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Performance



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL HUBBARD

On stage: Oberon (Evan Roehm) meets the fairy Puck (Lindsay Mergerer) in the forest and sets up the madcap situations of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Colorful scenes of the fairies and spirits of the forest are illuminated by ultraviolet light in this modern interpretation of the classic. The production opens at 8 tonight and continues Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Farmington High School auditorium. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 students.

Commerce, city officials to meet



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Farmington Hills city officials will meet with the U.S. Commerce Department Thursday. The reason: Compuware Corp.

Compuware Corp. is on the minds of Farmington Hills officials. So much so that officials will meet with the U.S. Commerce Department today as the corporation is still considering where to move - Detroit or the suburbs.

On Monday, Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer met with the assistant secretary of the U.S. Commerce Department to talk about the expansion of high-tech companies into urban areas. Hills officials fear the talks as the first step in securing federal help to lure the

computer software giant away from its city.

That upset Farmington Hills officials, especially Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, who joined several other Oakland County elected officials in protesting proposed revenue sharing cuts to Detroit Nov. 12. Mayors traveled to Lansing by bus to lobby lawmakers on Detroit's behalf.

The meeting with Assistant Secretary Phil Singerman and John Peck of the U.S. Commerce Department will

take place at 9:15 a.m. in Farmington Hills City Hall.

"Hopefully, we will be able to convince them not to get involved in this tussle," Vagnozzi said. "This will give Detroit an unfair advantage."

Compuware Corp. is still undecided on where to relocate its headquarters. The company is reportedly considering the Campus Martius area in downtown Detroit as well as suburban sites, including Farmington Hills.

Please see **COMMERCE, A6**

Do you know?



Help us: We know that William Eugene Legg, father of Howard Legg, is on the step of the D.U.R. car that stopped in Farmington. We need help in identifying who the other two men in the photo are. The passenger car apparently came in from Detroit and took the northern spur to Orchard Lake. The line ran 1900-29. If you can help, contact Dick Carvell, Farmington Historical Museum, who lent us this photograph, 476-6257.

Sever defends his actions

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Vowing to continue to take a beating for the city he loves, former Hills Councilman Terry Sever made an impassioned speech to defend himself.

Sever resigned from the Farmington Hills City Council Nov. 9. He was elected as Oakland County commissioner for the 19th District on Nov. 3 and starts his new position in January.

See related story, Page A2

At Monday's Farmington Hills City Council meeting, Sever spoke from the other side of the council table to "square away" a few facts related to his consultant work for a private developer in the Eleven Pines project. Phoenix Land Development, who hired Sever as a consultant, decided not to submit a proposal as a result of the ensuing con-

Please see **SEVER, A6**

City, law firm, police sued in federal court

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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The city of Farmington Hills, its police department and legal firm are named in a federal lawsuit by a former Hills man, who claims they all participated in a conspiracy to defraud him of two "prime" pieces of real estate.

Among the laundry list of charges, Anthony Margiotta claims the city, police and a law firm that also represents the Hills worked in collusion and took part in a coverup that involved the suppression of evidence. He's seeking \$20 million in damages.

Margiotta is representing himself in the legal action, which is filed before U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Edmunds. No hearing date has been set.

Margiotta's suit is part of a 14-year legal attempt by the former real estate broker to reclaim \$20 million worth of land that he said was stolen from him.

Please see **LAWSUIT, A4**

IN THE PAPER TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE

Royalty: Was Farmington once home to royalty? Read Ruth Moehlman's piece on vintage history. / B1

ArtShare: A success. / B3

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Harrison hits high notes as band champs

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

The Farmington Harrison Marching Band received a Division I rating at the Bands of America Grand National Championships on Nov. 13 at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

NATIONALS

More than 22,000 spectators watched eighty-one top bands from 14 states, including eight from Michigan, perform in the three-day competition Nov. 12-14. Farmington Falcons did not participate in national competition but took ninth place in Flight II in state competition Nov. 7.

"Our whole goal this week was to have a better show than we did at states - and we did," said Mark Phillips, Harrison's band director. "This is the first time we feel like we've done better at nationals. We always felt our high point of the year was State Finals. This year, I think we achieved our goal of going a step further, at least in our individual performance."

Please see **BAND, A5**



Chamber bows out of summer festival business

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
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The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce wants to get out of the festival business.

1999 will be the last year the chamber will run the Farmington Founders

Festival as plans are under way to turn the popular festival over to a nonprofit entity to coordinate and operate, according to chamber officials.

"There is a fear that if the chamber is not doing it, the festival will go away," said Carleigh Flaherty, chamber president. "I'm optimistic. This fes-

See related story, Page A7

tival has so much potential. But we have to recognize our limits and we have to recognize our mission."

The proposal to hand the festival over to a new organization has caused some concern, in particular the pro-

posed transition, the role of Steve Pope, outgoing chamber board chairman and Observer & Eccentric general manager, who has spearheaded the move, and the future of the festival.

Since late 1997 when the chamber

Please see **FESTIVAL, A9**

Money gap hampers Super Kmart project

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Contrary to what beleaguered Clairview residents may think, the commercial-residential redevelopment at the Orchard Lake, 14 Mile and Northwestern Highway triangle is not back at square one.

Progress is being made, assured the developers. They'd like to go before the planning commission in February with a site plan for the "urban lifestyle center," which has already been approved as a planned unit development.

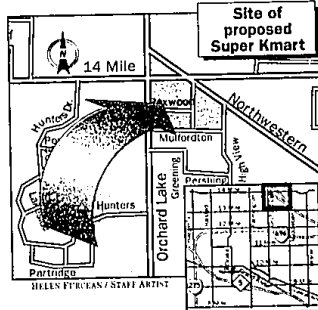
Money remains a hang-up. The Malan Group officials say they need to close a \$4-\$6 million gap, which is down from \$9 million. The private developer is still looking for public financial help. The developer met with

Farmington Hills City Council members at a status session Monday.

Farmington Hills city officials pledge support, though they're not certain what form that will be in.

Residents simply want a decision one way or another. They have been waiting for nine years for a resolution.

"They deserve closure," said Nancy Bates, Hills councilwoman.



announcement is expected in 30 days. "It's somebody that would bring a very prominent name to Orchard Lake Road," said Larry Lichtman, Malan

Please see **PROJECT, A5**

Nine firms bid on project

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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At 10 a.m. Tuesday, the site plans unfolded and surveying eyes started to scan.

ELEVEN PINES

Nine companies submitted proposals to develop city-owned 92 acres Eleven Pines property on Halsted and 11 Mile, the site of the San Marino Golf Course expansion. Their efforts were laid out on a table in Farmington Hills City Council Chambers for the

Please see **BIDS, A5**