

Farmington Observer

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Work to close Civic

The Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington is scheduled to be closed for business Monday-Wednesday, while work continues on completing a revamped concessions and lobby area. It is expected that the Grand River theater will re-open on Thursday evening.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY

Library celebration: The Farmington Community Library's downtown branch, 23500 Liberty, will be rededicated during a 3 p.m. ceremony. A reception and tours will follow the ceremony, hosted by the library board.

MONDAY


Taking the oath: Vicki Barnett, Barry Brickner and Chris McRae will be sworn in at the beginning of the 7:30 p.m. meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road.

TUESDAY

COHA: The next general meeting of the Council of Homeowners Associations will begin at 7 p.m. in the lower level meeting room of the Farmington Hills Library, 32737 12 Mile. The evening will begin with socializing followed by the business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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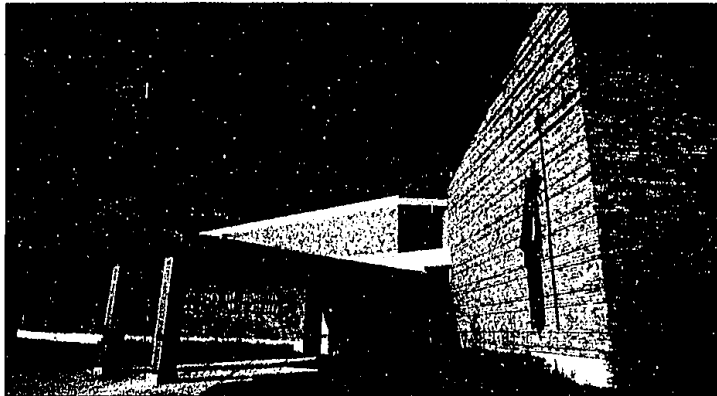
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Beautiful jobs rewarded



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL ECKLES

Looking good: Our Lady of Sorrows Family Center is the latest addition to the church and school complex, cited for a major award during the 1999 city of Farmington Beautification Awards presentation.



Lovely: This landscaping helped earn an award for Thayer Rock Funeral Home.

Sorrows, Thayer Rock at top of list

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

Only a few minutes had elapsed since Thayer Rock Funeral Home won one of two major awards during the 31st annual Farmington Beautification Awards presentation. Even as Thayer Rock owner Bob Rock held the 1999 Chamber of Commerce Award, his thoughts turned to ways to still improve the Grand River funeral home's grounds. He talked about hurrying to a meeting with a landscaper about removing bushes. Rock probably will chip right in with the project. "It just takes a lot of effort.

FARMINGTON BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

It takes a commitment to wanting to maintain the property and I personally do a lot of the work myself," said Rock, following Farmington Beautification Commission's Oct. 26 awards breakfast at Farmington Hills Manor. "I enjoy putting on my blue jeans and going out there and working." Fresh-looking flower dis-

Please see AWARDS, A4

Worm found in food

■ But Oakland County health supervisor claims no formal complaints have been lodged against a Farmington Hills restaurant.



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

A Farmington Hills steakhouse encountered another dining pest - this time a worm.

On Saturday, Hills police responded to a possible health code violation after a customer complained about finding a worm in her food at Lone Star Steakhouse on Orchard Lake Road.

Two years ago at the same eatery, a Detroit woman found maggots in a steak dinner and retained an attorney. The larvae was believed to have come in a bucket of peanuts and a restaurant manager removed the shelled snacks.

In the latest incident, a district manager told police a Kale worm was found in the woman's food. Such worms typically hide in Kale lettuce, he said.

The manager said the restaurant boils lettuce to remove any worms or other insects and doesn't know how this one survived.

A Hills police officer stated the kitchen area appeared to be clean and had no noticeable health code problems.

"An Oakland County Environmental Health Services supervisor said he hasn't received any complaints regarding the incident. "It wouldn't surprise me. There are worms in a lot of food that is out there," said Bill Carlson, Oakland County Environmental Health Services supervisor. "Sometimes they slip through the system."

Carlson oversees health inspection at 600 eateries. Insects and other contamination often stem from where such

Please see RESTAURANT, A5

Going to Cornucopia not only way to help

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

While ticket sales for this Friday night's Cornucopia Ball have organizers smiling, one official emphasized

Friday there are other ways residents can help the host organization. "People can do some very ordinary things as well as some very sophisticated things" to help the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation, said Dennis Fitzgerald, its vice-chairman and ways

and means committee chairman. These things can range from simple things like writing out a check to the foundation to much more sophisticated things like creating special trusts, he said.

The anticipated attendance of 200 at the Cornucopia Ball had both him and Suzanne Lichtman, foundation executive director, saying Friday they were "very pleased" with this year's response. "It's right up there" near capacity for Glen Oaks Country Club, Lichtman said of the Nov. 12 event, "and it means people are recognizing what we're doing in the community and want to be a part of it," she said. "Those who participate will make a

profound impact on the lives and futures of area families," she said.

Proceeds from the black-tie optional dinner-dance and special silent auction will help the Foundation fund and support local family organizations and programs such as Farmington Families in Action, Farmington Area YMCA, Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council and after-school activity centers.

Those attending the Foundation's signature fund-raising event - which, not surprisingly, has become the charity social event in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area - will be served a five-star gourmet dinner, dance to music by the band Per-

suasion and bid on a wide variety of auction items.

Included are jewelry, paintings, vehicle equipment, tickets to shows and sports events such as Red Wings hockey games, golfing at various resorts, a week-long getaway at Marcos Island, autographed sports memorabilia and even chances to be a guest conductor. Spend a day with a city's police and fire departments. Meanwhile, Farmington Observer reporter Tim Smith contributed an autographed copy of his book, "Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies - Little 'Thumbs Up!' for the auction.

Emcees are Paul Groas and Roger

Please see BALL, A2

Harrison Marching Band wins title

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

The Farmington Harrison Marching Band capped off a stellar in-state season at the Pontiac Silverdome on Oct. 30 by capturing the Michigan Competing Bands Association (MCBA) Flight III State Championship with a score of 81.2.

And to make the victory even sweeter, the band earned all three Flight III caption awards for Best Marching, Best Music and Best General Effect for their performance of music from "Hair."

"It was great," said an elated Mark Phillips, Harrison band director. "It was the best we could have done today, and everyone felt that way. The first place is really almost not as important as how great it felt. We just came off the field and we knew it."

The last time the Harrison marchers brought home the Flight III first-place trophy was in 1990.

This year's performance, with the band decked out in jeans, tie-dyed tees and very "hairy" wigs, was a crowd-



Victory march: The Harrison High School Marching Band displays winning form at the Pontiac Silverdome.

pleaser and a ton of fun for audience and band alike. Even Phillips donned '80s garb for the state performance and to the delight of his students.

"The kids are all just having fun

with this show," said Dave Bjorklund, one of the percussion instructors. He played in the Harrison band four years and

Please see WIN, A5

Student's bomb prank no laughing matter

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

A 16-year-old Warren Lincoln High student made a joke, but never had a chance to deliver the punch line. Nonetheless, authorities weren't laughing.

Police evacuated the Warren school bus on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield Thursday after the honor student flashed a sign to motorists saying to phone 911 and there was a bomb on board.

The hand-scrawled sign in the bus window caught the attention of - ironically - a Grosse Pointe North school

Please see PRANK, A5