

Farmington Observer

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Heritage event: 'Remembrance'



Members of the Multicultural Multiracial Community Council have announced significant changes in the Heritage Festival, Sept. 14-20. It will become an opportunity for community response to a national tragedy.

BY JONI HUBRED
STAFF WRITER
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Devastated by a tragedy that has touched lives here and across the nation, organizers of an event designed to celebrate diversity have announced the Heritage Festival has been re-focused.

"It was unanimous. We did not feel

like having a celebration at this time," said Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council co-chair Karen Bolsen.

"We're in mourning."

While today's "Get to Know Your Neighbors" mini-conference on religious and cultural diversity will go on as planned, Thursday evening's kickoff rally has been re-named "Unity for America-A Community Remembrance."

After community leaders offer their

perspectives, Channel 7's Carolyn Clifford will moderate comments from anyone in the audience who wishes to share their thoughts.

Farmington-Hills Mayor Nancy Bates, Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock, Farmington Board of Education President Cathleen Webb, 47th District Court Judge Maria Parker and Oakland County Bar Association President Elias Escobedo have been asked to speak.

Sunday's Heritage Festival, which was originally a celebration of music, food and cultural exhibits from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., has been canceled. Instead, the program from 1 p.m. to 4

p.m. will be called "Uniting for America: A Community Contributes." The specifics are still being ironed out, but community residents will have the opportunity to contribute to relief efforts, offering financial and emotional support to fellow Americans.

Bolsen said community leaders, who all supported the festival, were in complete agreement about canceling it.

"There's this feeling among everyone that you want to do something," she said. "The idea of trying to help come up to different people in different ways."

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We want to hear from you

When John F. Kennedy was assassinated on Friday, Nov. 22, 1963, the American people began a four-day period glued to their televisions in mourning, disbelief, anger and fear of the unknown. Since Tuesday, we have been again a nation stunned.

The attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon have affected us all. Some were there in Washington or New York when the crashes occurred. Some have waited for word from friends and family in Boston, New York and Washington. Some been inconvenienced; others have rushed to offer help. Some have had to answer the pained questions of children.

No one has been left untouched by this history-changing event.

This is your hometown newspaper. We want to hear from you. Do you have an opinion to give, a story to tell, a feeling you want to share? We want to share your words with your neighbors in a town hall-style discussion of these horrible events.

Of course, we reserve the right to edit for length and content. Please include name, place of residence and phone number.

We're asking you to share your comments by e-mail, fax or by mail for publication in Thursday's Observer. E-mail should go to jhubred@oc.hometown.com, fax to (248) 477-6722, mail to 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Prayer vigils: A number of area churches and synagogues will be holding special services or making Tuesday's tragedy a focus of their regular services. A partial list is published on page A4.

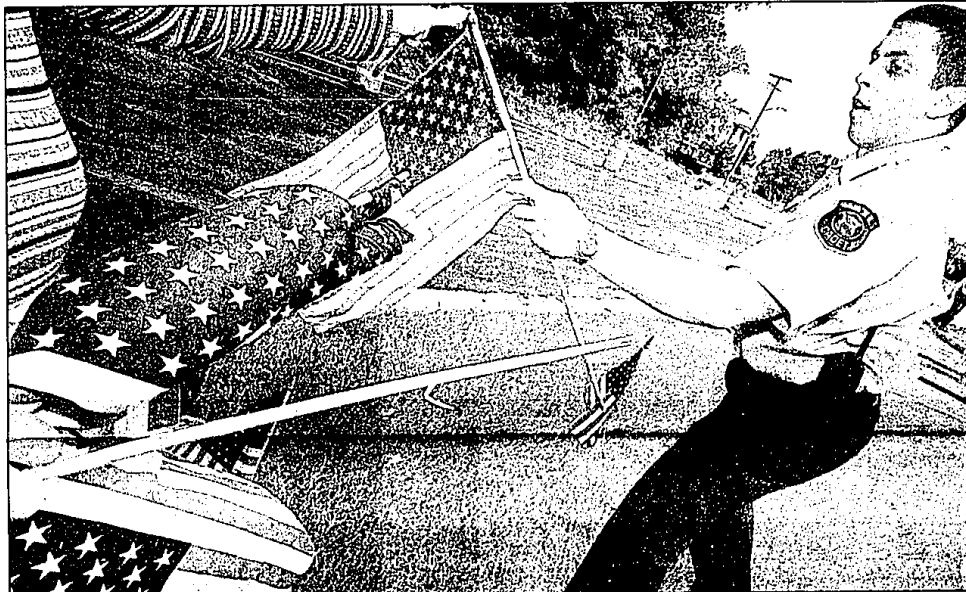
Farmington City Council: Officials will meet at 8 p.m. in Chambers at City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, to consider appointing a museum director for the Governor Warner Mansion, giving permission to Bellacino's for grand opening signs and adoption of an ordinance amendment regarding snow removal from sidewalks.

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Showing spirit



STAFF PHOTO BY DEYAN MITCHELL

Color guard: Randy Samona, a Farmington Hills Police Department cadet, heard honks of appreciation as he set out flags in front of city hall before Friday's remembrance event.

A time to mourn

Cities take a moment to reflect

BY KEVIN BROWN
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The work paused long enough Friday for some to wipe a tear, sing

together in these trying times.

"I think this is a time when we needed our family to come together like this," Mayor Nancy Bates told more than 200 city workers, including police and fire staff.

Clouds parted briefly, to allow the sun to shine on those gathered for the 10-minute 1 p.m. ceremony. A podium with the city seal was set near a walkway joining the city hall and the police department.

The ceremony at Farmington Hills came on a day presided by George Bush

as a Day of Prayer and Remembrance. Staff at Farmington City Hall were given the opportunity to gather outside at various times during the day, alone or with others around the American flag, for a moment of silence.

Before the Hills ceremony, a driver honked his approval driving west on 11 Mile Road as Officer Madeline Vaughn and Cadet Randy Samona bent forward to place small U.S. flags along the grass near the highway side.

"These evil words can't break our spirit of freedom," said City Manager Steve Brock.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Bates led the group in a prayer:

"We come to you with wounded hearts. The pain our country and

Please see CITIES, A2



Salute: Farmington Hills PD officers attended the prayer service.



Tears and prayers: Hills city clerk Kathy Dornan wipes away tears during the City's remembrance and prayer service.

Students find a way to commemorate tragedy

BY SUE BUCK
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Six North Farmington students, stirred by their frustration with attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., found a way to express themselves Tuesday.

They painted an American flag across the spirit rock about 9:30 p.m., with the statement, "Our prayers are with you," according to Linda Fox, assistant principal. The students, all

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seniors, were: Alex Rosenhaus, Jessica Pallott, Christopher Gabriel, Chris Moses, Scott Bernstein and Harry Lipsitz.

The students presented a collective statement by fax, which was first reviewed by Farmington High School Principal Rick Jones.

"Since we could not be of assistance

to the people in New York, the students of North Farmington High School showed their compassion by illustrating an American flag on the school rock. The flag has always been a symbol of hope for all people. The students of North Farmington High School exemplify the spirit of hope and will continue to offer their support to

the victims and their families in this tragedy."

About two years ago, Jones placed a boulder in front of the school to allow students to express emotion and excitement.

"It's a designated place for kids to do graffiti," Fox said. Typically, different grade levels take turns spray painting messages on the rock before Homecoming, he said.

The flag on the rock immediately

Please see SCHOOL, A3



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