

Farmington Observer

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Doggone!

Stray pooch, sent to school, disappears

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It's difficult to imagine. But even a dog can get lost in today's system of rules and procedures.

So what began as a good-deed story about the Farmington Police and Julia's Veterinary Hospital's joint effort to help Angel, a stray dog, find a new life, has instead become a mystery.

Where are you Angel? That's a question Leader Dog for the Blind officials in Rochester have been asked since last week.

After a tedious process of trying to avoid sending Angel to the county animal control center to be destroyed, both Dan Potter, a Farmington patrolman and Terri Fendt, the Farmington vet hospital's animal assistant, managed to get Leader Dog officials to accept the stray animal as a dog-in-training. But when asked to locate the dog for a photograph, Leader Dog officials failed to determine which dog is Angel.

"I'm sorry, you need the contract number," answered a voice over the Leader Dog school's telephone when asked if Angel could be located.

On March 13, Potter was called to James Court to pick up a stray, female Golden Retriever.

"EVERYBODY was talking about the dog," Potter said. "It really was just a super dog."

Generally, when the police pick up a stray dog, they must take the animal to the veterinary hospital, which has a contract with the city to accept all stray animals.

The hospital usually holds the dog for about five days and, if unclaimed, it is sent to the county animal control to be destroyed.

But Potter, fellow officers and dispatchers and Fendt thought Angel

was too special to end her life as an unknown.

"Everyone fell in love with the dog," Potter said, adding he tried to find Angel a home to prevent her being sent to the county pound.

"I got pretty attached, too," Fendt admitted. "And he (Potter) thought what a shame it was for such a nice dog to be taken to animal control."

So, the animal lovers decided to check with the Leader Dog school to see if Angel could pass the evaluation and live with an owner who really needed her.

"They decided she was a good candidate," Fendt said.

After 14 days in quarantine, Angel apparently was accepted into the Leader Dog training program. In fact, Fendt took Angel to Rochester and her new home at the school.

While Angel was under consideration as a Leader Dog, Potter and Fendt wanted a court order to stop the grinding wheels of animal disposal and in case someone later tried to claim Angel as their own.

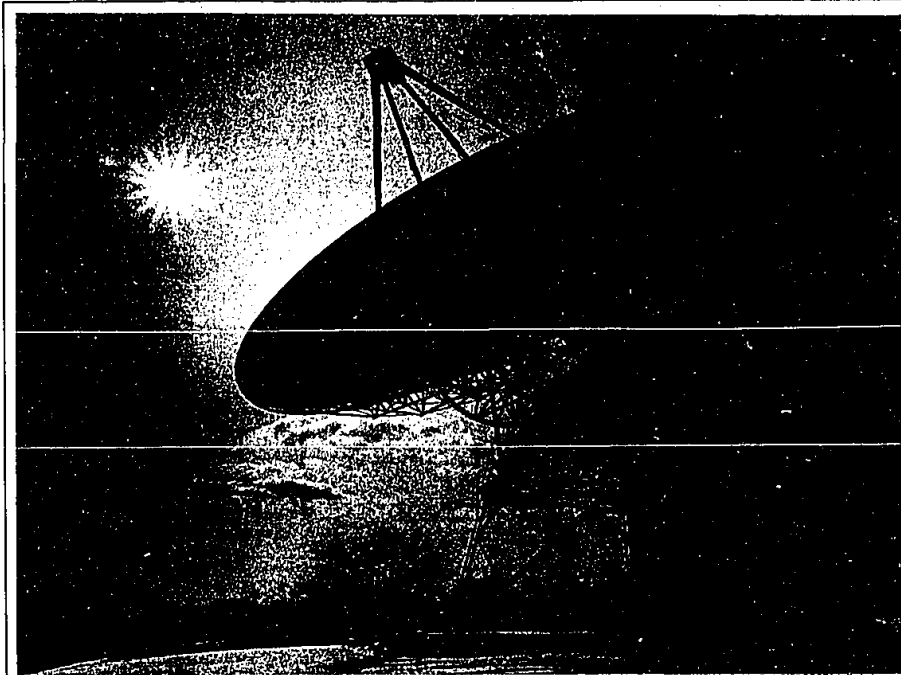
"THERE ARE a lot of animals that don't get claimed," Fendt said, indicating that about 80 percent of the animals taken to the vet hospital eventually are sent to the pound for disposal.

That's why finding Angel a new home was so important, Fendt added.

"The city even got a break on confinement (charges)," Potter said, adding that Angel's room and board charges were discounted to about \$42. "It usually would have been much more than that."

But now about 1 1/2 weeks later, Angel appears lost under a mound of procedures and contract numbers.

"I know I took the dog there," Fendt said.



Star listener

The Peach Mountain radio telescope, all 200 tons of it, sits atop a windswept hill northwest of Ann Arbor. University of Michigan astronomers use this giant ear to hear the sounds of the universe.

For a story and more photographs, turn to Science spectrum on page 18.

RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Video olympians gear up



Doug Verbanic tests his skills on Q*Bert, a video game like the one to be used in the upcoming Video Game Olympics.

RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Bill Etter, a self-confessed video-game freak, has an added incentive to keep plugging those 25-cent tokens into his favorite machines these days.

Etter, 17, of Farmington is "in training" for the inaugural Video Games Olympics Friday through Sunday at Detroit's Cobo Hall. He's honing his skills this week on the games at Putt 'n' Games, a Farmington arcade.

"I enjoy playing the games and getting the high scores," said Etter, who claims to have scored 25,000 on Q*Bert and 10,000 on Front Line, two of the games he'll be playing at the olympics. "I like being the best."

At the Video Games Olympics, he'll have a chance to earn those bragging rights, win prizes and help a charity. All entry fees from the games will be donated to the Association for Retarded Citizens/Michigan.

Asked what it takes to rack up those high scores, Etter said, "It takes good hand-eye coordination, and you have to know the computer patterns. You have to go the way the computer wants you to go."

Putt 'n' Games, which combines miniature golf with arcade games in a complex on Grand River, is one of 14 Detroit-area establishments to participate in the Video Games Olympics.

CONTESTANTS CAN train at Putt 'n' Games on machines set to the same

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Officials ponder library proposal

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It appears unlikely that Farmington and Farmington Hills officials will grant the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees their request to be reorganized as an official governmental authority capable of asking voters for operating millage.

The Farmington City Council Monday accepted a report issued by Farmington Hills attorney Paul Bibeau evaluating whether the two city councils should place the question of reorganizing the library board on the November 1983 ballot.

A similar library reorganization query was defeated in 1978 when library board members first requested the change, said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman. While Farmington voters approved the request, Farmington Hills voters opposed it so the issue was put on hold. Deadman added.

At the time of that election, Deadman said, city officials failed to consider the ramifications of both the 1955 and 1978 library organization laws.

The 1978 law, designed to clarify the earlier act, still is too unclear in delineating the status a library board would have as an authority, Bibeau said.

Now, after reviewing the laws, Bibeau said that the question raised is whether reorganizing the library board as an authority would "provide anything other than an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to place millage questions before the electorate of the communities," Deadman said.

BECOMING AN authority would allow the library board greater autonomy from Farmington and Farmington Hills — the library's two financial sources, Bibeau said.

But even if the board became an authority, Deadman said, it is apparent the two cities still would be financially responsible unless the newly created authority asked voters for operating millage.

The Library Board would have the best of both worlds. They may be autonomous in the use of their funds and at the same time the cities are required

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oral quarrel

Give your suggestion for Festival theme

Before you know it, the Farmington Founders Festival will be upon us. The folks over at the Festival Committee are looking for a theme slogan this year. Founders Director Rob Falls is asking residents to help out by giving their suggestions.

In keeping with tradition, the committee is looking for a theme with an historical flavor. The only limit you have is your imagination.

GIVE US YOUR SUGGESTION FOR A FARMINGTON FOUNDERS FESTIVAL THEME SLOGAN FOR THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION

To give us your idea, call Oral Quarrel at 477-8498. You have until 1 p.m. on Friday to give us your answer. To see what ideas your neighbors came up with, look in Monday's issue of the Farmington Observer.

City outlines uses for federal money

Farmington's approximately \$58,000 in 1983-84 federal shared revenues most likely will be used to help pay public safety employees' salaries.

Although City Council members offered no other proposed uses for the federal money during a public hearing Monday, a final decision on its use will be made later this year when the city's annual budget is made, said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

Using the federal shared revenues in

the public safety department helps to simplify accounting procedures, Deadman said.

The city receives the minimum amount of federal shared revenues allowed under a complicated formula because of Farmington's overall income level, Deadman said.

Although the federal funding program will expire in September, Deadman said, the U.S. Congress is expected to renew the program for another three years.

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