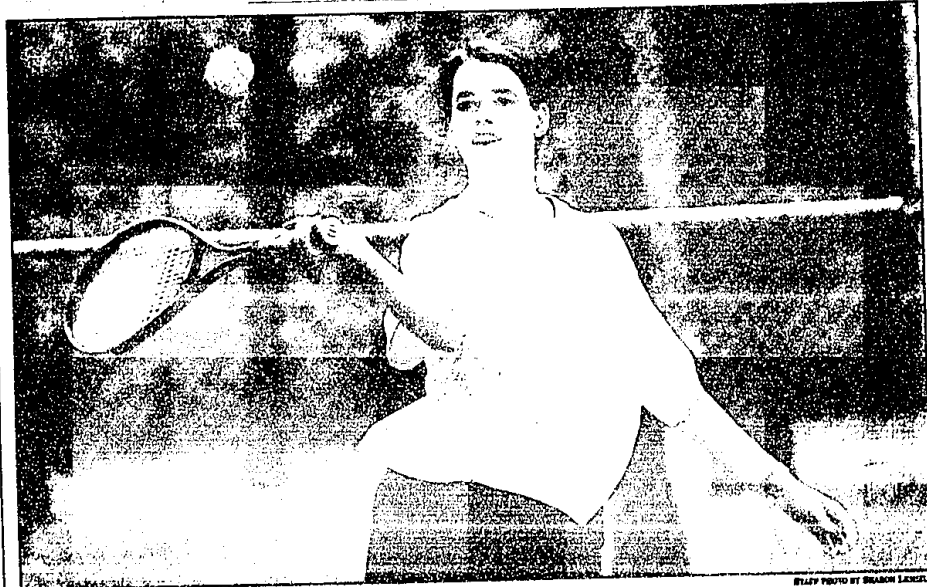
and Vicki Darnett. Council members Nancy Bates and Jon Grant voted for the measure.

"I'm a walking, talking testimonial to bike helmets," said Southfield resident Dave Scott, an avid cyclist and friend of Richard Daguanno, chairman of the Commission on Children, Youth and Families. "I was hit from behind by an automobile at 50 miles per hour."

Scott displayed three fragments of a helmet, all that was left after the accident that left him in the hospital for eight weeks.

See HELMET, 2A

Farmington courts improved tennis facility



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LICKELLS

Fault line: Dana Goba says the cracked courts at Shiawassee Park don't have much affect on her game or that of her tennis partner Brian Csonka, both 1995 graduates of Farmington High School.

Tennis courts to get better bounce

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Instead of finding fault with their serves, tennis players are starting to see fault lines on the court.

Those who regularly play the game of rackete in Shiawassee Park could soon see a net gain in their game, though.

The city of Farmington plans to

renovate the tennis courts, which officials said are in dire need to repair. Work is expected to be completed by July 1.

Pencos will be replaced and repainted. Cracks will be sealed and covered by a one-and-a-half inch asphalt especially designed for tennis courts. An acrylic latex coating with striping will finish the surface work.

Net posts, which are starting to resemble the Leaning Tower of Pisa, are expected to be replaced.

"It's come to the point where the tennis courts need repair," City Manager Frank Lushoff said, "and we can't put it off any longer."

Courts have not been repaired in 20 years, Lushoff said. The city has made them a priority in Michigan Department of Natural

Resources Recreation grant applications. The grants have not come through.

So, the city decided it would take money set aside for the matching portion and put it towards tennis court rehabilitation. City council awarded the bid to Souter Asphalt Paving for \$13,268.

It's parade time in Farmington

Strike up the band and shine those marchin' boots. The annual Memorial Day parade is coming up. Farmington's Memorial Day parade, sponsored by the American Legion Post 340 and 190 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2269, will commence at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 27, at the Uptown Plaza, Orchard Lake at Grand River.

The parade route will be Grand River Avenue through downtown Farmington to the war memorial, Grand River at Oakland.

This year's parade will honor the U.S. Army and the Michigan National Guard. A flyover by a B-25 Bomber will signal to start the parade at 10 a.m.

The Airborne color guard and the Michigan National Guard will lead the parade.

The 1996 parade will maintain the tradition of the Farmington Veterans Organizations to keep its small-town flavor and will honor their fallen comrades to show the patriotism of all of the returning veterans.

The Clarensville High School marching band will lead the parade and perform immediately afterwards at the war memorial.

All Farmington High School marching bands will perform, and many of the youth organizations of the community representing the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Indiana Guides and etc. who will represent over 60 percent of the parade participants.

Ceremonies will be held at about 11 a.m. at the war memorial. Officials of any organization that wishes to participate should contact Walter Christensen at 474-8554.

She touts techno know-how

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

She grew up in the spiritual home for the fictional slacker film "Wayne's World." But Priscilla Brouillette believes her skills in the business and in technological world will see her through to a seat on the Farmington Board of Education.

The Aurora, Ill., native is one of four candidates trying for two open seats in the June 10 school election.

SCHOOL RACE

Brouillette (pronounced "bree-yet"), 43, worked as a national account manager for AT&T and owned a computer software business Oswego with her husband, Barry. Skills she acquired then could be helpful in the future on the board, Brouillette said.

After all, Farmington Public

Schools operates on a \$129 million budget. The district is also spending \$3.4 million to connect all its buildings to the Internet.

"I think my background in technology gives me a different perspective," Brouillette said. "But it might not be the perspective that you would expect ... 'Oh Priscilla really wants a lot of computers and a lot of hardware.'"

See RACE, A1

Trash collection changes

Refuse, recycling and compost collection will change in the Farmington area because of the Memorial Day holiday.

Trash and recycled material will not be picked up Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Collections in Farmington and Farmington Hills will take place one day later than usual.

Monday's trash will be picked up Tuesday, Tuesday's trash on Wednesday, etc., ending with Friday's refuse and recycling collected on Saturday.

Say, 'Pepsi, please'

The Pepsi-Cola Company is the first major corporate sponsor of the 32nd-annual Farmington Founders Festival and Corvette Fantasy Car Rally Extravaganza, according to the sponsoring Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Commerce. "We've been looking for a corporate sponsor to help support the 32-year-old Festival," said Judy Soronen, chamber director. "Thanks to Pepsi and several others, we can continue to provide quality entertainment and activities for the more than 80,000 people who visit the Festival each year."

Other major contributors include the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, the Northwest Gazette, Three Oaks Furniture, Holiday Chevrolet Geo, Miller, The Print House, Graphix Concepts, Huntington Banks, LOC Federal Credit Union, Moraf Sheplew Weinstein PLC, Ural

Interiors and IBF Insurance Group.

This year's Festival will be held July 11-13, with the popular Festival Parade being scheduled for Saturday, July 13.

The Corvette raffle, a major fund-raiser for the Festival, is underway. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. Winners get the 1996 Corvette of \$30,000. Some \$3,600 in additional prizes will be raffled off. The drawing will be held July 13 at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

For more information on the Festival or the raffle, call the Chamber of Commerce at 474-3440.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address: packy@oconline.com.