

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 109 NUMBER 77

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1996 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 96 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Looking for survivors: The Michigan Polio Network, with Farmington resident Don Nichols on the board, wants to contact survivors of the disease and their families./A3

Review needed?: Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer has pledged to bring the dismissal in a drug case to the attention of the Judicial Tenure Commission for review./A5

Yes to Yesslan: Yessian Music of Farmington Hills is recognized as the largest commercial music house in Michigan./A11

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Let the music play: Sponge celebrates the release of its second CD, "Wax Ecstatic."/1B

Patriotic salute: U.S. Army Field Band joins the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for three concerts at Greenfield Village./1B

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Hills offers; Hobbs accepts

Farmington Hills finally has a city manager — Dan Hobbs. No one is more relieved than City Clerk Kathy Dorman, who served as both clerk and manager during the interim.

BY LAURIE HUMPHREY
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills is getting a new city manager, and city clerk Kathy Dorman is getting her old job back, just in time for the Aug. 6 vote.

Dorman stepped up as interim city manager when Bill Costick announced his resignation, effective last February, and has functioned in

the dual position for four months now.

Nobody could have predicted the need for three elections in that four month span, but it is almost over now. The new manager starts Aug. 5.

Last Monday, the Farmington Hills City Council voted 7-0 to offer the \$100,000 city manager position

to Dan Hobbs, city manager of Greenbelt, Md. This showing of council solidarity came on the heels of a weekend visit where one-on-one discussions took place between Hobbs and various council members.

"It was a 3-5 (p.m.) drop-in thing," said Nancy Bates, councilwoman of almost seven years. "He said he'd be at City Hall for a couple hours if anyone wanted to come talk to him."

At least a handful of council members dropped by to get clarification on issues that had been discussed during the regular interview. The impromptu talks resulted in unanimous support for Hobbs.

"My major concerns were easily addressed when I spoke with him (last weekend)," said councilwoman Vicki Barnett, one of three council members originally in favor of Hobbs' adversary, Jim Prosser, city manager of Richfield, Minn. "He's a warm and caring man who is highly respected - not only in the community which he works, but internationally."

The councilwoman of eight months described Hobbs as "very articulate and personable."

"He enhances the image of Farm-

See HOBBS, 2A

Major league setting for area standout



Area All Star: Joe Kalczynski, a Farmington resident and a recent graduate of Brother Rich High School, smiles from the Tiger Stadium dugout Monday. He played first base for the East team in an all-star high school baseball game. The East tumbled to the West, 3-0, on the big league field. Kalczynski plans to continue his athletic career at Michigan State University. For a story on the game, please see the Sports Section.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRANON LEMELT

Cops: Strangers can mean danger

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

An 84-year-old Leelane Street man who was robbed of \$950 while trying to sell two bikes has Farmington police peddling another message: Don't let strangers into your home.

The common-sense warning comes as the garage- and yard-sale season heats up with visitors trolling neighborhoods looking for bargains — or, in one resident's case, easy money.

The resident told police the cash was stolen from his home after a man pretended to be interested in buying the bikes for sale in his yard Monday. The man offered \$100 for both bikes.

"Never, never, never, never under any circumstances allow a stranger into your home," Farmington Public Safety Commander Charles Lee said.

Police recommend more than one person be at home while a garage or yard sale is taking place. Also, do not let customers inside under the pretense of using a phone or restroom.

In this incident, the suspect used the ruse of wanting a \$50 bill in change to get inside the Leelane residence.

The suspect asked if he could leave a \$50 deposit so his mother could come by and see if she wanted ones of the bikes, police reports said.

The man told the senior he only had a \$100 bill and asked for change. When the senior gave the man two \$20 and one \$10 bills, he demanded a \$50 bill instead.

The victim went into his bedroom and retrieved a \$50 bill from a cash box. He noticed the man in the doorway.

When the senior gave the man the \$50 bill in change, the suspect then asked for a receipt. While in the kitchen writing out the receipt, the victim noticed a second man in his living room.

"If they can determine there is money in the house, that's probably a signal to the other guy to come into the house," Commander Lee said.

Then the first man said he changed his mind and would not leave a deposit. He and the other man left in a white Ford F-150 pickup truck.

When the victim checked the cash box, it had been pried open and the money missing. The senior phoned his daughter, who called police.

The first suspect is described as a man with a dark complexion 35 to 40 years old and 5-foot-10 tall, possibly of European descent. The second suspect is described as 5-foot-2 male weighing 350 pounds with short black hair.

"Obviously, you have a couple of thieves driving around looking for an opportunity," Lee said, "and they found one."

There's still hope for adult education

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Adult education has been granted a reprieve in Lansing — and the signs of relief can be heard in Farmington.

The school aid bill that passed the state Senate and House restores \$102 million, more than the origi-

nally proposed \$65 million but well shy of the previous \$165 million, to fund adult education.

There's a string attached: \$20 million of the state aid has been put up for competitive bid.

Districts, like Farmington, have to come up with proposals by July 1. Farmington adult ed officials are

meeting with others in Oakland County and will likely put together a joint grant application, said Farmington Adult Ed Director Terry Klenczar.

Districts will know Aug. 1 if their grant has been approved.

"We're in a state of uncertainty at this point," Klenczar said.

Farmington adult ed officials are already planning to pare services.

The number of weeks and class hours offered are expected to be cut. No teachers have been laid off but that's due to attrition, Klenczar said.

Cost containment will see the

See ADULT, A2

She counts on school board savvy

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Cathy Webb wants to take her community service to another level.

Webb, 44, is running for 37th District State Representative as a Republican.

The Farmington Board of Education trustee and mother of two sons, said when Rep. Jan Dolan told her she was thinking of stepping down, Webb discouraged her.

HOUSE RACE

"I tried to convince her to run again," Webb said.

But Dolan, a former Farmington Hills mayor and representative since 1990, suggested instead that Webb run, and has endorsed her.

"The important consideration was my family," said the 1995 Farming-

ton Hills Citizen of the Year. "They (husband Jim, son Jim III, 16, and Matt, 14) encouraged me."

It may not be such a stretch for Webb, who has dealt at the state and local level on the issue of public education, an issue she believes the district's representative should know.

And she has done her homework on other key issues including roads,

See WEBB, A2



Cathy Webb

Trash talk in Farmington

Farmington-area residents take note: Refuse, recycling and compost will not be picked up Thursday, July 4.

Because of the Independence Day holiday, Thursday's collection will take place on Friday, and Friday's refuse and recycling will be collected on Saturday.

Sand sale for the needy

The Farmington Area Jaycees are selling bushels of high quality play sand for \$4 per bushel with a minimum 5-bushel order. Proceeds will go to the Jaycees' Needy Food Basket Fund.

Orders can be placed by calling 478-3388.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

His car's a real Duesy!

Hills resident and owner of a spiffy 1929 Duesenberg Model J Murphy Boat-Tail Speedster auto.

Chorkey's classic won the best of show for exterior at the recent Eyes on Classic Design automotive exhibition held on the grounds of the Edgel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores.

More than 250 specialty vehicles representing the past 100 years of automotive history were

judged by a jury of automotive designers and guests.

About Festival parking

Attention, Farmington Founders Festival-goers: free handicapped parking will be available 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 11-13 at the Salom United Church of Christ on Oakland Avenue. Persons using this parking must have the official handicap permit on their dashboards. For more information, call the church at 478-6880.

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.