

Farmington Observer

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 113 years



VOLUME 113 NUMBER 4

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 80 PAGES • <http://observer.eccentric.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Debate: Farmington Hills mayoral candidates Nancy Bates and George Sarkisian exchange thoughts and jibes. / A2

MEAP: Scholarships prompt improved participation in the test at Clarenceville High School. / A3

Safety: Crowds attend the annual Farmington Hills Fire Department Open House despite cooler temperatures. / A9

OPINION

Controversial: Local officials are right to continue fighting to kill House Bill 4777, which is now called the anti-home rule bill. / A12

SPORTS

County champions: Farmington Hills Mercy won the Oakland County championship in girls swimming and diving for the third year in a row. / C1

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Harvest time



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

On display: The Governor Warner Mansion Fall Harvest Celebration drew visitors on Saturday and Sunday, despite inclement weather.

Celebration

Mansion struts its stuff

The Fall Harvest Celebration at the Gov. Warner Mansion last weekend provided an opportunity for the community to see the historic property — and sample some barbecued shish-ka-bobs. Pumpkins and corn were also sold and are still available for sale.

"It was quite a success," said Denise Trowen, chairwoman of the Gov. Warner Mansion Development Committee.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser — estimates of which were unavailable following the event — will go toward capital improvements at the mansion.

Despite cool, rainy weather, roughly 1,000 people showed for the event, which included live entertain-

■ Proceeds from the fund-raiser — estimates of which were unavailable following the event — will go toward capital improvements at the mansion.



Enjoy: Two-year old Allison Hyman and Jim Hurren sit in the gazebo listening to the piano music of David Peramble.

Please see WARNER, A5

Curtain opens on Civic face lift

■ Renovations are expected to begin at the Civic Theatre Oct. 11. The city council, which bought the theater, approved a series of bids for the work.



BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Upcoming renovations at the Civic Theatre will be the star attraction over the next few weeks as crews begin work at the 50-plus year-old theater in downtown Farmington.

Farmington City Council, which approved purchasing the theater last summer, approved 11 bids for renovations at Monday's meeting.

The renovations, expected to begin Oct. 11, will continue for about six weeks. The theater, and at least one of the two screens, will remain open. The first floor screen is expected to be closed first.

Improvements will include replacing bathroom tiles, installing a new concession area and seating.

Bill Clark, representing MKA Inc., the construction management firm handling the renovations, was present at the meeting.

All the bids selected were the low bids, except where noted. Approved bids included:

■ \$19,591, Mykron Contracting for lobby demolition work. Second-lowest bidder out of four submitted bids, five bids solicited.

■ \$14,600, Contek Inc, concrete work. Chosen from two submitted bids, four solicited.

■ \$28,779, Mykron Contracting for rough carpentry and drywall work. Chosen from three submitted bids, five solicited.

■ \$2,200, Integrated Hardware Consultants for metal doors, frames and finish hardware. Chosen from two submitted bids, five solicited.

Please see CIVIC, A4

Some 2,000 students learn Español

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

¿Hablás Español? Anyone asking that question, "Do you speak Spanish?" of any of the students giving a presentation at Monday's Board of Education study session would have heard a resounding yes, or "Sí."

Farmington elementary students showed off their knowledge of the language by singing songs, exchanging lines of dialogue and by using body language. The presentation was part of a report on the schools' World Language

■ Students were learning about people and culture and about Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

Program.

The students take 60 minutes of language lessons weekly, either in three 20-minute increments or two 30-minute increments.

Four full-time teachers, Nancy Roma, Flora Chinchilla, Patricia Segura and Barrio Schoessel were hired in January by the district. They travel to

different elementary schools during the week and teach fourth- and fifth-graders the basics of communicating in Español. They teach 500 students each.

Segura teaches students at Highmeadow, Hillside and Kenbrook elementary.

"We're going to show a little of what we do as a warm-up," she told the audi-

ence. She said her students were learning about people and culture and about Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. Her students played "Simon Says" using Spanish words. Students issuing the commands made their fellow students spin around and touch their noses, among other things.

Board trustee Bobbie Feldman said she was impressed.

"I find it so amazing that there are so many ways to reach the kids that are effective," she said, adding that she

Please see SPANISH, A5

Man to be sentenced in lover's death

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

A bloody shirt with the killer's name on it, a stolen Jeep and stolen credit cards apparently served as evidence enough that James F. Summerville, 29, of Warren was guilty of murdering his male lover in May, 1998.

After deliberating for less than an hour, a jury found Summerville guilty of first-degree murder, unlawful use of a credit card and auto theft. Oakland Circuit Judge Colleen O'Brien presided over the three-day trial. Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 14.

The verdict means that Summerville faces a mandatory maximum sentence of life in prison without parole, plus additional time for the other charges.

The badly decomposed body of Mikhail Ellis, 32, was found in his Independence Green apartment May 2. Two broken knives and two condom wrappers were found at the scene. Investigators estimated Ellis had been dead for about a week before being discovered by Farmington Hills

Please see MURDER, A5

She wants to start her second decade in city

BY TIM SMITH
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JoAnne McShane isn't finished doing something she cherishes — passionately serving the people of Farmington.

Now completing her first decade as a member of the Farmington City Council, McShane hopes to soon begin her second. She is among four candidates vying for two four-year council terms and a single two-year stint. Voters will make that decision on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

"I like to advocate for the citizens



JoAnne McShane

Please see MESHANE, A7

He wants to bring family perspective to council

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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If you're Chris McRae, you get married, you settle not too far from where you grew up and you become a full-fledged tax paying member of the community.

Somehow, that's still not enough.

There's a pang to get involved, to help shape the destiny of your community and that of your children.

You serve on a committee or two. In McRae's case, it's membership to the city's Committee to Increase Voter Participation.

McRae sees the next logical step as serving on the Farmington Hills City Council.

Please see MCRAE, A7



Chris McRae

