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THURSDAY
October 31, 2002

75 cents

VOLUME 116 NUMBER 12

FARMINGTON Observer

www.observerandcentric.com

Chilling
Dracula comes
to the stage at
Orchard Ridge.
B1



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Model diversity group launches meeting

BY SHE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

More than 120 volunteers from the Farmington community, including city and school officials, have signed up for a year-long process to develop a model for diversity in the metropolitan Detroit area.

They first met as a group Oct. 25-26 at the Farmington Training Center in Farmington. It's a joint effort of the

Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Council and the Detroit-based National Conference for Community and Justice.

Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield said the volunteers were making an important sacrifice.

"There's a gazillion other things people could be doing on a Friday night and Saturday," he said. "The MCMR goes back almost two decades in this commu-

nity." "The community is not about the business of just tolerating, just putting up with, or just celebrating diversity and saying, 'Isn't it cool that we all eat different food and maybe even dress a little oddly but it's sort of interesting,'" Maxfield said.

It's about the business of relying on diversity, he said.

"When people come together, wonderful things happen," Maxfield said. "They

Oakland University professors contribute to dialogue on diversity. Story, Page A3.

learn from each other and they make better decisions. They do a better job of visioning the future. They raise healthier kids. They have better results in their schools. They have more appropriate city

PLEASE SEE DIVERSITY, A7

Our Towns

ACG president

Linda Woolwine, vice president, travel for the Dearborn-based Auto Club



Group (ACG), was named vice president of ACG Club integration, a holding company comprised of 41 million members which include six AAA clubs: AAA Michigan, AAA Wisconsin, AAA Chicago, AAA Nebraska, AAA North Dakota and AAA Minnesota/Iowa. The Auto Club Insurance Association and Auto Club Trust, FSB also form a part of the ACG.

Woolwine lives in Farmington Hills with her husband, Thadeus, daughter, Twyla and granddaughter, Jocelyn.

Viking Lunch

Thad Aaral of Redford and Marge Sorensen of Dearborn are helping to plan a hearty Norwegian lunch in preparation for the Scandinavian Bazaar to be held 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills.

An assortment of Scandinavian foods, jewelry, gifts, flags, cookbooks and other items will be available.



Scandinavian-American clubs, representing the countries of Finland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, are sponsoring the annual event. The Finnish Center is at 35200 W. Eight Mile between Farmington and Newburgh roads.

CC still unbeaten

No, it's not sports. But Redford's Catholic Central Varsity Quilt Team won its fourth consecutive tournament Saturday, claiming first place at the Case Western Reserve University Fall Invitational. They were led by tournament MVP freshman Joel Knight of Farmington.

Two weeks before the CC quilt team posted a perfect 8-0 record to capture the University of Michigan-Dearborn Invitational Tournament. Previously, the undefeated Shamrocks group had snared the trophy in the Southern Invitational at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. In that competition, the defending state champions were led by Pele Troyan of Allen Park and Charles Drummond of Plymouth, who were both named to the All-Tournament Team.



Farmington's beautiful landscapes honored

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Joe and Georgina Santoni of Farmington think it's much more fun to work out in their yards than to work out in a gym.

Their workout last summer involved tending to the trees and lawn and hauling more than 6,000 pounds of landscaping rocks to place atop three large mounds on their Smithfield Street home. Considering he is 84 and she 83, this landscaping workout rivaled any on a treadmill, weight machine or stair climber. The pair received an award from the city of Farmington's Commission on the Environment and the Environmental Awards subcommi-

BILL BRESLER | OBSERVER

Because Joseph and Georgina Santoni's lot has many large trees, their landscaping features lots of ground cover, giving a park-like feel.

PLEASE SEE LANDSCAPES, A2

Hills police team up with helicopters

BY JAY GROSSMAN
STAFF WRITER

When kids and their parents go out for Halloween tonight, they can look to the skies for an extra blanket of safety. That's because the Oakland County Sheriff's Department plans to patrol the area with its aviation unit, teaming up with ground support from the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Two helicopters patrolled the county during Devil's Night and will fly on Halloween. Sheriff Michael Bouchard said one will be stationed over Rochester Hills, the other over Farmington Hills.

"Obviously there's nothing more important to us than the children's safety on what should be a fun night," the sheriff said Tuesday in Farmington Hills, joined by Hills Police Chief William Dwyer. Capt. Robert Smith, commander of the Rochester Hills substation for the sheriff's department, said he planned to use undercover officers for Devil's Night.

But for Halloween tonight, he'll use marked patrol units to create a highly visible presence around the city. "We want to make sure that drivers, in particular, exercise extreme caution because of all the kids out there. You'll see kids in dark-colored costumes that are easy to miss."

Dwyer said having patrols out on Halloween today "is an additional comfort

PLEASE SEE HELICOPTERS, A10

Schools worry about passage of Proposal 4

BY PHILIP POWER
HEM CHAIRMAN

If passed, Statewide Proposal 4 would end the Merit Scholarship program that over the past three years has helped almost 1,100 high school graduates from the Farmington Public School district attend college, according to figures from the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Proposal 4, a 1990-voted amendment to the Michigan Constitution that is up for a vote on the Nov. 5 ballot, would redirect more than \$300 million in Tobacco Settlement revenue for various health care institutions and hospitals.

A record 51,733 members of the high school class of 2002 qualified for the \$2,500 scholarship by passing the state's

assessment test. State Treasurer Doug Roberts warned last week that up to 78,000 students, including the graduating class of 2003, will be denied scholarships next year if voters approve Proposal 4.

In the Farmington school district, 266 Merit Scholarships were awarded to local youth in 2000, 349 in 2001 and 484 in 2002.

Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield has considered both sides of the issue.

He's been critical of using the money for something other than what was intended in the Tobacco Settlement but also knows the benefits it provides students.

"It has been beneficial for many fami-

lies who would have struggled with college costs," Maxfield said. "I would have preferred that there would have been a need factor built in."

He couldn't say what family income level should be the cutoff point. Speaking specifically about the proposal, Maxfield said that it would set a "terrible precedent" that isn't appropriate. He called it a "Constitutional Enron."

"That's why we have a Legislature," he said. "It's a legislative prerogative. That's how we do business."

The proposal pits people philosophically because voters can choose either the health aspect or scholarships.

Both Maxfield and Mercy High School

PLEASE SEE PROPOSAL, A7

FYA recognizes giving volunteers

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Volunteers with Farmington Youth Assistance were honored Monday during the group's 43rd annual breakfast.

About 78 volunteers attended the event, which was sponsored by Farmington Hills-based Akebono, said Susan Hoffman, caseworker with FYA.

"We've grown substantially since last year," she said of volunteers that help make the FYA's many youth and family programs run successfully.

She said word-of-mouth among volunteers

PLEASE SEE FYA, A2



BILL BRESLER | OBSERVER

New officers for Farmington Youth Assistance were sworn in at the Monday meeting.

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