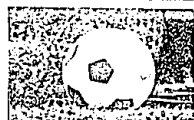


Farmington chefs  
offer a taste, 3B



Hawks  
soar, 1B

Voters to consider  
road bond issue, 2A

# Farmington Observer

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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 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

**CARRYING** the torch.  
Vincent Mercer of Farmington Hills is serving as an ambassador for the 1986 United Foundation Torch Drive.

Vice president of communications for Macomb Mutual Life Insurance Co., Mercer is one of six tri-county area residents recently selected to speak at campaign meetings, rallies and kickoffs on behalf of the 1986 Torch Drive.

This year, the campaign runs from Oct. 14 through Nov. 6 to raise operating dollars for 143 charitable agencies in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

**CANCELLED.**  
The Farmington Board of Education has cancelled the board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 22.  
The meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 7. A police and board operation committee meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The regular board meeting will begin at 8 p.m.

**CORRECTED.**  
A debate between the two contenders for the 15th State Senate District seat will be held Wednesday, Oct. 15, not Sept. 17, as originally stated in a Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce flyer.  
State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, and challenger Frank Brook, R-Lathrup Village, will square off at 7:30 a.m. in the Michigan Inn, Southfield.  
The cost is \$10 per person. Call the chamber for reservations, 474-3440.

**ON target.**  
A boundary/facility committee for Farmington Public Schools was recently formed to study school boundaries and the usage of various buildings.  
Headed by the committee is Assistant Superintendent Lynn Nutter, who said the district will look at "elementary and senior high facilities. We have a lot of decisions ahead of us."  
The group will begin its study in earnest after the Fourth Friday student count, he added.

**HIE's appointed.**  
Gilbert Rice of Farmington Hills was named by Gov. Blanchard to the Michigan Asbestos Abatement Contractors Licensing Board to a three-year term expiring Sept. 1, 1989.

**TAKE note.**  
Farmington City Council has proclaimed Nov. 2-6 as Telephone Pioneer Week. It proclaimed Nov. 23-30 as National Bible Week.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Seven Oakwood Cemetery tombstones, four dating back to the 1850s and 1880s, were toppled last week. Of the four old limestone markers that were tipped, three were snapped at the base. Three granite gravestones of more recent vintage were tipped but not broken.

## Student drug abuse on decline

*'This (the federal drug report) is the very thing the parent movement has been saying for five years or more.'*

— Betty Nicolay  
Families in Action

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Intensive education, strict school discipline, law enforcement control plus parental support are helping curb drug and alcohol problems in Farmington Public Schools, according to one official.

Student drug use in Farmington high schools, a daily occurrence in the early 1970s, has "been reduced significantly," according to As-

sistant Superintendent Lynn Nutter, a former high school principal. He said the rate of student drug use is now "very low" compared with recently published national statistics.

Nutter's comments follow a nationally televised plea against drugs by President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan, and release of a recently published U.S. Department of Education drug handbook. Both the report and TV appearance were designed to prompt

schools and communities to take immediate action against drug abuse. Titled "Schools Without Drugs," the handbook was recently mailed to each school district across the country.

Betty Nicolay, who heads Farmington Families in Action, a parents group devoted to drug education, found the federal report to be "excellent — right on target." She doesn't believe today's drug problem is overplayed.

"This (the report) is the very thing the parent movement has been saying for five years or more," she said.

**NICOLAY SAID** Farmington teens are no different than others polled for the report. "I would say Farmington is a very average community and would fit into these statistics," she added.

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## He helps inspire a fondness of music

By Loraine McClellan  
staff writer

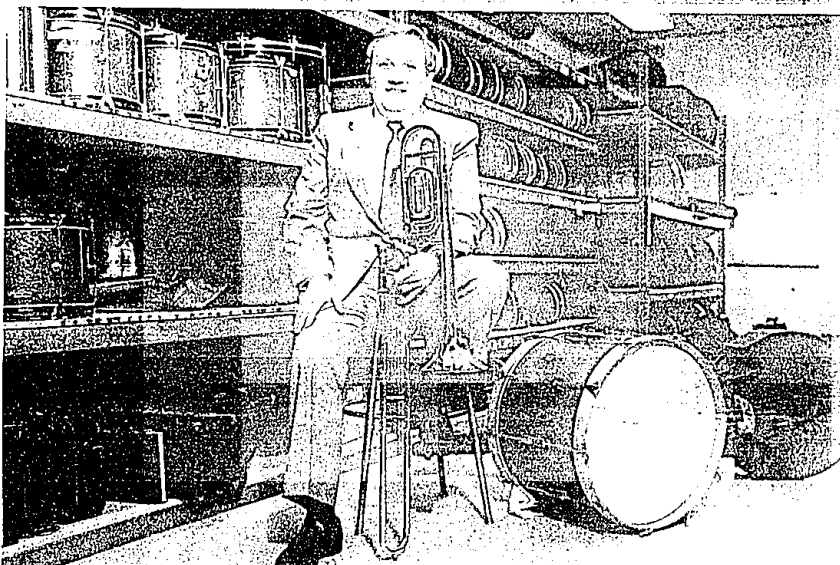
Surrounded by a music library, a piano, tape decks, and a room full of band instruments, Paul Barber talks about his career as a musician and music teacher that's filled with "magic moments."

A magic moment comes when a ninth grader tells him, "That Stravinsky guy is cool," Barber said, speaking of special times in the classroom.  
Or when the band members' "faces light up, turned on, feeling it, doing it well, all in sync, sharing that emotional intimacy, that oneness, knowing that we're all in this thing together and we're doing it together right on."

"This is a thrill you don't know unless you experience it yourself and I get to share in these special thrilling moments," Barber said, speaking of the magic times that comes while he's conducting.

"The football coach has to settle for his kicks on the sidelines. I am on the podium and a part of that magic moment. The conductor shares in that magic moment in a spirit of cooperation and respect. Music must be shared to be complete," he said.

Barber joined Farmington Public Schools in 1956. He's now the district's music coordinator. Overall, he thinks of that position as being "a lobbyist for music education in the district."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Paul Barber, whose name in town is synonymous with music, poses with his trombone, the instrument of his specialty and one he has owned for many years.

Both got jobs as music teachers here.  
"Farmington was on the verge of blossoming out with some wonderful things," Barber said. "As new graduates and newlyweds, we came here as crusaders, carrying the word, dedicated to make a real dent and save the world — at least musically. We were full of vim and vigor, new techniques and attitudes

on teaching and sharing music. We were determined to upgrade the standards of music education in the USA."

In that same year, the commitment to dedication spilled over from the school district into the community.  
Fern Barber joined Farmington Musicale, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, and remains one

of its leading forces.  
Meanwhile, Paul Barber founded the Farmington Community Band.  
"The band started with one of the first pieces of mail that came to our new house. It was from the school's adult education department listing its fall classes and there wasn't a thing on the list that

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## Quick action: Stop, drop and roll helps to save his life

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

It could have been much worse. But 6-year-old Ray Rudzki of Farmington Hills knew exactly what to do when his clothing caught fire while playing with older boys at a family friend's house in June.

"I did Stop, Drop and Roll! I knew to do it," said Ray, who recently returned to first grade at Gill Elementary after three months in the hospital recovering from second- and third-degree burns to his neck, chest, right arm, underarm and leg.

Unbashed about telling his story, Ray credits Mike Garr — known to youngsters as Firefighter Mike — of the Farmington Hills Fire Department, with teaching him the techniques that saved his life.

Ray learned the lifesaving technique when Firefighter Mike made his annual fire prevention presentation at Gill Elementary the previous school year.

"Nationally, statistics show people do learn fire prevention. He is living



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Ray Rudzki (above), 6, rolled on fire prevention techniques he learned from Farmington Hills firefighter Mike Garr to save himself when his shirt caught fire.

## what's inside

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