

Fall Fantasia is
a fall tradition, 1B



Hockey
playoffs, 4D

School crime down,
but costs rise, 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 89

Thursday, August 11, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

80 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

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.

ON the road,
Cathy Jean,
Suzanne Miller and
Sheila McManus of
Farmington Hills and Jeff
McGowan of Farmington will
join the Michigan

Scatterblitzers on a journey to
the National Republican
Convention in New Orleans.

Forty Scatterblitzers,
dedicated to promoting
Republican principles, will
leave for New Orleans today. A
GOP sendoff is planned at
Oakland Community College's
Orchard Ridge Campus.

At campaign stops in Ohio,
Tennessee and Mississippi
during the 24-day trip,
Michigan souvenirs will be
distributed, including
friendship apples and cherry
products, said Miller, trip
organizer.

During their nine-day stay in
New Orleans, the
Scatterblitzers, who pay their
own way, will do various
volunteer tasks.

DID you know the Minnow
Pond at the southeast corner of
14 Mile and Halsted in
Farmington Hills dates back to
the retreat of the last ice sheet
12,000 years ago?

Quote of the week

“It was a very unusual
day (referring to this past
Monday's date: 8-8-88). It
only happens once in a century
— that's the kind of day I
had.
”

— Joe Alkateeb, after deciding to
rescind his resignation from the
Farmington Hills City Council
(see story this page).

what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 5B
Business 1C
Cable connection . . . 9C
Classifieds, Secs. C,E,G,H
Index 3G
Auto Secs. C,H
Real estate 2E
Employment 3G
Creative living 1E
Crossword puzzle . . . 7E
Entertainment 5D
Opinion 10A
Police/fire calls 6A
Sports 1D
Suburban life 1B

Check Out
the More Than
8 Pages
of
APARTMENTS
In Today's
Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers!

Angry Alkateeb won't resign

2 council members are threatened with recall

By Casey Hane
staff writer

□ For a related opinion, 10A

Farmington Hills councilman Joe Alkateeb stormed out of a city council meeting Monday, amid allegations of council "cronyism" and threats of recall by residents from the Nine Mile and Middlebelt area.

But he said Wednesday he had decided to return to his seat, despite his verbal resignation.

"I am walking off this desk — I am resigning as a council member," Alkateeb said Monday night. "I don't

need to hear such stupid remarks anymore. I've given Farmington Hills 10 years of my life as a council member . . . and I don't need to put up with this."

The council did not take action to accept his resignation and Mayor Jody Soronen said Alkateeb had until his verbal resignation.

"I am walking off this desk — I am resigning as a council member," Alkateeb said Monday night. "I don't

of the residents' recall threat.

"This has been getting to me on a daily basis," Alkateeb explained Tuesday, when he was still undecided about returning to the council. "One part of me says, 'Go on fighting for what's right.' The other says, 'I don't need that hassle.'"

Wednesday afternoon, Alkateeb said calls from many residents had influenced his decision to return. He plans to rescind his verbal resignation at the council meeting next Monday.

"It was a very unusual day," he said, referring to this past Monday's date: 8-8-88. "It only happens once in a century — that's the kind of day I had."

THE TOP vote-getter in the last city council election in 1987, Alka-



"One part of me says, 'Go on fighting for what's right.' The other says, 'I don't need that hassle.'"

— Councilman Joe Alkateeb

teeb reacted to comments made by resident Janet Hulbert, who read a prepared statement calling for "a council devoid of cronyism, conflict of interest, capricious enforcement and special treatment." She said the city is allowing the "cancer of uncontrolled development."

Hulbert claims to represent about 15-20 residents, many of whom were

in the audience and applauded her speech.

Her statement not only threatened recall against Alkateeb and Marks, but also asked that planning commissioner Joanne Smith be removed from her seat because of her hands-stands. The statement implied

Please turn to Page 2

Area students quietly accept tuition hikes

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

□ For a related point of view,
11A

Recent high school graduates in the Farmington area seem mostly resigned but undaunted by double-digit increases in state higher education tuition.

In the neighboring Clarenceville school district, the increases raised concerns about the ability of parents and students to raise enough money to cover future tuition costs.

"I feel sorry for people who've planned out their expenses. I wonder what it would do to some kids," said Drew McDougall, a Farmington High School graduate bound for the University of Michigan this fall.

McDougall, who intends to apply to the university's business school, will have his tuition, room and board paid for by his parents.

Earnings from his summer job with Farmington Hills' home chore program are earmarked for personal and incidental campus expenses. He's expecting to spend about \$600 this school year on such items as going to restaurants and movies.

Tuition hikes won't interfere with McDougall's parents' plan to foot the bill. They did the same for his older brother and sister, also U-M graduates. "If we had more than one in (it would have been more difficult)," his mother Pat said.

"And he's the last one," she said. "That makes a bit of a difference. You tend to see the light at the end of the tunnel. It works out, you get through it — somehow, some way. You may have to put something on the back burner for a while."

ABOUT 42 percent of Farmington High's 311 students plan to attend college in the fall, according to principal Jerry Potter. About 56 percent

of Farmington Public Schools' graduates expected to attend a college or university. Another 22 percent indicated they'd attend a junior or community college.

It's difficult for many Farmington-Farmington Hills students to receive financial aid, Potter said. Parents' income levels, the fact the district is out-of-formula and thus ineligible for general membership state aid and the area's healthy property values work against students applying for help. "In some cases, this can be a hardship," Potter said.

"We do know there are lots of kids in community colleges because of tuition increases," he said.

Michigan Technological Institute raised its tuition by 21.4 percent. Students will pay \$2,367 this year compared to last year's \$1,950. Oakland University boosted its rates by 19.3 percent, increasing yearly tuition from \$1,766 to \$2,107. Michigan State University, Western Michigan University and Grand Valley State College raised their tuitions by 9 to 9.9 percent.

Wayne State University raised its tuition the least, announcing a 7.9-percent increase.

Farmington assistant superintendent Lynn Witter echoed the assessment that most area students won't drastically change their college plans in response to tuition increases. "I don't think (tuition hikes) will affect a lot of our graduates. They have made plans with their parents and, hopefully, they're long-range plans. I'm sure they realize there are

Please turn to Page 4

Even after defeat, candidates looking toward the future

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

For Ken Murray, the losing Democrat in the primary for the 69th state House District seat, the race ended in a photo finish.

In fact, it was a photograph published in the Aug. 4 issue of the Observer that cooled Murray's attitude toward party politics in the Farmington area.

The photo, taken Tuesday night at Republican winner Jan Dolan's campaign headquarters, showed many area Democrats joining to congratulate her. "It's rough when I see these Democrats in a picture with Jan Dolan," Murray said.

The Farmington resident is unsure if he'll try again for public office. "Somebody would have to talk me into it in this area," he said.

Murray lost the Democratic nomination to John Dolan, a retired Bingham Farms businessman.

John and Jan Dolan, who are not related, will vie in November to replace Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, retiring as state representative in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield.

On the Republican side in the primary, candidates Mike Sarafa, Mike Bouchard and Paul Welsky lost to Jan Dolan.

Most of those who lost last week look ahead to other political opportunities.



Ken Murray
future office uncertain

IN THE wake of his loss, Murray said he was re-evaluating his commitment to the Farmington Democratic Party and its candidate, Jan Dolan.

"I'm re-evaluating my Farmington Democratic Party membership

State OKs \$500,000 for Farmington Hills in census update

By Casey Hane
staff writer

More than \$500,000 in long-awaited special census money for Farmington Hills has finally been approved by the state.

"That's good news," said city manager William Costick Monday, as he received word of the \$568,400 allocation.

City officials plan to use the money to help finance the move of a fire station from the southwest corner of the city, build a fifth fire station near city hall and buy new fire equipment.

The dollars represent two years of

additional state funding for a 17.3 percent population increase in the city. The growth was charted in a mid-decade census done by the city last year.

Gov. James Blanchard approved a measure Aug. 3 that will provide \$3.7 million in special census money for 38 of the state's rapidly growing communities, including Farmington Hills. The money is part of \$4.1 million in general fund supplemental appropriations for the current fiscal year.

THE 38 communities are eligible for the extra aid because their popu-

Please turn to Page 3



Drew McDougall cuts grass as part of Farmington Hills' home chore program to earn spending money for college. The Farmington High graduate will attend the University of Michigan this fall.