

**Degas and the Dance**

Impressionist's work on display at the DIA in January. B1



©2002 HomeTown Communications Network

# FARMINGTON Observer

Your hometown newspaper serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 116 years

THURSDAY  
October 24, 2002  
75 cents

VOLUME 116 NUMBER 10

www.observerandeccentric.com

**Our Towns**

## 12 Mile/Inkster crossing opens soon

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Twelve Mile Road along Inkster Road is expected to reopen this week after a major water main break on Sept. 15 crumbled the intersection and forced thousands of motorists to find alternate routes for more than a month.

But the opening appears to be a temporary measure while the Road Commission for Oakland County and the owner of the 60-inch drain that burst - Detroit Water and Sewerage Department - argue whether the repair by Detroit is sufficient in the long run.

The Road Commission in a statement said soil borings and ground penetration

radar confirm there is a small gap under the concrete at part of the intersection.

"This intersection is only two years old and was in great shape prior to Sept. 15," said RCOG Managing Director Brent Blair.

He stated while the road will be safe to travel, the concrete will likely crack under the weight of traffic, which will

cause the pavement to deteriorate quicker.

"We will wait until spring to see how bad it is," said RCOG spokesman Craig Bryson. He said Detroit Water is refuting the RCOG's findings.

George Ellenwood, public affairs man-

PLEASE SEE DAMAGE, A7

**Last chance**

Today is the deadline to enter a \$12,000 shopping spree courtesy of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and 12 area merchants.

Twelve lucky winners will win \$1,000 to shop at the following stores: Avenue Gallery (Birmingham, Rochester, Ann Arbor and Novi locations), Classic Interiors (Livonia), Eclipse Window Tinting (Redford), Woven Treasures (Birmingham) Franks Furniture (Wayne), Laurel Furniture (Plymouth), N.A. Mans Building Center (Canton), Newton Furniture (Bloomfield Hills, Livonia, Novi and Sterling Heights locations), Pine Tree Lighting (Lake Orion), Recherche (Waterford), Match Hill Home Interiors (Birmingham) and Walker Burenberg (Plymouth).

Winning is easy. Just fill out an entry form at the Fabulous Furniture 2002 display at each store. You'll want to visit each store and increase your chances of winning.

You must be 18 to enter. Winners will be selected by random drawing and contacted by telephone by Nov. 1. Look for the winners in the Thursday, Oct. 31 at Home section of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

**Halloween walk**  
The Farmington Downtown



BILL BRESLER | OBSERVER

Farmington Observer staffer Katie "Queen O' Hearts" McManus will be offering sweet treats to kids on Saturday.

Development Authority's annual Halloween Walk will take place this Saturday, Oct. 26.

Children accompanied by an adult are invited to trick-or-treat at downtown businesses between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. "Spooktacular Magic Show" at the Farmington Civic Theatre at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

**FALL BACK**  
to Standard Time

Don't forget to turn your clock back one hour on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2002. For more info go to [www.time.gov](http://www.time.gov)



BILL BRESLER | OBSERVER

Elsie Price designs monsters that move. Her robotics skills are self-taught.

## Hills tech makes scary props

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Elsie Price, technician for the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, is looking for any spare skulls you might have laying around.

Finding scary things at cheap prices - or things that could potentially be scary - and putting them together is part of her job when there's down time at the rec department.

Price designs and puts together props and helps coordinate the Hills annual Halloween walk in the haunted hills and woodlands of Heritage Park.

It's happening again this year from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Elaborate sets and monsters hooked up to small engines that light up and move are all thanks to Price, who says she likes to look up ideas for scary props on the Web.

"She does this very inexpensively," said Cathy



10/24

PLEASE SEE MONSTERS, A10

## Neill named O&E general manager

Peter Neill has been appointed general manager of the 16 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Neill comes to the Observer & Eccentric from Townsend Communications in Kansas City, Mo., where he served as vice president of their newspaper and specialty publications division.



Neill

The Northern Ireland native brings more than 30 years of varied newspaper experience in Ireland and Illinois to his new position at the Observer & Eccentric.

"I'm delighted Peter Neill is joining the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers as our new general manager," said Phil Power, chairman of HomeTown Communications Network, parent

PLEASE SEE NEILL, A7

## OU professors to facilitate diversity planning session

BY SUE BUICK  
STAFF WRITER

Two Oakland University professors will facilitate the strategic planning retreat Oct. 25-26 sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial council and the Detroit-based National Conference for Community and Justice.

PLEASE SEE PROFESSORS, A4

More than 100 people have volunteered to serve in a strategic planning effort to make the Farmington area a model for diversity. The hours are 5-9 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas in Farmington. The event is open to the public. Sharon (Shea) Howell is chair-

## Volunteers needed for Main Street process

BY SUE BUICK  
STAFF WRITER

It's time for anyone interested in downtown Farmington to stand up and be counted.

If you've ever wanted to talk about what you'd like to see downtown or how to make it happen, volunteer to work on the National Main Street committee.

The City of Farmington recently received a three-year National Main Street grant which will pro-

Main Street meetings are planned Nov. 18 and 19. For more information, call Judy Downey at (248) 473-7276.

vide technical expertise, and officials say they can't have too many

PLEASE SEE VOLUNTEERS, A4



BILL BRESLER | OBSERVER

## All dressed up

Costume contest winners named during Saturday's Downtown Business Association Harvest Festival are the Conn children; Nate, Trent and Ellie.

**WESTLAND**  
2 bedroom detached condo, 2.5 bath, 1st floor laundry.

Thank you for the ad that helped me find my home in Westland!

1-800-579-SELL  
PUT OUR CLASSIFIEDS TO WORK FOR YOU.

**CONTACT US**

Newsroom - (248) 477-5450  
Newsroom fax - (248) 477-9722  
Classifieds - (480) 579-9448  
Home delivery - (734) 595-9500

HomeTown COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

**INDEX**

Apartments G3  
Automotive C11  
Classified E,F,G,H  
Real Estate F3  
Service Guide G2  
Crossword G2  
Jobs G7

Obituaries A6  
Observer Life C5  
Police Calls A5  
Real Estate E1  
Service Guide G9  
Sports D1

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Golden Mushroom**  
In Sunday's Taste section: Chef Michael Trombley talks about mushroom soup and other dishes.



**Find a home for your horse.**

Rocking horse, household things, whatever...call today and sell them quickly with a classified ad—1-800-579-SELL