

THE WEEK AHEAD

COHA Candidates Night: The Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners Associations will sponsor a candidates night Wednesday, October 24, at City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads. Candidates will respond to audience questions, and viewers can phone in questions. The meeting will be cablecast on Channel 8. Mayoral candidates will appear at 7 p.m.; the seven city council candidates take over at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Quality Care: Cynthia Paul, staffer of Local 79 Service Employees International Union, will be the featured speaker at the Michigan Campaign for Quality Care Oakland chapter meeting, held at Southfield Presbyterian Church, 21575 West 10 Mile, east of Lahser. The meeting, which begins at 7 p.m., is open to the public. The organization seeks improvements in nursing care through changes in state laws.

Correction

Farmington Hills city council candidate Randy Bruce has stated that the city is over 98 percent developed, and that he is concerned about people who have lived here 30-40 years being taxed out of their homes. These positions were incorrectly stated in the Observer's Oct. 18 edition.

INDEX

- Apartments/EB
- Arts/C1
- Automotive/G6
- Classified/E,G,H
- Classified
- Index/G1
- Crossword
- Puzzle/E4
- Jobs/G1
- Malls/C6
- Movies/C4
- New Homes/E1
- Obituaries/A4
- Real Estate/E1
- Service Guide/G6
- Sports/B1
- Taste/D1
- Travel/C6

LEGAL SECRETARY
Small Troy law firm seeking organized, reliable, legal secretary. Experience preferred.

HomeTown Classifieds
1-800-579-SELL



Surprise party



Weak knees: Steven Koponen comes down from the bleachers after the announcement of his award. Below, sixth grader Chris Paul answers Michael Milken's question about good teachers.

The \$25,000 man

Teacher earns national award

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck00e.homecomm.net

For a brief moment, Dunkle Middle School teacher Steve Koponen didn't register the connection between a prestigious award and the announcement of his name. Koponen, a Farmington Hills resident, sat inconspicuously among his students in the middle of the bleachers Thursday. Stunned, he made his way down to thunderous

applause. Koponen received a \$25,000 Milken National Educator Award before a packed assembly in the gym which included state School Superintendent Tom Watkins, Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus (R-Alto), state school board members, Farmington school board members and Farmington and Farmington Hills city officials. A short time later as Koponen



Hills candidates debate

Challenger Ron Oliverio called the mayor's youth council 'window dressing' for Nancy Bates' campaign and council candidates sparred over 11 Pines and other controversial issues at Tuesday's forum.

Mayor Nancy Bates and challenger Ron Oliverio traded spirited jobs at the latest Farmington Hills public candidate forum. Some audience members gasped as Oliverio asked, "What is the mayor's Youth Council? Children of Mrs. Bates' supporters used as window dressing to support her campaign." "I will not indulge in personal attacks," Bates said, telling voters not to be fooled by "scare tactics." The two mayoral candidates were followed by the seven city council candidates. All had a chance to address issues and present ideas for the city's future at the forum presented Tuesday in the council chambers of city hall. The forum, presented by the Farmington Democratic Club, is to be aired on local cable TV on dates to be announced. The council candidates took their turn at the dais for an hour-long

forum, after the half-hour devoted to Bates and Oliverio. The mayor, first to speak, was quick to respond to earlier charges from Oliverio. Bates said Oakland County's drain commissioner had come forward to say the city's water rates are below the median, not higher as Oliverio has claimed. While Oliverio has charged that the after-school Farmington Hills Youth and Family Services program can't justify current spending due to falling attendance, Bates said, "There are 200 students per day" attending. She challenged an earlier charge from Oliverio, that he spotted just 17 participants at one program location. "He should have walked down the hall," Bates said, adding more participants play basketball or swim, or do activities in other rooms. She said the city's annual contribution of \$10,000 is less expensive than dealing with delinquency. Bates said the 11 Pines golf course

Civic to host Daniels film

The Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington plays host to an exclusive, two-week showing of 'Escanaba in da Moonlight'.

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck00e.homecomm.net

Just in time for hunting season, the famed, locally produced "Escanaba in da Moonlight" will be released for a special two-week showing at the historic Farmington Civic Theatre beginning Friday, Oct. 26 and closing Thursday, Nov. 8. The theater is located on Grand River, east of Farmington Road. "This is the only metro-Detroit screening," said Bob Brown, Purple Rose Films producer. Still in the works are three days - Nov. 1, 5 and 6 which Brown hopes to designate as fund-raisers for each Farmington high school. The admission ticket donation will go towards the popular all-night graduation party.

Please see ESCANABA, A2

FAFF begins planning for 2002 event

After success in 2001, Founders Festival board members say they've got a good base upon which to build an even better event.

BY JONI HUBRED
STAFF WRITER
jhubred00e.homecomm.net

What a difference a year makes. Residents and business owners bombarded the Farmington Area Founders Festival board with criticism about the annual event at a Town Hall meeting held in August 2000. They didn't like changes made under the direction of promoter Watts Up! - from the new "Farmington Area Family Fest" name to moving dates for the three-day festival. By October, the board had announced a return to festival traditions. And this year's event, held July 19-21, exceeded all expectations, drawing more than 100,000 people over

Please see FAFF, A6

FARMINGTON Leaf pickup 2001

Leaf pickup begins Oct. 22, 2001

Instructions: Place leaves at the curb no earlier than 48 hours before scheduled pickup, as putting them out sooner can cause drainage and traffic hazards. Leaves are not to be piled into the street. All vehicles must be parked on private property during leaf pickup hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Areas with multiple consecutive pickup days during the work week must place their leaves out by the first day as leaf crews may not be returning each day. During weeks not scheduled for pickups, leaves must be placed in paper bags or labeled yard waste containers for pickup by the rubbish contractor.

Remember: The leaf program is not designed to pick up all leaves it is a supplemental program. This schedule is subject to change due to weather or other factors.

Key:
 1. Oct. 26 and Nov. 10
 2. Oct. 29 or Oct. 30 and Nov. 9
 3. Oct. 22 or 23 and Nov. 12
 4. Nov. 2, 6 or 9 and Nov. 10 or 20
 5. Oct. 24 or 25 and Nov. 13
 6. Nov. 7 or Nov. 8 and Nov. 21
 7. Oct. 11 or Nov. 1 and Nov. 14 or Nov. 15