

Farmington Observer

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Farmington Focus

DRIVERS don't forget school starts today. Be prepared to stop when the school bus puts on its flashing red lights. Be aware of children getting off and on the school bus and crossing the street.

ROBERT SVOBODA of Farmington Hills is the new vice president of European Credit Operations for Ford Motor Co. He and his wife will move to Sheffield, England, to assume his new duties. Svoboda joined Ford Division in 1957 as a credit and collection coordinator, moving to Ford Credit in 1960. He held a number of managerial posts, including a stint in England as managing director for Ford Credit Britain. In 1973, he was elected Ford Credit's vice president of Northern U.S. and Canadian Operations, at which time he returned to the U.S.

TRACEY A. BALOG, a graduate of Mercy High School, was awarded the H.T. Ewald Foundation Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 1928 through endowment gifts given by the late H.T. Ewald, noted advertising pioneer and founder and first president of the Campbell-Ewald Co. Balog will attend Michigan State University this fall.

PATRICK TSCHUDI, son of John and Patty Tschudi of Farmington Hills and a junior at Farmington High School, made his first solo airplane flight on his 16th birthday Aug. 14. A cadet in the Civil Air Patrol's Starline Composite Squadron, he hopes to make flying a career. Tschudi flies out of New Hudson Airport and is instructed by Dr. E. Levine.

TONY HERNANDEZ of Farmington Hills has joined Intergroup Marketing & Promotions (IMP) as vice president-sales promotion and merchandising. Before joining IMP, he was vice president of sales and marketing at Helm Inc. on the Motorcraft and Lincoln Mercury accounts. He began his career as an account executive at Grey Advertising.

SOPHIE ZAGER was one of a local delegation who attended the 72nd national convention of Knights of Lithuania in Yale University, New Haven, Conn. The Farmington Hills resident represented Council 79 of Divine Providence Parish, Southfield, with council members from Farmington, Redford, Dearborn Heights, Southfield, Plymouth and Canton. Among the guest speakers were John (Pleasant) "squeeze-the-Charmie" Chervonka. His talk was called "Color Me Lithuanian." The convention period in on youth affairs and plans for the league in the next decade.

MEMBERS OF the Farmington Chapter of Michigan Christian College will be in Rochester from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14 for the college's annual Fall Festival. Local chapter members have taken on the job of serving doughnuts and coffee all morning, and homemade ice cream all afternoon. The festival with a country fair theme will take place on the college grounds, 900 W. Avon Road.

COMMON GROUND, Oakland County's 24-hour crisis center, needs volunteers. An orientation session is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the center, 900 Adams, Farmington. Persons interested in crisis center positions will have the opportunity to sign up for the upcoming program for the training center which will be held at 26. Call Karen Gaudier, 648-1177.

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Farmington Focus, Farmington Observer, 1000 Grand Street, Farmington, Mich. 48331.

Neighbors file suit vs. group home

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

With or without the city's support, some Farmington Hills residents are going to court in opposition to a proposed group home for the mentally retarded in their neighborhood.

Neighbors of a proposed home on Old Bedford in the Briar Hill subdivision, off 13 Mile west of Farmington Road — asked the Farmington Hills City Council last week to join their lawsuit

to prevent construction of a new home for six mentally retarded adults.

They are concerned about safety and the possibility that property values will drop.

City officials declined the offer to join the suit. But they questioned whether the state Department of Mental Health (DMH) properly notified the city about the home's proposed site.

"I think, Madam Mayor, these people certainly have a right to sue," said Councilwoman Joan Dudley. Participa-

tion in the suit, however, would be expensive for the city, she said.

"We have had no negative input about a group home in the city after its existence," Dudley told Lois Gerber, a Briar Hill resident who opposes the group home. Eight group homes are currently operating in the Hills.

Briar Hill neighbors obtained a temporary restraining order in early August preventing the state Department of Social Services (DSS) from issuing a license for the proposed home, said

Thomas Hunter, attorney for the neighbors.

The restraining order, issued by Oakland Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert, also prevents the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) from providing financing for the home's construction, Hunter said.

COUNCIL MEMBERS last week considered a resolution informing the circuit court that state rules for notifying a municipality about the site selec-

tion of a group home may have been violated.

But council postponed action until City Attorney Paul Bibeau researches the rules to determine whether there has been a violation.

Bibeau is expected to present a report at the next regular council meeting, Monday, Sept. 9. That's the same date Judge Gilbert is scheduled to hear the residents' complaint.

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Bill Nuttall looks up to his sunflowers.

HANDY BONES/staff photographer

Well-placed garden yields rich harvest

By Judith Doner Berne
staff writer

If you ask Bill Nuttall how his garden grows, you're going to get a lot of statistics. The Ford Motor Co. administrator keeps detailed records of the progress of his crops, including the first picking date and the amount and/or size of the produce.

His biggest pumpkin ever weighed 64 pounds. This year's first tomato was picked July 13 and the strawberry crop has been converted to 80 quarts.

You've no doubt seen his garden of 18 years. It's on Farmington Road, immediately southeast of 11 Mile Road. Six-foot sunflowers and two scarecrows — one authentic and one plastic — advertise its presence.

In winter, the hardy scarecrow remains urging passersby to have a "Happy Turkey Day," "Merry Christmas" or to "Think Spring."

INSTEAD OF yearning for a more rural location, Nuttall delights in his proximity to Farmington Road. "There are a lot of nice gardens around. I just have a good location — people see it."

And although he enjoys the flowers which border the garden, "I really plant them for those driving by."

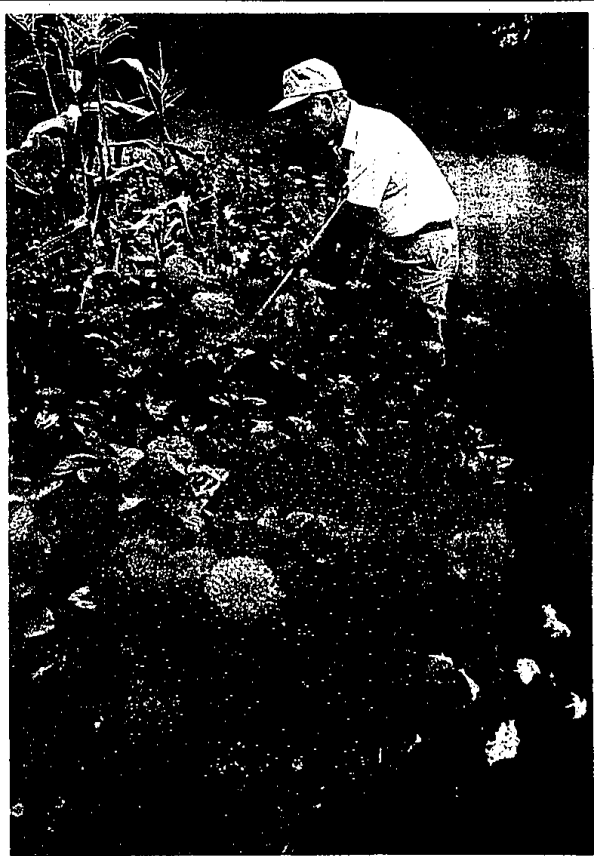
He's always happy to interrupt his hoeing to chat with passersby, who may ask gardening advice or permission to gather cornstalks for Halloween decorations.

See Farmington
Garden Club winners
on page 9A.

Nuttall's interest is well-grounded. His father was an agronomist (an expert in soil management and crop production); a brother taught horticulture at Oakland Community College.

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Vegetables are Bill Nuttall's thing. He plants the flowers for those who drive or walk by his Farmington Road garden.



Dollars delay Orchard Lake Road widening

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Long-planned improvements along Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads in Farmington Hills have been put on hold at least until next spring because of higher-than-anticipated construction bids.

"The main thing is that the bids are so high," said City Manager William Costick.

The bill for the estimated \$216,000 project would be shared between Oakland County, the county road commission and the city.

The Farmington Hills City Council

recommended to the road commission last week that the bids be abandoned because they would make the project too expensive.

UNDER THE tri-party program, the city would have paid \$68,844, Oakland County would have paid approximately

\$39,000 and the road commission would have picked up the remaining \$108,878.

But even the lowest of two construction bids received by the road commission was approximately \$39,000 more than was expected, Costick said.

That means either the city or the

road commission would have had to pick up or share the increase because it's highly unlikely Oakland County would add any more to the project, said Tom Basell, Farmington Hills director of special services. Oakland County allocates only a certain amount of money a year for this type of project, he said.

Roll call

Elected officials post good attendance

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

How well do our elected officials represent us? That's a matter of opinion. How often do they represent us? Just about as often as they can.

According to attendance records of the Farmington schools, Farmington City Council and Farmington Hills City Council, our elected officials are strong on attendance.

The school board held 21 meetings last school year. Susan Reynolds attended all 21, while Jack Inch, Jane Abernethy and Richard Wallace at-

tended 20 each. Janice Reinick and Emma Makinen were at 19 each, and Helen Protow was at 18.

Board members are paid \$20 a night. The Farmington Hills council has held 23 meetings in 1985. Ben Marks missed one meeting. Jan Dolan and Donna Wolf missed two, and Joe Alkateh, Joan Dudley, Joel Sorocoon and Charles Williams missed three each.

THREE TIMES, two council members were absent from the same session.

The seats held by Sorocoon, Marks and Williams are up for election Nov.

8. Sorocoon and Marks are running. Williams is not.

Council members are paid \$150 a month. The Farmington council met 29 times in the fiscal year ending July 1, 1985.

Pacing the council in attendance were Raynard Tupper and William Hartsock, who each were absent just once. Roger Walker missed two sessions. Ralph Yoder missed four and Alton Bennett five.

Only once were two councilmen absent from a meeting.

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