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Uncorked: Farmington City Council members OK new beer, wine license applications for four restaurants. Now, it's up to the state./A2

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Grid outlook: Farmington Harrison plans to field another quality football team capable of contending for league and post-season titles./C1

ENTERTAINMENT

Movie preview: Fall movies are no laughing matter, at least as far as Hollywood is concerned./E1

REAL ESTATE

Back to school: Real estate professionals are having to learn a better way to use their computers./F1

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Respected by peers: Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said his selection to head an international organization of fire chiefs reflects the respect that the city's fire department gets in firefighting circles.

Chief of chiefs Marinucci's Hills experience shows to international fire chiefs group

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci is going international.

The city's longest serving fire department head has been elevated to president of the 43-nation International Association of Fire Chiefs. Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi and City Manager Daniel Hobbs attended Marinucci's swearing-in ceremony in Dallas Aug. 26.

"It points out what quality people we have in our public safety department," Vagnozzi said. "He'll do us proud."

"He's probably going to have to learn a few new languages," joked the mayor.

Marinucci, 43, was named the city's fire chief at the tender age of 30. Since then, the amiable chief, known to crack a joke or two, has sought respect and admiration from his peers.

An international post goes a long way in that regard. "You realize you've pretty reached the ultimate height within your profession; it's sort of like being named most valuable player for a year," Marinucci said. "It's a very humbling experience."

"I think sometimes when you get promoted at an early age, people don't always believe you've paid your dues, other qualified people were skipped over or maybe you're undeserving... To be respected by your peers I believe is very significant."

Part of his duties will be to serve as a goodwill ambassador. He'll also serve as chairman of the board of the directors, which sets the agenda for the association.

Marinucci will serve one year at the helm and then become the immediate past president the following year. The fire chief was first vice-president, a position that is automatically elevated to president. Vice presidents are elected.

Some travel will be involved, but Marinucci is used to that. Last year, he went to Stratford, England, as part of a fire chief exchange program.

Informational exchanges are crucial in fire fighting circles, Marinucci said.

Though the 12,000-member organization is predominantly made up of people from the U.S. and Canada, those from such countries as Australia, United Kingdom

Please see CHIEF, A6

Newest fire hall already saving time



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

City officials and residents can breathe a sigh of relief and say it's about time — the new Farmington Hills Fire Station No. 6 is officially open.

The element of time wove its way throughout dedication ceremonies Friday, Aug. 29, which were attended by 300 people in the new station, which opened in July as projected.

Harrison High's Jazz Band provided the musical beat while City Manager Daniel Hobbs kept time. Hobbs used a watch to underscore the importance of having a fully-operational station 24-hours a day.

Hobbs cited the cut in response times in two major fires recently: Firefighters were at Echo Valley Apartments in three minutes and they arrived at the Farmington Elks building in one.

Without the new state-of-the-art station on Orchard Lake and 11 Mile, those times would've been eight and seven minutes respectively.

"This is not just a pretty new building," Hobbs said. "This is a dramatic improvement in the response of a life or death service."

"I think those response times speak for themselves."

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi reiterated Hobbs' statements that it is the people who voted for the city's public safety millage who deserve credit for seeing the station become reality. If city officials keep their promises, residents will support their work, Vagnozzi said.

"This is really a tribute to the residents and the community," Vagnozzi said. "I wish all 80,000 people could be here to cut the ribbon."

Vagnozzi and fellow city council members joined fire personnel for

Please see STATION, A6

3rd suicide in 3 weeks riles police

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer is becoming frustrated, after the third assisted suicide in as many weeks has taken place in the city.

Police found the body of a Colorado Springs, Colo., man, 55, at Motel 6 on Grand River on Friday, Aug. 29, the victim of an apparent suicide. A 3-inch by 5-inch index card was discovered on the nightstand stating the man's name, the disease multiple sclerosis and attorney Geoffrey Fieger's phone number.

The body of right-to-die activist and Farmington Hills resident Janet Good was found in her Steels Street home. Good was suffering from pancreatic cancer. It's unclear whether Dr. Jack Kevorkian, a friend of Good's, presided over her death.

Another MS sufferer — a 34-year-old Long Beach, N.Y. woman — died through lethal injection at the Holiday Inn on 10 M. on Aug. 13. A note was found on the nightstand referring police to contact Kevorkian or Fieger.

Chief Bill Dwyer thinks that it's more than coincidence the body of Thomas Summerville was found on the same day of Good's funeral, though.

"It's very difficult to conduct these investigations because of the lack of cooperation from Mr. Fieger and Dr. Kevorkian," Dwyer said. "They normally leave the victim without any explanation. In most

Please see SUICIDE, A12

Giving time



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Blood need: Alex Mimikos of Farmington happily donates Tuesday as The American Red Cross collected 184 pints of badly needed blood during a special drive in Melissa Gar's name at Farmington Hills Fire Station No. 5. Some 209 people registered to donate, but some were deferred because of illness or donating too soon. Great Harvest Bread Company provided cookies and donors were given a coupon for a free loaf of bread. Bean & Bagel provided 30 meals to volunteers who worked all day. The line was cut off at 7:30 p.m. after an overwhelming response. Those who registered were called and referred to donor centers.

Few questioners swayed by district's bond answers

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

Dave Schneider, Sam Rolick, Mike Mrozovich and Linda Spranger each helped defeat Farmington Public Schools' bond issue in March.

Yet they were among the 20 or 25 people who joined the administrators and board members at a question and answer forum Tuesday in Duncel Middle School's cramped media center.

They looked at a poorly adjusted overhead projector, listened to school officials explain the rationale behind the two-part \$93.1 million plan going before the voters Sept. 16 and they joined others in the audience by asking questions.

They weren't bowled over by the answers.

After the meeting, Schneider was still set against the plan. "My negative view is because of the size of the

(tax) increase," he said.

Rolick was still questioning the smaller-priced request: "I think they could have squeezed more out of it," he said. He was glad the computers were taken out of the plan, since he isn't convinced that they increase students' aptitude.

"I voted against it last time," Mrozovich said after the session, "because I really don't feel comfortable with the economics being exercised by the school district. Are all these projects really necessary?"

Mrozovich, though, was

For more bond coverage, see Page A3



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Deep need: The Farmington High School pool will be deepened if Proposal II of the bond is approved by voters Sept. 16.

happy that the bond cut the price — from \$110 million last time — and that the district was paying back its bonds quicker.

"There is better planning

Please see BOND, A12

Laughing to the bank

Farmington Hills' top elected and appointed officials shared some good-natured barbs last week, at the new Fire Station No. 6 Open House.

City Manager Dan Hobbs noted his place on the speech list as being ahead of Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi — something he appreciated because the more serious Hobbs usually follows the more humorous Vagnozzi.

When it was his turn, Vagnozzi just had to comment:

"He gets paid for being serious (indicating Hobbs) and with what I get paid, it's a laugh," Vagnozzi said.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Chief McKinnon speaks Sept. 11

The Farmington and Farmington Hills Multicultural-Multiracial Community Council is hosting its second annual community gathering and kick-off rally at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, at the William Costick Activities Center, located at 28600 11 Mile Road.

Keynote speakers will be Detroit Police Chief Ian

McKinnon and Detroit Renaissance President Paul Hillemonds. The rally is free and open to the public.

The sounds of bottles, cans

Farmington High School's Music Department hosts a bottle and can drive on Sunday, Sept. 7, with proceeds to benefit the school's choir, orchestra, symphonic band, jazz band, color guard and marching band.

To help, put bags bottles and cans outside your front door before 11 a.m. Sunday. The students will collect bugs by the afternoon.