

Old world and new  
linked with music, 1B



Farmington  
repeats, 1D

Halloween safety tips  
suggested for all, 2A

# Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 7

Thursday, October 29, 1987

Farmington, Michigan

88 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

©1987 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved

## Alkateeb, Fox lead in spending

□ campaign contributors, 10A  
□ council endorsements, 14A

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Incumbent Joe Alkateeb and city activist Jean Fox are pulling out the stops in spending the most of the nine candidates vying for four seats

on the Farmington Hills City Council. The general election is next Tuesday, Nov. 3.

In his bid for a third term, Alkateeb collected and spent more than \$7,000. In her bid for a first term, Fox collected more than \$6,000 and spent more than \$3,000, as of Oct. 23.

Incumbent Joan Dudley is far behind with less than \$1,000 in expenses. Veteran council watcher

Aldo Vagnozzi and political newcomer Raymond Cassar are a distant third and fourth, respectively, to the two top spenders.

Three other political newcomers — Vernon Klejowski, John Heenan and Richard Lytwynuk — are following Dudley's lead in having spent less than \$1,000.

Incumbent Terry Sever missed the Oct. 23 deadline for filing campaign election finance reports with the

Oakland County elections clerk. Alkateeb filed part of his report. His detailed list of expenditures and contributors had not been filed by Oct. 23, according to elections office spokeswoman.

In the race for three seats on the Farmington City Council, unopposed incumbents Ralph Yoder, William Harstock and Richard Tupper each filed expense report waivers because none had spent \$1,000 by Oct.

23. CANDIDATES ARE required by state law to file pre- and post-election financial reports with the elections clerk if they collect or spend more than \$1,000. Failure to file reports results in a \$10 a day fine up to a maximum \$300. Candidates must file a post-election report by Dec. 3.

Please turn to Page 10

## Farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

If you qualify to vote absentee in the upcoming city council elections, take note.

Both Farmington Hills city clerk JoAnn Reynolds and Farmington city clerk Jo Busbey will have special office hours Saturday, Oct. 31, to accommodate voters who want absentee ballots. Hours that day will be 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Farmington Hills and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Farmington.

Completed ballots are due by 8 p.m. Election Day. In emergency cases, voters may vote in person at the city clerk's office Monday, Nov. 2.

HE'S honored. Barry Stulberg was among three people honored by the Michigan Society of Planning Officials for excellence in planning principle and design for the West Bloomfield Ridge subdivision, Commerce and Green Lake roads.

The Farmington Hills resident, who operates Stulberg Development, is president of the Franklin Forest & Fairway Homeowners Association and treasurer of the Council of Homeowner Associations of Farmington Hills.

The society also awarded plaques to Charles Blegen, president of Rochester Hills-based Giffels-Webster Engineers, and Tom Bird, West Bloomfield Township planning director.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — More activities for retailers and a focus on legislative business issues are key areas of concentration for Nancy Finley, 1986-87 Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce president.

## what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 4B  
Business . . . 1-4C  
Cable connection . . . 16C  
Chalkboard . . . 2B  
Club circuit . . . 7B  
Classifieds . . . Secs. C-E-H  
Index . . . 4G  
Auto . . . 4H  
Real estate . . . 2E  
Employment . . . 4G  
Crossword puzzle . . . 10E  
Entertainment . . . 5-8C  
Library watch . . . 12C  
Obituaries . . . 10C  
Opinion . . . 14A  
Points of view . . . 15A  
Police/fire calls . . . 11A  
Sports . . . 1-6D



## Fateful fires aftermath

### Hills defends live burns for blaze training

□ Safety stressed, 6A

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

THE CLOUDS of smoke you sometimes see rising above Farmington Hills aren't always the result of somebody's misfortune.

They could be the byproduct of Farmington Hills Fire Department training burns.

The controlled burns enable the department's part-time firefighters to sharpen their skills by dousing intentionally set fires in vacant houses donated by the owners.

Firefighters practice search and rescue as well as fire suppression. No department member has ever been seriously injured during such exercises, senior officers say.

But after three western Oakland County firefighters died in a training exercise at a vacant farmhouse near Milford, Farmington Hills fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.

"We're going to take a second look at our procedures. We'll recommit ourselves to safety first."

Marinucci said his 90-member department, which includes 80

"We're going to take a second look at our procedures. We'll recommit ourselves to safety first."

— Richard Marinucci  
fire chief

part-time firefighters, "has probably burned more old homes in the past two or three years than any other department in the state."

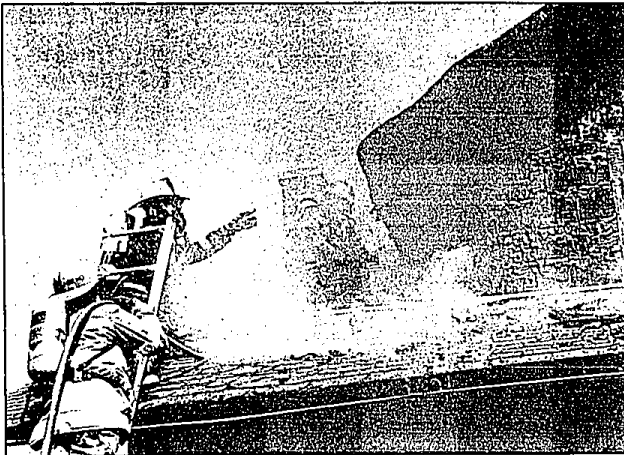
RONALD SCHWARTZ, a Farmington Hills training officer, said a controlled burn is an invaluable supplement to classroom and videotape training.

"It's the only way a new recruit can actually feel what it is like to be inside a burning building — the heat, the smoke, the confusion, the excitement, and all the things that go along with firefighting," Schwartz said.

Michigan State Police Fire Marshal's Division investigators are scouring the century-old, two-story farmhouse near Milford for clues that might reveal what caused the "controlled burn" to rage out of control. Criminal charges could result if negligence is uncovered, investigators say.

In a recent Farmington Hills training burn, crews of three or

Please turn to Page 6



A senior officer instructs a trainee in the fine points of putting out a fire in a roof overhang during a recent controlled burn in Farmington Hills.



At left: Farmington Hills firefighters are in full gear, including air packs, at a recent training burn. The firefighter in the foreground disconnected his air pack after leaving the structure. The firefighter in the background connected his air pack before entering the structure. No firefighter is allowed inside a burning structure without a working air pack, Chief Richard Marinucci said.

## Working to help war veterans cope

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

They're stepping forward and welcoming each other home.

Veterans of the Vietnam War are reaching out to each other, and to a society trying to understand problems that have haunted them for more than 20 years.

They're questioning why 80,000 Vietnam veterans have committed suicide since the war ended — more than the 58,000 killed during the en-

tire conflict — and what they can do to help.

"We're not Ramboes, we're not psychopaths, we're not alcoholics, we're real people," said one veteran Navy medic, who currently lives in Oakland County. "The realities are simple — you get on with your lives or you die. We've spent 18 to 20 years learning how to do that."

Two Oakland County Vietnam combat veterans are doing their part to help peers cope with the pangs of war that still infiltrate their lives,

and the lives of their families. They are proposing an outreach center with on-going counseling, and are asking private organizations such as Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills to help.

"IT'S VIETNAM vets doing something for Vietnam vets," said Dave Morgan, who is working with Farmington Hills resident Ed Johnson to design a program not only for Vietnam veterans, but for veterans of other wars who need help coping.

They are also trying to locate women who served in Vietnam, many who need help and have not received it, Johnson said. "We're trying to reach all Vietnam vets — not just members of a certain chapter."

Johnson and Morgan met with members of the Oakland County Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America this month to find out what sort of help the veterans want, and to begin the help process.

The VVA group met at the Botsford Family Services building on Grand River in Redford Township,

where hospital officials are considering working with Morgan and Johnson on the program. They proposed the idea to Botsford officials last spring.

"There's something about a Vietnam veteran that makes it easy for him to change careers, divorce, hide in a closet and cry, and the family doesn't even know he was crying," said Morgan. "I don't know what that something is."

THAT'S WHAT the two veterans,

working as a team, are trying to discover and help.

Arnold Braver, director of the Botsford chemical dependency unit, said a feasibility study is being conducted on the project to see what the hospital can do. Braver attended the VVA meeting, where veterans told him effects of the war are still being felt by themselves and their families.

Please turn to Page 12

## Schools eyeing public feedback

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Farmington school officials are seeking opinions on redistricting issues that may affect large numbers of students as early as next fall.

Three public forums are scheduled where residents can publicly air their views. The district is also seeking written comments from those who cannot attend these "town

meetings."

"It's important that people know about the issues, so they can respond," said Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent for administrative operations.

Opinions from residents will eventually be used by a seven-member community panel that is reviewing district facilities and boundaries to

Please turn to Page 12

