

Farmington Observer

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AHEAD

SUNDAY

Picnic at the park: Members of the Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison high school bands will perform for guests at a community picnic beginning at 5 p.m. at Nardin Park United Methodist, 29887 11 Mile. Bring a picnic dinner.

TUESDAY

Meet: The school board will meet at 7:30 p.m. for their regular meeting at the Lewis Schulman Administration Building, 32500 Shiawassee.

WEDNESDAY

Special: The Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals will meet at 7:30 p.m. at city hall, 31555 11 Mile. The board will address two cases: a temporary structure for an MRI on Northwestern Highway; and variances for lot sizes for property at Medbury and Middlebelt.

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Deadline nears for school seat

The Farmington Board of Education this week will hold interviews with candidates interested in filling the school board vacancy created by the Aug. 18 resignation of Secretary Joseph Svoke.

Board President Cathy Webb said that, as of Thursday, two people had taken out applications to be interviewed for the job. Those applications will remain available at the district offices, located at 32500 Shiawassee, until 4:30 p.m. Monday.

The first round of interviews will take place 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, with a second round scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday and conclude when a decision is made. The board intends to then appoint the new trustee.

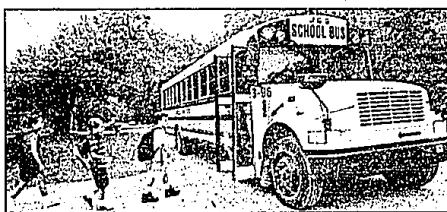
Whoever gets the nod will serve until the June 1999 school board election. At that time, voters will elect someone to serve the final year of Svoke's term, which expires in 2000.

Svoke resigned at mid-term to

Please see SEAT, A3

Near miss prompts concern for kids

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER
For some reason, when 6-year-old Scott Lawrence-Weak crossed Eldred Street Thursday morning to catch the school bus, he hesitated instead of making his usual dash. It might have saved his life. When Scott slowed down, a blue car zoomed right past the Clarenceville school bus - even though the bus had its red flashing lights on and stop sign extended from the side. By state law, motorists are supposed to stop within a safe distance of buses when red flashers and signs are activated. Scott attends Grandview Elementary School in the Clarenceville district, which began classes last week.



On their way: Scott Lawrence-Weak, Besnik Xhilaj and Amina Xhilaj board the school bus.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESELER

CLARENCEVILLE

lights on and stop sign extended from the side. By state law, motorists are supposed to stop within a safe distance of buses when red flashers and signs are activated.

Scott attends Grandview Elementary School in the Clarenceville district, which began classes last week.

The Farmington district starts the 1998-99 year tomorrow.

"This person barreled right through," said his mother, Farmington Hills resident Lynda Lawrence-Weak. "Someone was watching over his shoulder, because Scott stopped running for some reason. The car missed him by inches."

Concurring was the bus driver,

Please see BUS, A3

School starts Monday

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER
Farmington schools students return to classes Monday, and will be met with something new and something old.

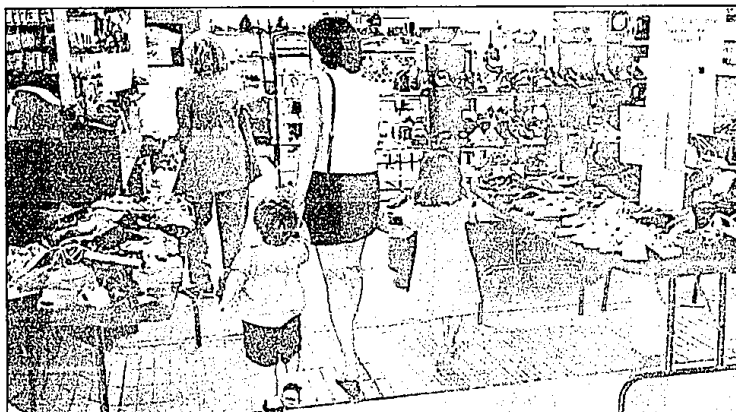
FARMINGTON

There will be new teachers and principals, old lunch prices and new start-up times, the latter for elementary children.

Old-style Saturday afternoon football will be back, for one last hurrah. And, oh, yeah, there's a new high school

Please see FIRST DAY, A4

Kindergarten shop



Stop No. 1: Farmington Hills resident Amy Lazare, daughter Cara, 5, and son Jarrett, 3½, step into Greg Shoes in West Bloomfield, to buy new shoes for her kindergartner.



If it fits: Above, Amy Lazare helps Cara try on some shoes. Below, mom and brother watch as Cara models a pair she especially liked.

She shops, gets ready to step into kindergarten



Jump start: Cara shows how much she likes these black leather shoes.

Editor's Note: Check out Thursday's Farmington Observer for the story and pictures of Cara's first day in kindergarten.

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER

It's a universal feeling for parents of new kindergartners. Will they lose it when their son or daughter finally leaves home for the first day of school?

Tomorrow is when parents such as Amy Lazare find out. But until then, preparing children for the home-to-school rite of passage - although not like a walk in the park - certainly is a walk in the mall.

"Getting her on the bus is probably what will make the difference for me. Time will tell," said Lazare of Farmington Hills, who

Part 1 of 2 **'She's all bubbles and bows.'**

Amy Lazare -mom

recently took 5-year-old daughter Cara to Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield for new school shoes and outfits. Also making the trip was 3 1/2-year-old son Jarrett.

Cara, whose dad is Mark Lazare, will attend Wood Creek Elementary School in the Farmington district. Her teacher will be Dawn Frederick.

The Lazares weren't the only

Please see CARA, A3



It's not too early to think about the general election

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI STAFF WRITER

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters won't be faced with local city elections this November. But they will be faced with decisions in state and county races, as well as two statewide ballot issues.

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 3 general election is by the end of business Monday, Oct. 5, in both the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Registration may be complet-



ed at either city hall, any Michigan Secretary of State office or with a mail-in form - which must be posted by the deadline - available at the same

Please see ELECTION, A4

Residents: No more concrete

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM STAFF WRITER

About 20 Farmington Hills residents told the city council they'd rather see neighbors' yards when they look outside than 466 parking spaces.

The Farmington Hills City Council Aug. 24 voted 6-0 to deny a request by Arie Leibovitz, of Arie-EI Enterprises Inc., to rezone 3 1/2 acres from single family residential to vehicular parking district. The property is behind the Old Orchard Theater, north of 12 Mile. The property does not have street frontage.

Councilwoman Vickie Barnett was

absent.

The property sits in the back yards of four lots. The rear portions of those lots were sold by the owners years ago.

Joe Galvin, who spoke on Leibovitz' behalf, said the property, though zoned residential, is unusable as such.

"This land can't be used under the current design," Galvin told council. "I know that what I ask you to do is not popular but it is correct."

His comments elicited a chorus of "That's the way we like it" and "Let it be" from Park Hill residents.

Please see CONCRETE, A2



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