

Farmington Observer

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AHEAD

Spring: Farmington residents are reminded that yard waste will be picked up.

MONDAY

Agenda: The Farmington Hills City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

TUESDAY

Meet: The Farmington Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. in board offices, 32500 Shiwasssee.

WEDNESDAY

Open: Warner Mansion / Farmington Historical Museum, 33805 Grand River, has reopened. Museum hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays and to groups by special arrangements. Adult admission is \$1 donation.

THURSDAY

Plan: The Farmington Hills Planning Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers.

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FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Editor's note: From now until the debut of the Festival of the Arts April 25-May 2 at the William Costick Activities Center, we will highlight the myriad of clubs and organizations that comprise the Farmington Community Arts Council, which hosts the weeklong festival.

Farmington Area Philharmonic

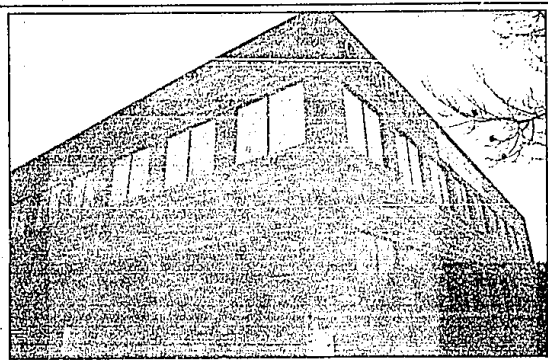
By no means amateurs, the 70 members of the Philharmonic are professional, union musicians from the Farmington area and surrounding suburbs. "About 20 percent of them are from the Farmington area," said Karen Nixon-Lane, conductor.

In the past, the Philharmonic has performed at Mercy, as well as all of the high schools, including in Brighton and other suburbs, as well as the Redford Theater.

Hill and Dale Garden Club

The 50-member club is committed to broadening gardening knowledge, stimulating interest in horticulture and conservation, and garden therapy, said Marvle Steiger, who represents the club.

Please see ARTS, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEEZER

Announcement: Compuware and Detroit officials announced Friday they have agreed in principle to move the company's corporate headquarters to Detroit.

Compuware moves closer to Detroit

Farmington Hills officials say they are disappointed with Compuware's intended move to Detroit, but add that the decision isn't final yet.

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills city officials were disappointed about talks last week of Compuware Corporation possibly moving its corporate headquarters to the city of

Detroit. But their move from Farmington Hills probably wouldn't be devastating, city officials also said.

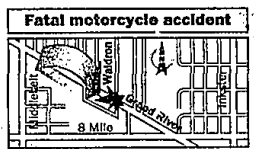
Compuware announced Friday that it had reached an agreement in principle to move Compuware's corporate headquarters to downtown Detroit. The new headquarters building would anchor Detroit's Campus Martius development in the heart of the Detroit's central business district,

Please see MOVE, A4

Motorcyclist killed after broadsiding van

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

A day that started out ideal for riding a motorcycle ended in tragedy Thursday for a young motorcyclist, described by co-workers as easygoing and talented.



Fatal motorcycle accident

Mark Durand, 24, of Commerce Township, died after his motorcycle, which was heading southbound on Waldron, collided with a van heading westbound on Grand River. The accident occurred at about 5:30 p.m.

Lt. Gary Hawald of the Farmington Hills Police Department said Durand, who was wearing a helmet, was pronounced dead a short time later at nearby Botsford Hospital.

Witnesses told police Durand disregarded the stop sign at Grand River and broadsided the westbound van. The van driver was uninjured and had no passengers.

The investigation is still under way, but charges are not likely to be filed against anyone, according to Hawald.

Durand had apparently just pulled out of the driveway of Richard Tool And Die Corp., 28600 Grand River, where he had worked since November.

Company president Rick Heidrich said Durand had made quite an impression on co-workers.

"In that short time he'd really become an important part of our organization," Heidrich said. "He was a super-sharp guy."

He was working as a die detailer in the company's design department and was also performing network administrator duties.

"He was a very talented young man," he said. "Everybody in our company is just devastated - he had an incredible future ahead of him."

"He was one of those guys who didn't grab attention by being loud," Heidrich added. "He got along with everyone."

Funeral arrangements were pending as of Friday afternoon

Please see FATAL A4

YOUR LOCAL LIBRARIES GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI • STAFF WRITER

As diverse as are the communities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Garden City, Westland, the Plymouth, Canton, Redford and Livonia, one thing is certain: the libraries remain perhaps the most popular and well-used institution in each community.

That's true whether the library began in old Farmington schoolhouses, a Livonia storefront, a fire hall in Redford, or as a brand new multimillion dollar building in Westland.

From their beginnings, libraries in each of our communities were faced with a common problem - once they existed, you couldn't keep people away from them.

That fact holds true today, despite increased disposable income that would allow an average patron to buy books, CDs, a computer - maybe even a copying machine.

Ask anyone on the street about libraries and they will likely tell you that a library is a gateway to all kinds of information. The challenge today - compared to the late 1800s when the Farmington library started, or the 1950s when the Livonia library began, or 1980 when Canton's took shape - is how you choose to access that information.

Today is the start of National Library Week. We chose this edition of the Observer to tell you about libraries and how they've changed. Where once you had to use a cumbersome card catalog to find a book or magazine, today you turn on a computer for the same - and even more - information.

But it all comes at a cost.

Each day, more demands are put on libraries for materials and computer services - and for space. Take a look at some of our libraries and the pushes for expansion. The Plymouth District Library last year opened a new and larger library on the site where the former library stood. The Farmington Hills branch will be expanded and improvements made at the branch in downtown Farmington. A couple of years ago, Westland - its residents had used other communities' libraries - finally opened its own library.

Today, Livonia has three branches. In Canton, plans are under way to expand the library by another 21,000 square feet.

As with any type of financing, it's never easy to understand. But we will give you some idea of just what goes into a library budget and where the money comes from. The changes

have also affected how libraries are staffed, as well as created a need for more volunteers.

Despite our computer age, books remain as popular as ever. Some libraries, such as Farmington, have increased their book budgets because patrons still demand the latest titles and still demand books that you might not readily find in a bookstore. And if you can't find it in your local library, the staff will get it for you through an interlibrary loan. The same goes for CDs, video tapes, record albums, cassettes - well, you name it.

The truth is, people love libraries and they are - if not already - increasingly becoming gathering places in a community. The library of old where children were continually hushed are now replaced with study areas where students may talk. In others, large easy chairs have replaced straight-backed chairs so patrons may have a casual hour reading a book in front of a fireplace.

And in still others, we hear rumblings that a nice coffee bar would be a tremendous stride to further making a library a place where you can relax, or start some serious research. It's all in how you choose to use your library.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEEZER

Changing times: In every library in Farmington, Plymouth, Canton, Westland, Garden City, Livonia and Redford, you will see scenes like this - the changing ways of libraries - with patrons at a keyboard tapping into information around the world.

LIBRARIES IN CYBERSPACE

If you're looking for information in cyberspace, a good place to start is:

- Michigan Electronic Library - www.mel.org
- This internet site will also link you to libraries in your community.
- Here's your library's Web site address:
- Canton Public Library www.metrotel.lib.mi.us/canton
- Farmington Public Library www.metrotel.lib.mi.us/FCL/aboutour.html
- Garden City Public Library www.garden-city.lib.mi.us
- Livonia Public Library www.livonia.lib.mi.us
- Plymouth District Library www.plymouth.lib.mi.us
- Redford Township District Library www.redford.lib.mi.us
- William P. Faust Public Library of Westland www.westland.lib.mi.us
- This Web site links you to The Library Network, which Westland is a member of. Click on TLN Member Libraries for information about the Westland Public Library.

Local librarians help patrons find their way on the Web

BY KEELY WYGNOK
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Information comes in lots of different packages at your neighborhood public library. You can still check out books, but there are options too including books on tape, CDs, cassettes, and videos.

Many libraries provide access to the Internet, and some have fax machines too. Librarians can help you find the book you're looking for, and a Web site that contains up-to-the-minute information about what's happening in Kosovo.

Students working on papers no longer have to worry about getting to the library before their classmates to check out books. There's plenty of information for everyone on the Internet, and more than one copy. Some libraries, including Canton,

See related stories, Page D8

Farmington, Livonia, Plymouth, and Westland regularly offer classes to help you find what you're looking for on the Internet.

If you live in Canton, Farmington, or Farmington Hills, you can apply for a Metro Net Account at the library and access the Internet, and specialized data bases from home.

"Information technology is not a fad. There are more resources available digitally," said Farmington Public Library Director Beverly Pappal.

Think of the Internet as a gateway - it gives you access to the World Wide Web, the part of the Internet that contains pictures, text, sound and graphics.

"More and more resources will be available through the Internet," pre-

dicts Joan Elmouchi, director of the Garden City Public Library. "Some things previously available in purchased format will be Internet based." Garden City has two Internet stations at its library. They're gateways to a world of information, some of which isn't available on your home computer.

"The library program Access Michigan is bringing informational data bases to libraries through the Internet," she said. "They're very powerful data bases that are expensive to subscribe to."

Most libraries charge a nominal fee, usually 10 cents a page, to print copies of information you find on the Internet.

"But if you find an article you want for your research, you can send it to your e-mail address at home instead of

Please see WEB, A5

