

# Farmington Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**At the Y-M-C-A: Dignitaries and other folks celebrated the opening of the Farmington YMCA's new building additions./A3**

**Tapped In: Farmington Hills City Council approved the buying of computers for the youth center./A3**

**Cable able: Farmington area cable subscribers will have more to choose from on the TV dial./B4**

## MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Mall Halloween: Look for magic shows, spooky story hours, puppet performances and even trick or treating at your neighborhood shopping center./A8**

**Honor decor: From grinning ghosts to grim reapers with eyes that glow - almost every retailer is selling something to help you celebrate the holiday./A8**

## SPORTS

**Playoff hopes: Farmington Hills Harrison High's football team was out to keep its drive for the post-season alive against Livonia Franklin Friday night./C1**

**Hoop action: Farmington High and North Farmington High tipped off in a girls' basketball game./C1**

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## Downtown fest: Chance to bone up on Halloween tricks

**BY TODD WICKS**  
STAFF WRITER

Consider it pre-Halloween practice. Children are invited to downtown Farmington for the third-annual Halloween Fun Fest, sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) on Saturday, Oct. 26.

Trick-or-treating at most downtown shops begins at 11 a.m. There is a free petting zoo and pony rides, a moonwalk trampoline, and a puppet show featuring the Boo Brothers.

"Halloween is now the second most popular holiday after Christmas," said Judy Downey, executive director of the DDA. "This has been the best-attended event the DDA has ever sponsored. The downtown merchants have been very generous about opening their doors to the trick-or-treaters."

Last year, about 2,000 children came, and Downey expects more this year.

"Parents feel safer with kids trick-or-treating during the day. They're concerned about them going into neighborhoods where they don't know the people, and about the candy, too."

Metrobank is sponsoring a children's costume contest for kids up to age 12, and will offer four prizes of \$100 savings bonds. A pet costume contest will follow.

"We've always participated in Farmington civic events," said Rick Stafford, Metrobank marketing officer. "Anything that contributes to the community helps Metrobank grow."

Downtown businesses might also have something more than candy in store.

Cowley's Old Village Inn on Grand River will again offer a haunted tunnel for kids to go through, while next door, the Civic Theatre will offer free showings of the movie "Gremlins" at 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## Outbreak baffles health experts

**Health officials were searching for the origin of a Legionnaires' Disease outbreak in the Farmington area Friday. Other officials were trying to defuse any panic.**

**BY WILLIAM COUTANT**  
STAFF WRITER

Health officials continue to look in a six square-mile area of Farmington and Farmington Hills for the cause of an outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease that left two people dead and 12 hospitalized.

Oakland County Health Department officials became aware of the outbreak on "Tuesday or Wednesday"

of last week, according to Dr. Carolyn Bird, who spoke at a news conference Friday. The worst is believed to be over, Bird said.

"The risk is basically over," Bird said. "We may be having a few more cases reporting, but basically the data we have indicates the risk has been over for a couple of weeks now."

On Friday night, a 45-year-old

Farmington man was admitted to Botsford Hospital with Legionnaires'. He joined a list that included two men, 87 and 62, who were listed in serious condition; and a 28-year-old man and a woman, 74, in critical condition at Botsford.

Two were admitted on Oct. 7, one on Oct. 10 and the other on Oct. 11.

At Providence Hospital in Southfield, seven patients were admitted suffering from the disease. A Livonia man, 87, admitted Oct. 7 was in good condition, a Farmington man, 66, admitted Oct. 8, was in good condition and a Southfield man, 49,

admitted Oct. 13, was in critical but stable condition.

A Farmington woman, 74, was admitted Oct. 2 and died Oct. 8, a Providence Hospital spokesperson said.

Three patients were also treated and released: a Detroit woman, 66, who was admitted Sept. 17 and discharged Oct. 4; a Farmington man admitted Oct. 7 and discharged on Oct. 16; and a Farmington Hills man who was admitted on Oct. 2 and discharged on Oct. 8.

Another Farmington man, 45,



**On the mend: Ken Wallace, 70, hugs his wife of 50 years Marion in the back yard of their Farmington home. Ken Wallace, who was hospitalized 10 days with Legionnaires' and had a fever of 105.7 degrees, wants to stress that the disease is not contagious and it can be treated.**

## Disease survivor urges calm

**BY LARRY O'CONNOR**  
STAFF WRITER

While trying to stifle a persistent cough, Ken Wallace wants to quell some fears in the community where he and his family have lived for 40 years.

Wallace, 70, is recovering from Legionnaires' Disease. His is one of 14 cases reported as result of an outbreak, which has health officials trying to pinpoint a source for the bacteria in the Farmington area.

"If you stay healthy and you take care of yourself, this thing can be licked," said Wallace, who was released from Providence Hospital Oct. 16. "They have drugs that can take care of it."

"And most of all, it's not contagious."

Added Marion, his wife of 50 years: "I just saw a (TV report) of people down at Ram's Horn (restaurant on Grand River) and people think it's contagious and it's not. That's the point I'm trying to get out."

The Farmington resident sat with his wife in their livingroom, explaining the symptoms of Legionnaires' and his 10-day stay at Providence Hospital. Initially, the disease brought chills, vomiting and other flu-like symptoms, but developed into

## Cornucopia Ball harvesting money for youth

**BY WILLIAM COUTANT**  
STAFF WRITER

Even though it is only in its second year, the Cornucopia Ball is fast earning a permanent place on area social calendars.

The proceeds from the Nov. 9 ball go to the Farmington Hills Foundation for Children, Youth and Families. This year, the \$100 tickets and other donations will be tax deductible.

The program is run at the Costick Center, the site of the ball. The program will also use the YMCA beginning sometime this fall, and the ice arena, once the upstairs has been renovated.

Daguanno, a Farmington Hills attorney, said the event was a big success last year.

This year's black tie optional ball will feature a gourmet dinner, dancing and an auction.

The youth program began in March of this year thanks to a \$385,000 juvenile justice grant with city matching funds of \$200,000 that were budgeted from the parks and recreation millage.

"Those funds run out in December of 1998," Daguanno said of the grant. "At that point the foundation will take over."

For that reason, the foundation

## Cigar smokers get chance to prove they're puff stuff

**BY TODD WICKS**  
STAFF WRITER

If you see a thick haze of blue smoke over the Glen Oaks Golf Club Thursday, Oct. 24, don't call the fire department.

It's only the first annual Cigar Dinner Evening, hosted by the Farmington/Farmington Hills

Chamber of Commerce.

A new kind of business-and-pleasure function, the cigar evening is the now fashionable social event, with recent dinners held everywhere from the House of Blues to children's hospitals.



**Stogie success: Cigars are popular with men and women, judging by the opening of places like Smokers Only in Farmington Hills operated by Robert Thomas**

**A walk for the willies**

S pine-chilling, blood curdling, an eerie descent into the dark abyss... No, this is not an IRS audit but a reminder the Haunted Hike at Heritage Park takes place 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26. The usual suspects will be present: ghosts, ghouls and goblins.

Admission is \$3. The folks at the Farmington Hills Recreation Department, which is sponsoring the haunted walk, reminds people the hike is not recommended for children under age 7.

**Take a seat**

Farmington Hills City Council made two appointments to its boards and commissions, including one to the seat on the Parks and

**FARMINGTON FOCUS**

Recreation Commission vacated by recently-elected Councilman Jerry Ellis. Norma Henderson takes Ellis' spot on the parks commission while Elsie McKeown has been appointed to the city's 25th Anniversary Committee.

**A choice chat**

A public forum on cross-district school of choice will take place 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, at the Farmington Training Center, 39000 Thomas Street. Rick Simonson, assistant superintendent for Legislative Affairs for Oakland Schools, will present an overview on

the current law regarding school of choice within counties and how other districts have responded.

Part of the discussion will focus on how school of choice across district lines mean to the Farmington Public Schools.

**Building needed**

The Farmington Area Goodfollows need a building to store and pack toys and food items for needy families this holiday. Organizers are looking for 12,000-square feet to use between mid-November and December. Call Richard Tupper at 477-0600 for information.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48336; faxed to 477-3722; e-mailed to patchy@mail.oeonline.com.