

Farmington Observer

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 111 years

HomeTown
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
Putting you in touch
with your world

VOLUME 112 NUMBER 68

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 90 PAGES • <http://www.observance.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1999 HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Stormy weather



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

Cleaning up: Farmington employee Don Rogers cleans up following Monday's storm. For more information, turn to page A2.

ARTS & LEISURE

Your turn: A Farmington Hills homemaker still battles a toy company giant over her beleaguered board game. /B1

Congratulations: Sharon Hain-Gaber will receive the Athena Award tonight for her community activism. /B1

INDEX

- Opinion A14-15
- Obituaries A13
- Crossword G7
- Classified Index G6
- Autos J6
- Home & Service J4
- Jobs H4
- Rentals G9
- Community Life B1
- Sports C1
- Entertainment E1
- Real Estate F1

Panera to open doors

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@co.homecomm.net

Panera Bread's fourth area outlet opens Friday, at 34836 Grand River in Farmington. It joins two in Novi and another that just opened in Farmington Hills.

But it's not oversaturating the market, emphasized Panera spokesman Robert Darlin after Monday's Farmington City Council meeting. Darlin's request for outdoor seating was approved by the council.

"This is the type of area we thrive in," Darlin said. "It's a very affluent area ... with all the neighborhoods. We like to be part of the neighborhood we're in."

"The (Panera location) in Farmington Hills isn't Farmington. So we want to be in Farmington. And we want to be in Novi."

Panera, a bakery-restaurant that serves sandwiches and soups along with baked goods, prides itself on serving the communities it operates in.

"The more we can be part of the community the better," Darlin said.

At the end of the day, he said, unsold baked goods aren't tossed into the trash. Instead, they are donated to charities that are willing to pick up the baked goods.

"We are looking for charities to donate to," Darlin said.

Please see BREAD, A7



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

Pets: Bob and Susan Cook brought Bowie, Smokey and Machinac for a blessing from the Rev. Wayne Large in Shiawassee Park.

God bless them

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER
jmaliszewski@co.homecomm.net

In any religion, it's believed that God has a special place in his heart for children and animals. They are the innocents and we are the caretakers.

The Rev. Wayne Large of the First United Methodist Church of Farmington and members of the congregation celebrated animals — and their human counterparts — at a special service Sunday in Shiawassee Park.

"A couple of our members asked

about doing this," Large said. "I had never done it before and discovered that our book of worship had a liturgy for it."

The special blessing in the park was planned and publicized in the church newsletter.

Sure enough, when Sunday came, members and their pets arrived for the blessings.

"We started out with a greeting and an introduction — that animals are an important part of God's creation. We talked about creation

Please see BLESS, A4

Death threats don't deter all

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@co.homecomm.net

At Harrison High, death threats were no match for test anxiety.

As Farmington Hills police patrolled outside, senior Erica Berg wanted to make sure the school was still open. She had a biology test and wasn't about to miss it.

"My mom didn't want me to go at all, but I have a final," Berg said around 9:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. "She told me to just go to third hour."

Police and school officials took security precautions after threats scrawled in marker were found on a Harrison High laboratory wall Tuesday. Authorities continue to investigate.

Graffiti said, "On May 19, All will die ... Some people will die," which prompted Principal Rando

See related story page A2

Horn to send a letter to parents Tuesday. Initially reports that threats mentioned black students proved false.

Horn assured parents the matter was being taken seriously but school would remain open.

Many parents decided not to send their children, in light of the Littleton, Colo. tragedy and reports of a similar plot in Port Huron.

Senior Nick Fucinari had an excused absence but showed up to retrieve his pre-calculus work. At least 10 of his friends also didn't attend school Wednesday.

Like others, Fucinari didn't like the disruption.

"I think it's kind of immature to tell you the truth," Fucinari said.

Please see THREATS, A7

Jaske promises to 'shake things up' if elected

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@co.homecomm.net

Several weeks before voters decide a one-year term on the Farmington school board, candidate Melody Jaske already knows she's an underdog.

The Farmington resident and PTA leader promises to shake things up, do things a little differently, if elected on Monday, June 14. She faces Gary Sharp, who was appointed last September following the resignation of Joseph Svoko.

Jaske, 40, also isn't ashamed to admit her views don't necessarily mesh with existing board members.



FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

for a tuition tax credit, people should dismiss me as a valid school board candidate," Jaske said. "... I want the best public schools — so people will choose Farmington and won't choose a private school."

Jaske — who has a daughter attending Flanders Elementary School — is supportive of the tax credit proposal, expected to be on the November 2000 state ballot. But, the candidate empha-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

Frustrated: Harrison High School senior Nick Fucinari went to school to pick up some pre-calculus work, despite an excused absence Wednesday. Like others, Fucinari says he believes that students making threats are immature.

Residents want a home-like look

Residents in the Woodcreek subdivision don't want an office building to look like an office building. They want the facility to look more like a house, as do many other offices along Northwestern Highway.

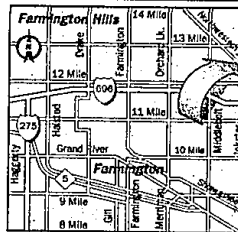
BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@co.homecomm.net

Residents in a northeastern Farmington Hills neighborhood want a new office building to look the look.

Instead of earth tone granite and copper metal accents, Woodcreek Civic Association homeowners would like a proposed one-story home for Pipe Fitters Local Union No. 636 to reflect their homes and have gabled roof and be made of brick. Neighbors are also worried about cut-through traffic and potential flooding problems.

Please see OFFICE, A7

Office planned



Change would increase salaries

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@co.homecomm.net

A proposed city charter amendment could mean more jingle in Farmington Hills City Council member's pockets, but they say change is needed.

Council and mayor salaries have remained the same for 25 years. Council members receive \$1,500 annually while the mayor gets \$2,700.

Under a possible charter amendment, council member salaries would increase to \$5,000 while mayor would fetch \$7,500.

"I don't call it a salary but more a stipend," Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said.

Voters would have to improve the measure as well as any other charter amendments.

At a study session Monday, council members and city staff went over proposed amendments, which could go on

the Nov. 2 ballot.

Many changes involving tweaking language in the document, which was written when Farmington Hills became a city in 1973.

One proposal involves raising the amount requiring goods and service to be put up for bid from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

Another amendment would lower the number of signatures needed for referendum petitions.

Instead of 16 percent, the number would fall to 10 percent of total registered voters who voted for secretary of state in the last general election.

Based on last November's turnout of 29,000 voters, petition gatherers would need 2,900 instead of 4,400 signatures.

Under another proposed change, city council would have to wait two years instead of one to act on an ordinance

Please see CHARTER, A6



Melody Jaske

toward when I'm elected to the board. That we provide the best education, for all children.

Jaske would amplify the voice of the parent if elected, she promises. It is a voice she's cultivated through various school and community endeavors, such as the Flanders PTA, Farmington Area PTA Council and Farmington-Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

Making the rounds

As she did in 1998, when she was defeated in the race for a four-year school board seat, Jaske would stump for meetings to make the rounds to schools, instead of always taking place either at the Lewis Schulman Adminis-

Please see JASKE, A5



6 53174 1006 4