

carrier of the month Farmington Hills

Myasthenia Gravis will be in focus



Mike Ferrante, 14, delivers the Observer in the Old Homestead subdivision. He has been delivering the Observer since May 1983. The North Farmington High School ninth grader's favorite subjects are German, math and history. His hobbies are computers, camping and collecting matchbooks. He is a Boy Scout and a member of his school's Forensics Club. Mike was a Forensic finalist and a contest finalist for his Law Day essay. His future plans are in engineering or medicine. Bookkeeping, public relations and responsibility are some of the skills Mike feels he has acquired on his paper route. Mike is the son of Anthony and Marianne Ferrante. He has two sisters, Linda, 17 and Marcia, 18.

The Myasthenia Gravis Association will culminate its Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Week activities by hosting the Eastern-Central Regional Meeting of the MG Foundation Sunday, Oct. 13 at the Botaford Inn in Farmington Hills. A highlight of the meeting will be guest speaker Ruth Sampson, a registered nurse. Sampson has done extensive work with parents of myasthenic children in New Jersey. In 1981, she began a project to find families of myasthenic youths and discuss their experiences with them in order to gain an understanding of their particular problems, and ultimately, to provide appropriate educational materials for them. She has co-authored an article entitled "Physical, Emotional, Social and Family Interactions in Childhood Myasthenia Gravis." SAMPSON is a member of the National MG Foundation's Nurses Advisory Board, vice president of education for the Foundation's Garden State Chapter and has developed educational programs and materials for myasthenic and health professionals who assist MG patients. Since she is also a myasthenic, her presentation will encompass a blending of her professional experience and knowledge with perspectives from her own day-in and day-out struggles with the disease. Oct. 6-12 is Michigan and National MG Week. Gov. James Blanchard has issued a proclamation encouraging "all Michigan citizens to applaud the efforts of the Myasthenia Gravis Association," which provides an extensive support system for myasthenia gravis patients and their families. For more information, call the Myasthenia Gravis Association, a United Foundation Torch Drive Agency, 342-5939.

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Small business important force

To the editor: We take a lot of things for granted — running water, the newsy newspaper, electricity, the corner drug store — the list is long. We seldom stop to realize however, how much we need or rely on those things we take for granted until we have to do without them. One of the difficulties in creating public awareness of how important small business is in sustaining local and national economic strength is, in large part, due to the fact that because small businesses consistently and reliably meet our daily needs, we tend to take them for granted and we lose sight of their importance. Most of us work for a small business. We buy our house, car, clothes and household appliances from small businesses. When we need the toaster, TV or the children's bikes repaired, we call on our neighborhood small business. We get our clothes cleaned and our hair styled at our favorite local shop. The watch for our son or daughter's graduation is available at the local jeweler and our audio, video and computer needs are conveniently available "from a store near you" as a favorite advertising phrase goes. But what if we had to call or go to Detroit to buy a car? What if we had to go to the plant of one of the major pharmaceutical manufacturers to buy aspirin or the prescription the doctor ordered for our sick child? What if we had to go to Georgia, Washington or Oregon to look at and buy the lumber we need for our home repair job? Possibly only if these exaggerated examples became realities would we understand the true value of small business. And this is no way denigrates the value and importance of big business without which our economy could not survive. But through TV commercials and other media attention which centers on the ebb and flow of activity in these businesses, many of the "Fortune 500" names are well known to us and occupy our attention when we think about America's business community. Local small businesses do not enjoy the same me-

dia attention and consequently do not rate high in the public consciousness, but their importance is just as vital to our economic well being. Last year, small businesses provided a livelihood for over half our population and jobs for 45 percent of the nation's total, non-farm workforce. That meant jobs for over 45 million Americans. Stated another way, jobs provided by small businesses were: • 10 times greater than all the jobs in the federal government; • three times greater than all the jobs in state and local governments; • 13 times greater than the total number of jobs of the "Fortune 500"; and • 37 times greater than the total number of jobs of the Big Three automobile manufacturers. Last year, small businesses also produced 39 percent of our Gross National Product. This translated to one trillion four hundred billion dollars — \$1,400,000,000,000. Put in perspective, that was: • six times greater than the cost of national defense; • five times more than total health care costs, including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; • 13 times greater than interest on the debt; • 13 times greater than income security costs, that is, retirement and disability payments and assistance to the aged and disabled. • 23 times greater than the cost of all of our education programs; • 1 1/2 times greater than total expenditures of the 1984 federal budget. Viewed in this broader perspective of its relative value to the nation, small business can begin to receive the attention it needs and merits to grow, prosper and continue as a bulwark of the nation's economy. We need small business. We need the diversity small firms provide in broadening a community's economic base. We need the traditional values that small business alone provides in preserving competition, an independent market economy and our free enterprise system which allows Americans a unique freedom of choice in the products they buy and the prices they pay, and perhaps most of all, we need small businesses' productive capacity and the jobs they generate each year. You need your local small businesses and they

need you. Continue to support them.

National Small Business Association

Article did an injustice

To the editor: I take exception to the article written about the outbreak of head lice at William Grace School. As a parent of a child attending that school, I'm also very concerned. But our school is not the only one with that particular problem. Your reporter did our school an injustice by writing the article as though William Grace is the only school in Farmington with that problem. A check of other schools in this area, private schools as well as public, should also have been included. Mary DiPaolo, Farmington Hills

Donating blood to save a life

To the editor: American Red Cross Blood Services' Southeastern Michigan Region will host two bloodmobiles in the Farmington area this month. Donating blood is simple, safe and risk-free. There is no way that a donor can contract any infectious disease by giving a pint of blood. A new, sterile needle is used for each donor and then discarded. A blood donation takes only 30 to 45 minutes; is virtually painless and can save up to four lives. Blood can be donated by anyone in good health between the ages of 17 and 65 who weighs at least 110 pounds, Red Cross officials say. Red Cross Bloodmobiles will be in the following Farmington area locations: • Thursday, Sept. 19, Botaford Hospital, 28050 Grand River, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For an appointment, call Beverly Weiss, 471-6651. • Saturday, Sept. 21, Antioch Lutheran Church, 33301 W. 13 Mile, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For an appointment, call Ginny Jesse, 522-1311. American Red Cross Blood Services

Church of Today Presents... Della Reese Sunday, September 22 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services You are invited to join us as we welcome the incomparable Della Reese. An exceptional and versatile vocalist, Della combines her musical talent with an inspiring, positive attitude in life. Come and experience the joy of Della's music and the wisdom of her uplifting, spiritual message. Church of Today Jack Boland, Minister 11200 N 11 Mile Road East Warren, MI 48089 (313) 758-3050 Sunday Radio 7:00 a.m. - WKYT 1270 AM Dial 8:00 a.m. - CKLW 800 AM Dial

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