

IN THE PAPER TODAY

ARTS

Hurrah for Hollywood: Movie making has become a way of life for a local couple with three young boys who don't seem to let Hollywood parties and celebrity awe affect their modest lifestyles. /C1

AT HOME



Happiness is Nationally renowned interior designer Alexandra Stoddard says design choices can affect how people feel in a particular space and transform their mood and general sense of well-being. /C1

HOMETOWN LIFE

Moms: School children, teenagers even adult children had something to say about their mothers. Read more of their poems, submitted to the Observer. /C6

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Two teens charged in fatal crash



An 18-year-old West Bloomfield man has been arraigned on charges related to a drag-racing incident that resulted in the death of a Hills couple. The 16-year-old driver of the Camaro involved in the fatal collision awaits his fate in juvenile court.

By PAUL R. PACE
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Two young men each driving a sports car were seen by witnesses drag racing southbound on Orchard Lake near 14

Mile on the evening of April 19, say police.

But the fun turned tragic that night as one of the two Camaros involved in the road game crashed into a car driven by an elderly Farmington Hills cou-

ple, killing both occupants.

Now the teen drivers are each charged with two counts of homicide-manslaughter with a motor vehicle, a 16-year felony.

Brandon Dolly of West Bloomfield, the 18-year-old driver of the black Camaro that did not hit the couple but police say was drag racing the other Camaro, was arraigned Wednesday in 47th District Court.

A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf.

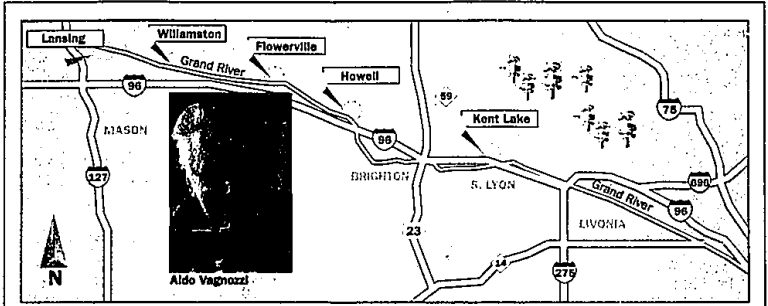
He was allowed to post 10 percent of a \$25,000 bond, in order to be released

until his preliminary exam on May 24. He told Judge Maria Parker he was on probation for assault.

According to Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer, evidence presented to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office included statements by witnesses that drag racing was taking place by the two cars before the accident. Studies of the red Camaro showed it crashed into the elderly couple's car in excess of 80 mph.

Killed in the accident were Barbara

Please see CRASH, A8



Candidate braves the elements for long walk to state capitol

By PAUL R. PACE
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Neither high winds nor cold rain nor blisters on his feet staid in the way of Aldo Vagnozzi reaching the steps of the state capitol Wednesday.

The former Farmington Hills mayor, a candidate for state representative as a Democrat in the Farm-

ington/ Farmington Hills district, made good on his promise to walk from Farmington to the capitol in Lansing in five days. He had just a few miles to finish on the sixth day, Wednesday morning.

The theme to "Rocky" played out on loudspeakers as he marched up the capitol steps to the podium, acting out perfectly the famous movie scene with his fists in the air, obviously

proud of his 65-mile trek by foot.

"I walked up here to tie in the needs of the two communities," he said among about 80 supporters at the foot of the steps.

Some longtime friends and campaign supporters joined Vagnozzi, 76, along some of the route he took along Grand River where he stayed at

Please see CANDIDATE, A6

NF High alumnus springs surprise

By SUE BUCK
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When Dr. Jeff Lazar agreed to speak to North Farmington High School students recently, they were unaware that he would end his presentation with a surprise announcement — a \$50,000 endowment to the school science department.

The fund will be set up in honor of Don Howell, Lazar's 10th grade chemistry teacher, who retired in 1987 and now resides in Springport, south of Lansing and north of Albion.

Lazar departed quickly to Europe and couldn't be reached for comment after the event. He was among four North alumni working in science professions who returned to speak at the school's first Science/Technology Symposium.

Howell expressed kind words by tele-

Please see SURPRISE, A5

Annual Garden Party supports outreach

By JONI HUBRED
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Like virtually every aspect of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, the Marillac Outreach program has a history in compassion for an ever-expanding need.

And an up-coming community fundraiser will play a vital role in meeting that need.

Set back from the busy 12 Mile/Inkster intersection in Farmington Hills, the Center provides a variety of services for troubled children and teens. For decades, Marillac Hall on campus served as a maternity residence for teen mothers.

"It closed in 1993," said executive director Jean Vickers, "so we could do more in an outreach capacity for more kids. The name has stuck with the



Services: Jean Vickers is executive director of the center.



For center: Sharon Stewart is Family Support Services Division Director.

service, but the service has changed." Family Support Services Division Director Sharon Stewart said in the agency's last United Way report, 644 teen mothers had received services and 322 of those had direct case management. The girls were primarily ages 16 to 19.

"There's not a lot at age 16, and only

four under age 14," she said. Those ages might be a little deceiving, however, since girls may move

from one age group to another during

Please see PARTY, A8

Observer series looks at teens and alcohol



Today we begin a two-part report on teenagers and alcohol.

On May 9 eight teenagers from local high schools sat down to discuss teen drinking.

In today's Homotown Life section we present their conversation on the prevalence of teen drinking, its effect on the social

life of local teenagers and their views on why drinking is so important for many young people.

Though each of the participants has made a personal decision not to drink, they all say that drinking is common among their peers.

"The sad thing about it is that people do it every weekend," said Patrice Wade, a student at Farmington High School. "A lot of people do it who you wouldn't even think do it."

On the opinion page we offer our view of the situation.

On Sunday we'll present information on resources available to help young people with drinking or drug problems.

Our Health section will examine the health consequences of alcohol abuse by teenagers. Our Taste section will offer some alternatives to serving alcohol at graduation parties.

On college campuses across the United States binge drinking has become a major problem. And the problem begins in high school.

Patrice Flax, a professional social worker who

counsels students on drug and alcohol problems and served as moderator for our student forum, said regular and excessive drinking in high school sets a pattern for college.

"Students who drink heavily in high school tend to go into the Greek (fraternity and sorority) system," she said. "It has to do with familiar behavior. They learned at a young age how to handle anxiety ... it's a very difficult behavior to change."

We do not expect this series to change behavior, but we hope that it raises questions and stimulates conversation, especially between parents and their teenagers.

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor
Observer Newspapers