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THURSDAY  
October 3, 2002  
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# FARMINGTON Observer

THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER  
FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN  
257 West Two Rivers Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
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OUR TOWNS

FHS history

A letter from Farmington High alum Ed Snyder, who now lives in Dallas, Texas, provides a little perspective about the Falcons' 5-0 season and Homecoming win over Ferndale last Friday night.

"I played quarterback for that 1966 team," Snyder wrote. "We were 5-0 going into our homecoming game with Walled Lake. We were ahead by 2 touchdowns after the first half. We lost the game in the final couple of minutes of the game after



Walled Lake recovered an onside kick. We were devastated.

The team lost games to Mt. Clemens and Southfield and finished up with a victory against North Farmington to end with a record of 6-3.

"I am excited that we are a part of Farmington football history. I really had no idea that we have held this record for 35 years. I hope the Falcons win this week and go on to an undefeated season."

Open house

The Muslim Community of Farmington Hills is holding its second annual Mosque Open House, offering our larger community an introduction to Islamic culture from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.

The free event, called "Islam - A Path to Peace and Harmony," will feature displays of Islamic literature, handicrafts, clothing and books as well as samples of food from around the Muslim world.

The Tahweed Center is at 29707 W. 10 Mile in Farmington Hills. It is on the south side of 10 Mile and one block west of Middlebell.

Seminar offered

The events of this past year have led many to serious reflection regarding the purpose of their lives. Knowing that there are many others pondering this question and having an opportunity to share this discovery process with them is proving very helpful.

The LifeSignature Seminar is being introduced to the Metro area 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Novi Hillon with registration at 8:30 a.m. The fee is \$99 per person. Attendance is based upon reservation only and seating is limited. Call (734) 426-2000 or (248) 626-1997.

## Festival promotes understanding

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

No matter the culture, folks from the Farmington/Farmington Hills community shared their backgrounds at the Costick Activities Center Sunday through a celebration of information, crafts, music and food.

And every participant who

was asked agreed on one thing: the third Many Faces, One Future - Our Community's Heritage Week is an annual event they want to see continue.

Wei Liu of Farmington and her friends were helping with their display of China.

It included paintings, silk embroidery and they were even making dumplings with ground

pork. "A woman came up and said, 'I just love China,'" Liu said with a smile.

She thinks the Heritage Festival is a great idea. "It's good to exchange cultures," she said. "I think it's great."

Karen Bolsen, co-chair of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial

Community Council, said the fact so many local groups, especially booster groups from the local high schools and the marching band from North Farmington High School made this year's Heritage Festival a special event. Everyone pitched in to help make it run smoothly.

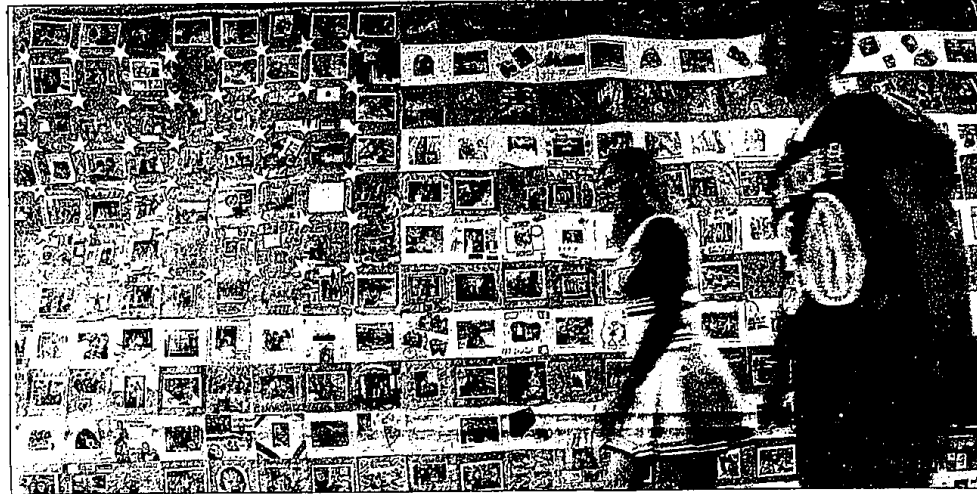
Somo new additions to this year's collaboration were a hit

as well, said Bolsen.

FOR THE KIDS

One included a Kids World Discovery room, where different tables and volunteers representing different cultures allowed children to create take-home crafts relating to different cultures.

PLEASE SEE HERITAGE, A5



Nicole Buchwald and Adam McPherson walk by an American flag formed from peoples' family stories.

BILL BRISLEY/OBSERVER

## Dedication slated despite zoning flap

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

The Harrison High School Message Board will be dedicated at 3 p.m. Saturday on school grounds, but not with the blessing of the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals.

The district decided to install the sign

along 12 Mile Road even though officials haven't returned since January to the Farmington Hills ZBA to rectify concerns. They're citing a legal precedent that gives school districts certain authority over some issues on school grounds.

"The case in reference wasn't available by deadline. "We're going ahead with it anyway,"

said Dennis Zoo, an assistant Harrison High Principal. "It will be a small ceremony."

ZBA Board Member Randy Bruce decried the district's action calling it unfair to those who follow the ZBA's rulings. It sets a poor example for students, he added.

PLEASE SEE MESSAGE, A5

## Summit sheds light on West Nile virus

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

The odds of catching the West Nile virus from a mosquito bite would be 1 out of 100 different bites.

And the chance of having a life-threatening illness to the virus would be 1 out of 15,000 different bites.

Such details were revealed by federal health officials Tuesday in Farmington Hills.

The West Nile virus started in New York City in 1999 and its quick spread to the West Coast has surprised federal health officials.

Michigan is the second state in the nation with the most reported cases of the disease, according to the Center for Disease Control. Only Illinois has more cases and deaths blamed on the virus.

Twenty-four deaths have been blamed on the virus in Michigan and there have been 343 recorded cases of people who are infected, said State Rep.

PLEASE SEE WEST MILE, A5



BILL BRISLEY/OBSERVER  
Jim Watson takes his turn monitoring the parking lot as parents pick up their students.

## OLS faces tech, shared time issues

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Improving technology is a major goal for Jim Watson, the new principal at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Farmington.

"We need to upgrade our technology and we need to upgrade our library and science labs," Watson said. "This is a great place to be. It's part of a vital parish."

A Harrison Township resident, Watson replaces Principal Roberto Clemens, who retired in spring. He formerly worked as principal at East Catholic High School in Detroit, was curriculum implementation facilitator at George Washington Carver Academy, a charter school in Highland Park and was principal of Mount Clemens Junior and Senior Academies, both partnership schools operated jointly by the Mount Clemens Board of Education and

Edison Schools.

About \$1.6 million is needed for technology at OLS, including e-mail and Internet access for students and teachers as well as voice, data cabling and TV delivery.

"Internet access now is basically confined to the computer lab," Watson said.

The money would be raised through fundraising by the parent teacher group or other savings.

"One possibility is if shared time came into place," Watson said.

The controversial shared time issue in the Farmington School District involves nonessential courses like music, art and physical education which could be offered at OLS but taught by public school teachers.

Warren Consolidated, Redford Union and Livonia Public Schools have similar

PLEASE SEE OLS, A4

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Hot & spicy**  
In Sunday's Taste section: Explore the spicy world of Northern Indian Cuisine. Writer Lana Mini makes samosas

**Win a \$1,000 Home Furnishing Shopping Spree!**

**Fabulous FURNITURE**

Check the Fabulous Furniture section in today's paper and be sure to enter. You could win!—\$12,000 will be given away during this exciting contest!