

Fashion show benefits
City of Hope, 1B



Girls hoop
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was fun for all, 8A

Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 94

Thursday, September 1, 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; fax line, 477-9722.

LABOR Day will mean a change in routine Monday only.

The Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, the 47th District Court, the Farmington Community Library, the Farmington Observer, all banking institutions and many retail outlets will be closed Monday, Sept. 5.

Trash normally picked up on Mondays will be picked up Tuesday, Sept. 6, in Farmington Hills next week only. Farmington's trash collection schedule will not change next week.

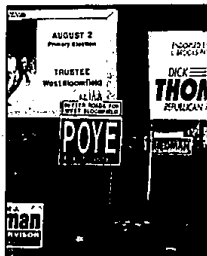
The Farmington Community Library will be closed Saturday through Monday.

Monday, the Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices will be closed. There will be no regular residential or business mail delivery or lobby window service. Special Delivery, Express Mail and perishables will be delivered as usual. Mailbox collections will be done according to each box's posted schedule.

QUOTE of the week

“The price you pay for democracy is the right to have a messy street with a couple of (political) signs.”

— David Haron, Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation chairman.



Political signs dotted the corner of Greening and Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills during the Aug. 2 primary.

It's all aboard at Highmeadow

- About common campus, 3A
- Common campus courses, 3A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Lindsay Hamilton's brightly striped dress reflected her artful mood Tuesday as she unpacked a box full of colored markers, crayons and chalks.

“Art things. That's one of the things I'm the best at,” the third grader said.

It was the first day of school at Highmeadow Common Campus School and throughout the Farmington district. Lindsay had just gotten a special ride from Farmington Hills police officer Ed Fitzpatrick. The traffic officer picked her up at the bus stop after it appeared there would be no bus in site anytime soon.

Buses to Highmeadow ran about 20 minutes late, as transportation officials began new runs to the school, which has students enrolled from across the district. But an excited staff waited patiently for their late charges, who arrived by any mode of transportation possible.

That included parent drop-offs.

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Sign language

Primary problems renew regulatory debate

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

David Haron is doubtful Farmington Hills can draft an ordinance regulating use and placement of political signs without infringing on the constitutional right of free speech.

“Yeah, people complain (about signs) but so what. We're talking about elections. Would they rather be in Cuba or Nicaragua? The price you pay for democracy is the right to have a messy street with a couple of

□ Sign ordinance provisions detailed, fairness asked: 2A

signs,” said Haron, chairman of the Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation.

The removal of more than 500 signs in the wake of the August primary prompted some Farmington Hills council members to again request regulations for political signs.

The signs were removed from roadway rights of way by the city's

code enforcement division employees. Signs taken to the public works department were returned to candidates. Whether that practice will be followed for the November general election remains is not known.

MOST OFFICIALS have no quarrel with Haron's intention to maintain the right of free speech. But unlike Haron, they want some regulations.

“I'd like to add order into the madness of signs so everybody knows what they are supposed to do and not supposed to do,” said councilman Joe Alkateeb, who voted with the majority in 1986 to allow signs without restrictions. “But we keep running against this stone wall, the Constitution, which we must respect.”

After reviewing two proposed or-

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High tech shows way for district

- Computer use changes emphasis, 3A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Some were ready to trade their chalkboards for life at an automated newspaper.

Others were making lengthy lists of computer programs from which their students could benefit.

They all had something in common. They were teachers, administrators and employees of either the Farmington or Birmingham school districts. And they all participated in a variety of technology seminars last week to learn the bits and bytes of automation and how it can be used in their schools. About 50 employees from each district attended.

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Second grader Brooke Gerber is greeted by music teacher Jennifer Davidson (left) and media center director Jeanie McNamara.

Collision car yard damaged heavily

Three vehicles were destroyed by fire and more than 20 were broken into or vandalized in a crime spree in a Farmington Hills Collision storage yard early Sunday.

Fire damage estimates topped \$60,000.

“It was arson,” said investigator Kevin Bersche of the Farmington Hills Fire Department. “All other possible causes were ruled out.”

According to Farmington Hills police, vandals scaled a fence leading to the vehicle storage area between 1 and 3 a.m., then proceeded to smash windows, slice tops, steal radios and set fires. No arrests have been made.

Fire destroyed a motor home and three cars. Another car was heavily damaged. A sixth car sustained surface damage only. Three of the cars were just a year or two old, Bersche said.

Fires were deliberately set in the passenger compartments of the motor home and two cars. Flames spread to three other cars.

A construction trailer parked two lots east of Farmington Hills Collision, 33743 Folcom, was vandalized and set on fire as well. Fire damage was estimated at \$750.

The Farmington Department of Public Safety assisted in fighting the fires.



Farmington Hills fire investigator Kevin Bersche sifts through debris left from a trail of fire that included a construction trailer or two lots away from Farmington Hills Collision, scene of a vandalism spree early Sunday.

Hills, Novi seeking funds to produce 12 Mile boulevard

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills and Novi are applying for new state transportation money to transform the heavily congested 12 Mile office and commercial corridor into a multimillion-dollar six-mile boulevard.

The proposed boulevard would be built in at least three phases, running from Farmington Road in Farmington Hills, west beyond Twelve Oaks Mall, to one-quarter mile west of Dixon Road in Novi.

Congestion and economic development along the six-mile corridor in Farmington Hills and Novi have prompted the proposed expansion and the request for financing under the state's new financing tool.

Financing under the new Michigan Transportation Commission Economic Development Fund would, if granted to the communities, would pay 75 percent and require a 25-percent local match. Farmington Hills and Novi officials are hoping Oakland County will help pay directly or indirectly the local share for the county-owned road, assistant city manager David Call said.

“It's still up in the air but we would probably sell motor vehicle bonds. But that hasn't been confirmed yet,” Call said.

The first \$4.8 million application, due in Lansing this week, is for the first phase, which covers 12 Mile,

The state program releases money for areas experiencing growth on a major road that is incapable of handling the existing and expected growth.

from Farmington Road to one-half mile west of Drake, Call said.

THE FIRST 1 1/2-mile of the project is expected to cost about \$9 million. Of that, construction will cost about \$5.8 million. If the state grants financing, the matching grant would be used for construction.

Other costs include engineering, design and right of way acquisition.

Though Call said he has no idea when the state will review the application and make a decision, city officials are hoping some type of work can begin on the first phase in 1989.

The proposed boulevard would have a 50-foot median and provide two lanes in each direction with loops for turns. Negotiations for right of way acquisition in Farmington Hills are continuing. In general, 60 feet of right of way on the north side and 120 feet on the south side is needed for the project.

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