

Farmington Observer



Thursday
October 16, 1997
SERVING THE COMMUNITY
FOR 110 YEARS

Putting You In Touch With Your World™

VOLUME 111 NUMBER 6

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 102 PAGES • <http://observer-ocentric.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1997 HomeTown CommunityConnection Network, Inc.

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Showtime: A new theater complex is set to join the burgeoning shopping and restaurant complex at 14 Mile and Haggerty./A3

COMMUNITY LIFE



Better than TV: Students hit the snack line, above, then hit the books, horns or hoop courts at the new after-school Warner Middle School Youth Center./B1

ENTERTAINMENT

Dining: Sporting a facelift, The Golden Mushroom celebrates 25 years of upscale fine dining./E8

INDEX

Oakland Journal	A14
Oakland Digest	A16
Police, fire calls	A18
Weddings	B3,5
Beliefs & Values	B9-11
Sports	C1
Calendar	C7
Obituaries	C9
Classified Index	H2
Real Estate	H2
Crossword	H3
Employment	H6
Rentals	H6
Service Guide	J6
Automotive	J7
At Home	D6
Entertainment	E1
Movie Guide	E6
Real Estate	F1

Mayor, developer trade verbal jabs



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mayor Aide Vagnozzi was scolded by a city council member for being too rough on a developer at Monday's meeting. Vagnozzi went after Phoenix Land Development president Steven Schafer for not being sensitive to the neighbors of his project. Schafer and councilman Jon Grant said those assertions are

unfair. Phoenix Land Development has six developments in various stages in the city. Schafer was before council to get final approval of the preliminary plat for a proposed 26-lot development north of 10 Mile and east of Orchard Lake. Council voted 6-1 with Vagnozzi dissenting. Councilman Terry Sever asked Schafer about increasing the retention basin to handle water runoff and the developer agreed.

"Tell me what you want and I'll give it to you," said Schafer, noting the planned retention basin is already 30 percent larger than required by city code. Such willingness to be amenable rankled Vagnozzi, who complained about another Phoenix development where new homes dwarf existing ranch dwellings. "We've raised issues and you brush them off," Vagnozzi said. "I think we ought to take both into consideration, the residents and the developer."

There is such a thing as getting along with your neighbor." At one point, Schafer appeared angered and said the development in question was approved by city council. Sever tried to calm the builder. "You're not going to win an argument with the mayor; just keep your cool," Sever said. Grant interjected, "I'm bothered by an unfair attack on this proposition. It seems to be every time this proposition: Please see JABS, A2

Governor's visit reus students at Forest

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Depending on which Forest Elementary School pupil you talked to, Gov. John Engler's visit Tuesday morning was either cool or like getting the royal treatment. But there was no disputing the reason Engler showed up at the Farmington district school, where he briefly talked to the entire student body, staff members and parents.

Engler awarded the 1997 Governor's Blue Ribbon Award for Educational Excellence to Forest, for the perfect score earned by all 38 students who took the math portion in last year's Michigan Educational Assessment Program. A plaque was handed out, with the proviso it remain displayed inside Forest and not in "some administration building," a quip that prompted laughter throughout the gymnasium.

Blue ribbons also were distributed to: last year's Forest Elementary principal, Katy Hill, who now is at the helm at William Grace Elementary; current principal Lloyd Lewis; and faculty members Kathy Koperski, Connie Qualman, Cathy Smith and Pat Wagner, who comprised the team of teachers that played an important role in the students' perfect score.

Last, but not least, blue ribbons also were given to Engler's 38 students, who were seated behind him during his speech. Each youngster came up to the podium for their awards, getting a unique chance to meet the governor.

Engler, before handing out ribbons to the youngsters, talked about the gains being made in Michigan's public education system.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER

"There has been a lot of debate about how well we are doing," Engler said. "We're just making a lot of headway, and you can't do that without everybody working together." In the final analysis, it's all about the kids. It could be about all of you and it certainly is about those fifth graders here who as fourth graders were so outstanding. You might also know that they were 'this close' to being perfect in reading, too. We almost had a double-double.

He then encouraged the school to keep up the good record. "I know Forest Elementary is going to be recognized many more times in the future." The appearance was described as "kind of cool"



Honored: Forest's blue ribbon award winners, above, look happy. At left, fifth grader Jennifer Burstein accepts her ribbon from Gov. John Engler at an assembly Tuesday to honor the school's perfect math scores in fourth grade MEAP tests last year.

by fifth grader Evan Silverman, among the blue ribbon recipients.

"I got to meet the governor," said Evan, adding that the assembly should show others the benefits

Please see FOREST, A8

Man charged in Hills liquor store holdup

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Detroit man, 24, has been charged in the mid-afternoon armed robbery of a Farmington Hills liquor store. Two masked men made off with nearly \$12,000 — not \$20,000 as previously reported — after one of them produced a silver handgun and jumped over the counter at Mr. B's Liquor on Grand River at 3 p.m. Sept. 19.

Diamond Shilov Craft, 24, of Detroit will face a preliminary exam at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 20, on armed robbery charges. Craft is in jail in lieu of posting \$75,000 cash bond.

He was also charged with marijuana possession after police found the drug on him during his arrest Oct. 6. Farmington Hills police arrested Craft and a witness identified one of the men involved in the robbery from a photograph. Police had a photo as a result of an arrest involving the same man on a misdemeanor traffic warrant three days earlier.

Because the detectives knew he worked in the area of the armed robbery and noted that he had a criminal history and that he matched the description, the officers had a photographic lineup," said Chuck Nebus, Hills police commander.

"A witness saw him before he put on the mask and go inside the store." Police are still searching for a second man involved.

A 42-year-old woman and 50-year-old man were shoved to the floor and a cashier was ordered to lie down during the armed heist. After emptying the cash register, the pair fled out the rear of the building and drove off in a light blue vehicle, witnesses said. Police found a nylon stocking and a ski-type mask cut from a sweater outside of the building.

Grant pushes tech needs to trim costs

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to technology, the city of Farmington Hills is something akin to a tricycle trying chase a fast-moving ice cream truck.

Jon Grant wants another council term to peddle technology's importance and get it implemented into city offices. The veteran council member is involved in the city's technology task force, which he says is sorely needed.

"The city is way behind; The city is not even networked between departments," said Grant, 46, who is seeking his fourth term on council. "The demand for tax dollars in the '80s were heavily focused on quality of life issues and there's only so many dollars and technology seemed to keep taking a backseat."

Updated computers are starting to see their way into city offices. Without them, the city couldn't control costs, Grant said.



Name: Jon Grant
Age: 46
Resident: 41 years
Job: owner, Reliance Group printing.
Community: 3 terms on city council.
Family: married, three children.

Technology streams into a myriad of issues for Grant, who is a North Farmington High graduate. He wants to see the Children, Youth & Families teen centers continue to grow and for the city's bountiful and plush parks to remain appealing for both nature lovers and sports enthusiasts.

He's also active in the Eight Mile Road Boulevard Association, which is joint effort by counties and cities to

Please see GRANT, A6

10-year drug case ends amid sentence debate

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A sentencing later this month could bring a close to a Farmington man's drug case that's lingered for 10 years, involving a fugitive apprehension team, extradition hearings and, eventually, the Canadian Supreme Court.

But it opens another debate about mandatory sentencing laws. Daniel Jamieson, 36, is expected to receive 10 years in jail in exchange for pleading guilty to delivery of between 16-225 grams of cocaine related to a police undercover narcotics buy in Farmington. He will be sentenced 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, in Oakland County Drug Court.

Jamieson's attorney asked his client is expected to receive credit for time served, which included being jailed in the notorious Centre de Prevention Parthenais. The facility was closed in 1995 partly because of its inhumane conditions.

Canadian authorities returned

Jamieson to the U.S. in 1996 after a lengthy extradition process. Jamieson had fled to Canada after his arrest in 1986 and was subsequently apprehended in a Montreal bar in 1990 where he worked as a bounceur under an alias.

Jamieson fought his deportation and a Quebec court backed him, saying Michigan's mandatory drug laws were too harsh. The Canadian Supreme Court overturned the lower court's decision in March 1996.

At the time, delivery of cocaine carried a mandatory 20 to 30-year jail sentence in the state. That has since been lowered to 10- to 20-years, a prosecuting attorney said.

"He gets the benefit of the change in the law," said Paul Stablein, Oakland County prosecuting attorney. "Even though we initially felt he should've been penalized for the mandatory 20 years — what it was when he committed it — our appellate division felt the Court of Appeals

Please see DRUGS, A2

No link yet in 2 nearby Legionnaires' cases

BY GREG KOVALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Two known cases of Legionnaires' disease in the area don't qualify as an outbreak, but county health officials do find the proximity of the patients unusual.

Michael Bishop, 40, of Wisom, died Monday morning in the intensive care unit of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. "We had a little talk with

(Bishop's) family about what he's been doing," said Dr. Carolyn Bird, chief of medical services for the Oakland County Health Division. There doesn't seem to be a link but the proximity of the two cases does seem to be too coincidental, she said.

In another case, a 55-year-old Walled Lake man suffering from Legionnaires' disease is being treated "aggressively" with antibiotics in Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital.

"He's doing well," hospital spokeswoman Susan Hoppel said Tuesday. "He's stable and improving." He was expected to be released from the hospital in a few days, she said.

The man was not being identified and the family has denied all requests for an interview, she said. However, she did confirm that he was admitted to the hospital in Commerce Township on Tuesday, Oct. 7 suffering from flu-like symptoms.

Hoppel said there are no other Legionnaires' cases at the hospital.

Bishop was admitted last week to the hospital, suffering from flu-like symptoms. He died at 9 a.m. Monday. An autopsy performed Tuesday confirmed he died from Legionnaires' disease.

Hospital spokeswoman Sonja Berry of St. Joseph Mercy said there are no

Please see HEALTH, A4