

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 110 NUMBER 1

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1996 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 36 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Testing the waters: Some young biologists are taking a close look at what's living in the streams that flow through Woodland Hills Park. /A3

All fired up: Fire Prevention Week is coming up, and the Hills Department is planning the 19th annual Open House. /A4

TASTE

Breakfast: Cars don't run on empty, and neither do people. Breakfast is brain food, and will help you jump start your day. /B1

New cookbook: Busy moms, with little time to cook, will enjoy "Rose Reisman's Enlightened Home Cooking." /B1

SPORTS

Gridiron game: Farmington Harrison tried to rebound from defeat Saturday against a formidable football foe in Plymouth Canton. /C1

Hoop results: The Mercy High School basketball team trounced rival Livonia Ladywood 60-34 in a Catholic League girls game Thursday. /C1

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WL school bond passes - AT LAST



BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

It was different this time. Faced with double class shifts for their children - and possibly plummeting property values for themselves - parents in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District hooded the warnings, streamed out to the polls Saturday and overwhelmingly approved both parts of a combined \$114 million bond issue proposal. And when it became apparent that the fourth time would be the charm for Michigan's fastest-growing school district, election headquarters at the Educational Services Center turned into a New Year's party, of sorts. There were hugs, high fives, loud cheers and even something resembling confetti: flyers with maps to a victory party at school board member Al

Onder's house drifted down on the heads of celebrating campaign workers and school officials. "This is sweet," said board member Marc Siegler, getting a hug from Meadow Lake parent Sue Hoffman. "Very, very sweet." Feeling vindicated by the result was much-maligned schools Superintendent James Geisler, who had been taking some serious heat for attempting the district's fourth bond issue proposal of more than \$110 million since October 1993. "I am thrilled. I have a giant rock off of my back." That was likely just from the overwhelming victory (11,184-4,563) of \$108,250,000 Proposition 1. Those bonds will pay for construction of two middle schools and one elementary school; renovation of Walled Lake Central High

Walled Lake Schools Bond Issue - Proposition 1 HOW YOU VOTED

PRECINCT	YES (%)	NO (%)
1 Community Education	632 (64%)	296 (30%)
2 Keith Elementary	1,022 (76%)	329 (24%)
3 Commerce Elementary	959 (68%)	438 (31%)
4 Wixom Elementary	1,000 (73%)	367 (27%)
5 Glengary Elementary	676 (60%)	456 (40%)
6 Twin Beach Elementary	670 (71%)	276 (29%)
7 Dublin Elementary	704 (63%)	405 (37%)
8 Oakley Park Elementary	1,045 (76%)	333 (24%)
9 Maple Elementary	950 (82%)	207 (18%)
10 Hickory Woods	444 (72%)	173 (28%)
TOTAL VOTES	11,184 (71%)	4,563 (29%)

See BOND, A2

They know the score



Going swimmingly: High school students Matt Beuckelaere (left) and Pete Bosler check out the times as they cover a Raider-Harrison swimming meet for local cable TV. For a story and another photograph, please see page A2.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEAHLEY

FFIA makes big plans for October

As part of Farmington Families in Action's SoberOctober activities, students at the three Farmington public high schools are going to tie one on - red ribbons, that is.

Students Against Driving Drunk have strung "SoberOctober" banners on the schools' press boxes and tied red ribbons on the fences and football stands in preparation for a safe and sober Homecoming.

The banners were hung Sept. 22 at Farmington High School on Shiawassee, Harrison High School on 12 Mile Road and North Farmington High School on 13 Mile Road.

Each year, in October, FFIA sponsors a red ribbon campaign as well as other activities to prevent substance abuse and promote a drug-free community.

The month will begin with a Community Breakfast Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 7:15 a.m. at Glen Oaks, featuring speaker and "edu-tainer" Kevin Wanzer, who was a hit at the parent and student "GRIP" workshop last winter.

Another SoberOctober event will be a Big Boy Celebrity Server Night fund raiser on Wednesday Oct. 9, at the Big Boy restaurant on Farmington Road north of Eight Mile.

On that night, meals will be served by community "celebrities," including Nancy Bates from the Farmington Hills City Council and Farmington Councilman Bill Hartsock.

All tips collected by celebrity servers will be donated to the FFIA Elementary School Substance Abuse Education Program, and Big Boy will donate 10 percent of the day's sales.

There also is a video for parents of middle school students which will run on TV-10 and INFO TV-12.

Another FFIA sponsored program TWYKAA (Talking With Your Kids About Alcohol) will kick off in October.

This year's parenting program is offered four consecutive mornings or evenings beginning in October. Call Linda Enberg to register, 478-2303.

Truth is at issue in state House race

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

State House Republican candidate Andrew Raczowski calls his lack of a master's degree a detail - but therein lies the devil, say Democrats.

Raczowski, 27, defeated three other candidates in the August Republican primary. During that campaign, his military record was questioned after his campaign literature said he had "fought for our freedom" and served on active duty during Operation Desert Storm.

Raczowski, an Army Reserve officer, had been called up on active duty but had not seen action in the Middle East.

Democrats are now questioning Raczowski's claim that he has a master's degree in human resource development from Central Michigan University.

■ 'I probably didn't pay so that I could walk down the aisle (during commencement ceremonies).'

Andrew Raczowski
—House candidate

"Once again, Mr. Raczowski has shown his inability to tell the truth to the voters of Farmington and Farmington Hills," said Stephen Dibert, his Democratic opponent for the 37th House seat now held by Rep. Jan Dolan.

Dibert made the comments concerning Raczowski's claim of a master's degree. Central Michigan University Assistant Registrar Steven Grenus said according to the university's records, Raczowski does not have a masters.

"We can't comment beyond that," said Grenus, adding that unless

Raczowski requests in writing that CMU releases those records, they are not public record.

Grenus said that Raczowski did attend the university as a graduate student from the spring of 1992 to the spring of 1995.

Raczowski said that he has completed the course work, but may not have paid the graduation filing fee.

"I probably didn't pay so that I could walk down the aisle (during commencement ceremonies)," he said. "I had started law school at



Andrew Raczowski

See HOUSE, A2

Dogs wanted for therapy

Do you own a special dog that gets along well with people, especially children, and other dogs?

If so, "Doctor Paws" might have a place for you and your pet in its program. The group is looking for special people and their pets to work as volunteers at area hospitals, day care centers and nursing homes.

Hopefully, pets and owners will bring a little joy to people in those places, according to Terry Saraceno, a Farmington Hills resident, who's involved with the program.

Dogs must pass free temperament and behavior testing and then be registered and insured with Therapy Dogs, Inc. For more information, call Saraceno at 477-8686.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Mothers and sons take note

An evening of dancing and entertainment is planned for Farmington Hills mothers and sons on Friday, Oct. 11.

The event, sponsored by the city's Department of Special Services, will take place 7-8:30 p.m. at the Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads.

The evening includes entertainment, dancing, music provided by a disc jockey, refreshments and a corsage for the mothers. Tickets are \$15 per couple and \$7.50 per additional son. Registration deadline is Friday, Oct.

4. Call 473-9570 for more information.

Tree planting planned

The annual Farmington Hills' memorial tree planting will take place at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, in Heritage Park, Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

Two trees, donated by the Hill and Dale Garden Club, will be planted in memory of former club members Janet Coull and Marylou Seldon. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the spring tree planting should contact George Morrow at 473-9530.

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.