

Farmington Observer

HomeTown
Putting you in touch
with your world

Thursday
August 20, 1998

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 111 years

VOLUME 111 NUMBER 94 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 80 PAGES • http://observer.eccentric.com • SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS © 1998 HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

School trustee Joe Svoke resigns

So long: Not wanting to burden his colleagues or the community with potential conflict of interest, Joseph Svoke announces his resignation Tuesday night.



Farmington school board Secretary Joe Svoke resigned after accepting a post with an electrical firm that does business with the district. A search for his successor began immediately.

For Joseph Svoke, serving on the Farmington Board of Education has always meant taking the high road, doing the right thing and asking the "tough questions."

It never meant putting the district and community into a potentially thorny position. That is why Svoke, with two years remaining on his second four-year term, resigned during Tuesday night's board meeting. The decision was prompted by Svoke's mid-July hiring with RCI Electric of Farmington Hills, a firm that is doing bond issue construction-related work at Farmington High School.

See related story page A3

"Educational leadership and budget control must stay at the top of your list," said Svoke, holding back obvious emotion as he read a prepared statement. "You don't have the time or the energy to be wasting, fighting and addressing any perception of an integrity problem."

As Svoke read the statement, others on the board sat stunned, even though board President Gathly Webb knew Sunday night about the pending resignation.

Please see SVOKE, A3

IN THE PAPER TODAY

OPINION

Take charge: Residents should continue to make noise about their flooding problems and the city should take action. /A14

COMMUNITY LIFE

Vintage: You may not know it, but the first woman architect in Michigan, Emily Butterfield, hailed from Farmington. Butterfield, who died in 1958, was an author and artist. /B1

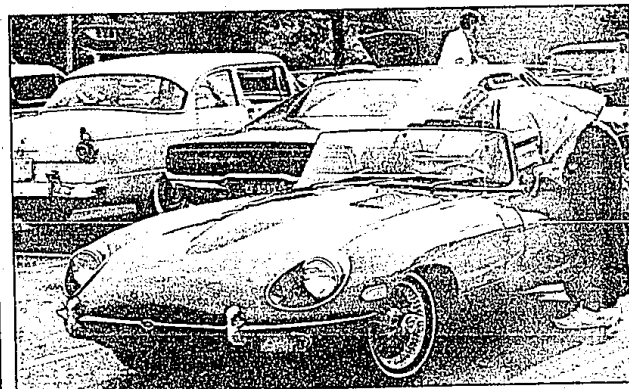
SPORTS

Soccer preview: With All-Observer forward Tim Rais returning, the Farmington Falcons have an optimistic outlook for the 1998 boys soccer season. /C1

City champions: Led by sophomore varsity substitute, North Farmington defeated its city rivals in the annual all-Farmington golf tournament. /C1

INDEX

Police and Fire	A14
Classified Index	C2
Real Estate	G4
Crossword	G5
Jobs	H4
Home & Service	J2
Automotive	J6
Opinion	A12-13
Community Life	B1
Calendar	C6
Real Estate	F1



Proud: Richard Fritz drove from Redford Township to enter his 1970 Jaguar E-type in the "Cruise the Grand" in downtown Farmington Monday night.

Cruise Hoping for a classic

The experiment of closing down State Street for the "Cruise the Grand" display in downtown Farmington is one Roger Ratkowski hopes becomes a classic itself.

Ratkowski said Monday night's classic car cruise drew 267 registered cars — significantly more than the usual 200-220 vehicles the summer-long events have attracted.

"The one-time deal of having the cars on State Street really helped a lot," Ratkowski said Tuesday. "It was a great learning experience."

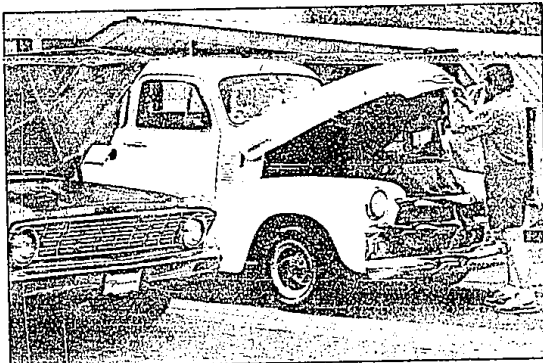
Last weekend's Woodward Dream Cruise also was a factor in the larger crowd, said Ratkowski, owner of "Cruise the Grand" co-sponsor The Pasta Stop. Pogo's Food & Spirits is also a co-sponsor.

In order to accommodate the vintage vehicles, State was shut down one hour earlier than for the previous

Please see CARS, A4



Take a look: Richard Fritz shows off the engine of his Jaguar while Richard Larabee (at right) pops the hood of wife Marsha's 1955 Chevy pickup truck. The city closed State Street an hour earlier Monday to accommodate the vintage vehicles.



Farmington couple dies in crash

Steven and Colleen Maxson of Farmington shared a common love of motorcycles and died while riding one.

That's how they will be remembered by their colleagues, family and friends, according to a co-worker.

"These two people met on a motorcycle and that's how they died," said Lucarella Wright, a Detroit police officer who worked with Steven Maxson for three years. "It was a love story."

Steven, 66, and Colleen, 64, were killed Saturday, Aug. 15, in Livingston County's Genoa Township, near Howell, reportedly while riding to a motorcycle convention. The couple's cycle was headed west toward Howell on Grand River when they were struck by a car pulling out of a cross street. They died at McPherson Hospital in Howell.

The couple was wearing helmets and had the right of way, according to police reports. The car that struck the couple was reportedly driven by

Please see CRASH, A4

Hills teen won't forget



Summer job: Steve Economy displays the identification badge used in his job as a Capitol page.

I had just gotten off work when a couple kids told me they'd heard shots over their walkie-talkies.

Stephen Economy
—Senate page

believe what happened. The kids were real stunned. We watched the same (footage on television) for two or three hours.

A brief panic was felt in the dorm room when they realized one of their fellow pages was sent on a run but had gotten the destination wrong, nearly putting him in the shooting scene, Economy said.

That same panic was felt several states away in Farmington Hills, when Economy's mother Tula feared her son might have been hurt — or worse.

"I just happened to turn on the television and see the news (of the shoot-

Please see TEEN, A4

Marathoners to go the distance in city

Whenever bombings occur, such as last week's in Omagh, Northern Ireland, someone typically loses an arm or leg. An event planned for this October in downtown Farmington intends to help make it possible to help such victims restore their lives as much as possible.

The event, dubbed the "ZZAM 24 Hour Marathon of Hope," will take place from 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, until 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, to raise awareness and donations for Make-A-Difference, a Detroit-based nonprofit organization which strives to fit child amputees with artificial limbs.

Former Farmington High School All-State distance runner David Clinard told city council members Monday night that he has his sights set on completing 100 miles during the marathon.

"If you did the math," Clinard explained, "that's a 14- or 15-minute mile. It's plausible."

Clinard and other runners will solicit sponsorships for donations

The 'ZZAM 24 Hour Marathon of Hope' will be 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, until 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, to raise awareness and donations for Make-A-Difference, a Detroit-based nonprofit organization that strives to fit child amputees with artificial limbs.

and the roster of participants could grow to between 25-50.

"We think we can draw a lot of attention to a very fine community and a very fine cause," said David Williams during Monday night's Farmington City Council meeting, where the request to hold the

Please see RUN, A2



6 53174 10005 4