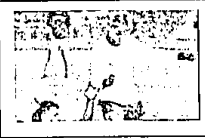


Shoe designs are fun, feminine, racy, 3B



Kick it good, 1B

Republicans hold state convention, 5A

Farmington Observer

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Scheduling of meetings rapped

'There was no intent at all (to prevent residents from commenting before the planning commission).'
— Dan Potter
special services director

By Joanne Mallazowski
staff writer

One man stormed out the door. Others, residents near Farmington Hills' planned athletic park, were chagrined but continued discussing modified park plans with city officials.

What surprised residents was that while they were attending the special meeting Thursday, Farmington Hills planning commissioners were

meeting simultaneously with an agenda that included park plan site review.

The angry man accused Special Services Director Dan Potter of knowingly scheduling the residents' meeting at the same time planning commissioners were meeting so public comment could not be made.

Potter and some members of the Farmington Parks and Recreation Commission denied the man's accusations, telling him he had enough

time to reach planning commissioners with a comment.

"There was no intent at all (to prevent residents from commenting before the planning commission)," Potter said.

Planning commissioners Thursday approved a site plan, with some minor revisions, for the 15-acre athletic park on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Farmington roads. Construction is expected to begin this fall.

DESPITE THE resident's accusations, the special meeting was concluded before planning commissioners completed their lengthy agenda. Park site plan review was the last item on commissioners' agenda.

"There were no residents there," city planner Ed Gardner said.

Scheduling both meetings simultaneously was not intentional. Parks and recreation commissioners about

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item, feature story idea or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33293 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

He makes the signs motorists pass by

By Janica Brunson
staff writer

"Tina always gets taken. Can't make enough of them. They go fast."

A person? A pet? In this instance, Tina is a street sign and the person doing the talking is Paul Sweeney, 42, official maker of street signs for Farmington Hills.

A warm, friendly man, Sweeney greeted his 14-year-old son, Sean, in a telephone call that momentarily interrupted the interview with "Sloan, ma' man. How's it goin'?" Talk to the lady. Sweeney thrust the phone to within a foot of the reporter and jokingly urged a conversation between reporter and boy.

Sweeney was a one-man sign operation until 14 months ago when Ben Elzai joined him. Both are employees of the city's Department of Public Service and it is their responsibility to provide all regulating, warning and guide signs on city streets, following directives of what they refer to as the Bible, Michigan's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Sweeney was the first man in the job 12 years ago. Before that, city signs were contracted to the county. "Nobody had any idea what the job was about. Everything was new to everyone," he said.



Paul Sweeney was a one-man sign operation until 14 months ago. He and another Department of Public Service employee

are responsible for providing all regulating, warning and guide signs on Farmington Hills streets.

Sometimes he is wrong.

Local residents are quick to inform him when he has made an error. Perhaps the most significant call was from a member of the local historical society. New research revealed "Halstead" was not meant to contain an "a." The correction was made on the 30 or so signs that are needed to identify the street in Farmington Hills.

Sweeney recalls one sign he re-

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He noticed the effect on his vision after about five years on the job.

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STREET SIGNS are made with die-cut letters that are heat-applied to the sign in a huge oven equipped with enormous light bulbs. "I used to have normal vision until I got into this," Sweeney said.

CHIANGING representation. The Farmington Dispatcher/Clerks have elected to change their representation for collective bargaining.

The majority of union members petitioned the Michigan Department of Labor's Employment Labor Commission to hold an election to consider a change in representation.

As a result, the Farmington Dispatcher/Clerks will now be represented by the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

"Since the current contract between the association and the city expired on June 30, 1986, we would expect the bargaining to begin in the near future in an effort to reach a new agreement with this unit," wrote City Manager Robert Deadman in a report to the city council.

SIGNUP set. Regular registration for the fall semester at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus will be held from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Sept. 2-3, according to an alphabetical schedule. Classes begin Thursday, Sept. 4.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Little Caesar's offer of \$3.5 million beat out three other area developers for the purchase of almost 300 acres on the southwest corner of 12 Mile and Drake roads owned by the Farmington Public Schools.

School bells

Farmington classes resume next week



Bus driver Murphy Ayres in the Farmington Public Schools bus yard.

Clarenceville Public Schools update: Page 6A.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington students will be greeted next week with a new superintendent, 15 administrative staff changes, 30 new teachers, and a major building improvement program.

School begins in Farmington Public Schools next week with a teacher's work day Tuesday, Sept. 2, afternoon half-days on Wednesday, Sept. 3, and the first full day of school on Thursday, Sept. 4.

The past few months were active ones as new Superintendent Graham Lewis took the helm July 1, and swept through the district's administrative structure making major changes.

Central office staff and building principals were already briefed on the changes. Other employees must wait for the start of school to learn of the changes in more detail, Lewis said.

Newly appointed to assistant superintendent posts during the summer were former special education supervisor Mary Lou Ankele in special services and newcomer Judith

what's inside

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- News line . . . 477-5450**
Sports line . . . 591-2300
Home delivery . . . 591-0500
Classified line . . . 591-0900

Reminder

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

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