

# Farmington Observer

Thursday  
April 29, 1999

Hometown  
Putting you in touch  
with your world

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 112 years

## Controversial plan revised



And the beat goes on with the Malan project at Orchard Lake/14 Mile/Northwestern. Revised plans mean the city won't need to chip in money to make the project a reality. Meanwhile, residents still aren't happy.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oc.hometown.com

A developer has pulled back the hand that asked for city money, but residents whose property he needs to option to make the plan reality still have theirs extended.

On Monday, Malan Realty gave Farmington Hills City Council members a revised "conceptual" plan for the controversial commercial and residential development on the Orchard Lake, 14 Mile and Northwestern triangle.

A yet-to-be named major tenant has been relocated while a residential por-

See related story, Page A4

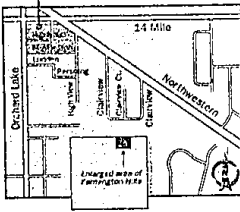
tion includes senior housing. With the changes, Malan officials make up a projected \$6 million shortfall they asked the city to defray.

Malan officials also said they have options on slightly more than half the land needed. However, that only includes one-third of residential property in Clairview and Highview subdivisions.

Many holdouts attended Monday's

Please see PROJECT, A4

### Proposed development



## TODAY

### FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEESER

Pretty cool: Elliot Lourie, Gerald McClain, Michael Taub and Shera Dines watch artist Jim Patterson work on a watercolor sketch at the Festival of the Arts. For more information and photos turn to A7. Also meet the new Artist in Residence, OCC art professor Robert Piepenburg, and May Arvo, Service to the Arts winner./B1

### LOCAL

Our way: Philip Power, owner of Hometown Communications Network, which owns the Farmington Observer, speaks to the Farmington Exchange Club./A3

### INDEX

Obituaries	A14
Classified Index	G4
Real Estate	G4
Crossword	G5
Jobs	H3
Home & Service	H12
Automotive	J2
Opinion	A12-13
Sports	C1
Entertainment	E1
Real Estate	F1

## A leader Ladd trains to help

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oc.hometown.com

In the afternoon sun, his mane shines like the gold stowed in Fort Knox. Onco fully trained, Ladd's worth to a person who is blind will be priceless by comparison.

Farmington Hills resident Carl Lewis is raising the 7-month-old golden retriever for Rochester-based Leader Dogs for the Blind. Lewis puts Ladd through his paces every day, which includes regular visits to a shopping center.

"He's coming along very well," said Lewis, who is a first-time puppy trainer in the program.

Lewis wants the dog to get used to the bustle of public places, which is a coveted skill for canines who serve as eyes for people who are blind.

On Monday, Ladd stood by his short-term master while three members of the Farmington Area Lions solicited donations as part of their weeklong fund-raising drive.

Lions raise money for Leader Dogs for the Blind as well as numerous other programs for people with physical disabilities. Last year, the Farmington group generated \$4,000.

Coins shook and dollar bills unfurled from passers-by outside Kroger on 12 Mile and Halsted. Asked if Ladd's presence was having a positive effect on donations, Lions

Please see LADD, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEESER

Ladd meets dad: Alex Saewdy and his mom, Kim meet Ladd, a golden retriever being raised by Carl Lewis for Leader Dogs for the Blind. Lion Dick Carvell watches.

Please see LADD, A5

## Littleton: Cities, schools set up hotline

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@oc.hometown.com

Communities all around the United States are grasping for answers as to what prompted the Littleton, Colo., high school shootings. They are also brainstorming what to do if such a tragedy ever occurred at home.

See related letter, Page A13

The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills are no different. Civic, school and police leaders are discussing emergency protocol, setting up a hotline and coordinating a Thursday, May 13, community forum where such issues will be discussed.

The May 13 forum is tentatively slated from 6-9 p.m. at the William Costick Activities Center, on 11 Mile east of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Students, parents, police and school officials are expected to participate in panel discussions.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Littleton," said Bob Moxfield, superintendent of Farmington Public Schools. "But the No. 1 question

Please see TRAGEDY, A6

## Time Warner files its \$15 million offer

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oc.hometown.com

Time Warner has detailed how it plans to continue to provide Farmington area residents cable service. In a proposal submitted to Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission, the company proposes to add digital cable television and high-speed Internet access within two years. In its 15-year pact, \$15 million proposal, the company also offers:

### CABLE TV FRANCHISE

- Spending \$600,000 upfront with \$1.07 million on public access studios and equipment during the next contract;
- Maintaining six local access channels, but splitting them into specific areas where people can watch programs from their school district or community,

and:  
■ Continuing investment in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi cable systems.  
"We have submitted a generous and reasonable franchise renewal offer which provides for the highest quality, state-of-the-art cable products and services for our customers," said Tom Bjorklund, Time Warner vice president and regional manager, in a written statement.

Please see CABLE, A6

## Hope goes with lacrosse, and normalcy

BY SHARON DARGAY  
STAFF WRITER  
sdargay@oc.hometown.com

David Morrow of Farmington Hills hopes now lacrosse sticks and pads will bring some normalcy back into the lives of athletes at Columbine High in Littleton, Colo.

Morrow, president of Warrior Lacrosse, a Troy manufacturing company, donated more than \$10,000 worth of equipment to Columbine's lacrosse team.

The school is closed and the lacrosse team's equipment is inaccessible. The suburban Denver high school became a crime scene last week after two students gunned down a dozen peers and a teacher before killing themselves.

"The school probably won't open for another three or four weeks. The kids want to keep playing. It will take their minds off of what happened," Morrow said.

Lacrosse, a spring sport, generally runs from late February or early March through May. The Columbine team, like high school lacrosse teams in Michigan, is at the peak of its playing season. Playoffs generally start in late May.

"You're playing along and your season grinds to a halt. It's bad enough that the stick you play with all the time you can't get to. You've got to play with a new stick," Morrow explained. "It's like having your baseball glove all locked up."

Please see LACROSSE, A8

### Register for training

■ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

■ Organization(s) you represent: \_\_\_\_\_

■ Address: (include city and zip code) \_\_\_\_\_

■ Telephone: (work and home) \_\_\_\_\_

■ Current e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

■ Type of computer you have: \_\_\_\_\_

■ First choice for training session: \_\_\_\_\_

■ Second choice for training session: \_\_\_\_\_

■ Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_

## Your own Web site? It's free and easy



profit community organizations to set up their own Web sites. And the best part is: It's easy and it's free.

"Mihome.com is a new community Web site service designed to serve and promote community organizations in the state of Michigan," said Yvonne Roberto, manager of the Observer & Eccentric Enhanced Media Department. "We want mihome.com to be a local hub for community information."

Using software developed by KOZ.com, the site allows organizations to set up sophisticated Web sites with just a few clicks of a mouse. You don't need to write code or know HTML. You simply connect to mihome.com, click on "Create a New Site Now," and follow the on-screen instructions.

Training sessions are scheduled for 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 15, and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 19, at COMPUUSA in the Novi Town Center. Each session will last two and a half hours, after which, Roberto said, you will be ready to set up your site. The \$15 fee includes training, materials

and refreshments. You can fill out the attached coupon and send a check payable to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers or register online with a credit card at this secure site <http://oconline.com/mihome.com> or call Jennifer Murray at (734) 953-2038 for more information. Space is limited.

After the brief training session, you can create a Web site complete with an online newsletter, a calendar of events, discussion groups and a live chat room. The site also includes a built-in search engine. The sites can be customized by following on-screen instructions and can include graphics or pictures that you upload, feedback forms, and one-click e-mail to participants.

You can open your site to the public or password protect it so that only members or participants can access it. Or you can keep some areas public and make others private. It's all up to you.

Roberto said that while other services offer free Web sites, the mihome.com site is able to serve community organizations and bring them all together on the main page. He compared that to the community news provided by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"We offer community news in our news-

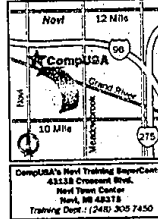
papers and our online services. Mihome.com completes the service by offering groups the ability to promote themselves and by serving as a community resource for these groups."

The service is available for schools, PTAs, school clubs, libraries and government agencies, as well as such diverse organizations as churches, arts and culture groups, sports and recreation clubs and tennis, alumni associations and so on.

Roberto said that groups that already have a Web site might want to set up another one through mihome.com simply because of the sense of community of having many local sites accessible through one source.

"There's strength in numbers by combining many organizations in one place," he said. And he plans to promote through newspaper advertising and through the oconline.com and observer-eccentric.com Web sites.

"The notion of 'Build your own Web site and they will come' is not working for many people," he said. "There are millions of sites out there and they aren't always easy to find."



6 53174 10005 4