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Gridiron report, 1C

Creative dancing can make a statement, 3A

Farmington Observer

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TEN years of safety. Farmington was one of two Oakland County cities honored for its 1987 safety record. For 10 years, the city has received the award from the American Automobile Association of Michigan for having no pedestrian fatality.

The award was given Sept. 19 at the start of a city council meeting. Farmington won the award in the 10,000 to 25,000 population class. Oak Park also won the award for a low pedestrian accident record for larger cities.

CORPORATE executives of Livonia-based Suburban Communications Corp., parent company of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, which publishes the Farmington Observer, took a bus tour of Farmington and Farmington Hills Thursday. The two-hour trip included a walking tour of Farmington's central business district, led by Downtown Development Authority executive director Wendy Strip Siltanen.

SCC owner Phillip Power is a sixth-generation descendant of Arthur Power, who founded Farmington in 1824.

Memory lane

25 years ago: Plans for a 24-lane bowling alley and a request for a liquor license transfer were presented to the Farmington Township Board of Trustees. Farmington Country Lanes is proposing the \$825,000 building for 2 1/2 acres on Nine Mile, between Grand River and Middlebelt.

Nearly a dozen residents living in the area of a proposed sanitary landfill on Halsted near 11 Mile appeared at the Farmington Township Board of Trustees meeting to voice objections and raise concerns about the proposal.

— Farmington Enterprise, Sept. 26, 1963

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Wayne County 591-0900

Meeting airs ways to fund new school

By Casey Hans staff writer

Patrick Anderson, an economist for the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America in Farmington Hills, has suggestions for the Farmington school district as it faces last week's loss of a multi-million-dollar bond proposal.

He also has further questions about the state of affairs in the district, he said last week. Anderson and Alexander Hamilton chairman Richard Headlee, both Farmington Hills residents, recently spoke out against using bond money to build a new elementary school and early childhood center on the west side and to make districtwide facility improvements.

A proposal for \$27.25 million in bond money for those projects failed last week by a 218-vote margin. Anderson plans to attend Tuesday night's school board meeting in the wake of that loss. "Mike Flanagan (deputy superintendent for the district) convinced us a new elementary school is needed," Anderson said. "We are willing to work with the board on ways to finance the new school, starting with the surplus."

ANDERSON AND Headlee contended the school district had enough in its cash reserves to build the school. Anderson said he also had other concerns: that the district pledge to the future release of financial information, and that questions about specific safety issues in older school buildings be answered.

The district has a little more than \$9 million reserve in the general fund, and another \$2.5 million in a capital account, according to Flanagan. Of the capital funds, \$1 million has already been earmarked by the district for a new media center at Farmington High. Flanagan has said the district cannot legally use the surplus amount for capital projects.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS are now trying to determine how they will handle elementary overcrowding because of new residential growth on the district's west side. The new school was to have eased the overcrowding. School officials have stressed that the entire \$20 million — earmarked on the proposed bond issue for building renovations — was all needed to

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Section 36 folks on identity drive

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills residents in what for 20 years has commonly been called Section 36 want an identity of their own. And they may soon be able to tell the rest of the world just who they are.

The section's non-profit homeown-

ers association is expected to apply for a grant through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to help buy signs that will tell everyone what Section 36 is all about. The targeted area is bordered by Grand River and Nine Mile, Inxster and Middlebelt. The project area would exclude Forest Park, which is a platted subdivision within the area. The project would be a cooperative venture between the homeowners association and the Farmington

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Good luck hug

Lori Kiel (left) gives her younger sister a good luck hug before the start of Farmington High junior Jennifer Kiel's cross country race Thursday against croestown North Farmington. Jennifer finished first overall in

leading Farmington to victory in the Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division dual meet. For the story, see Page 1C. Lori, incidentally, graduated from Farmington last year.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Residents split on mineral rights leases

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Meadowbrook Hills resident Marlene Crane is getting tired of the "hysterical reaction" many residents in southwest Farmington Hills are having to companies seeking mineral rights leases.

"I feel there are many inflammatory statements that are unfounded," said Crane, one of the first in her subdivision to sign a five-year lease with Lansing-based Energy Quest, Inc.

But other residents in Farmington Hills, Livonia and Northville Township continue to be concerned about companies seeking mineral rights leases in their subdivisions. Residents are banding together and preparing a petition opposing natural gas and oil drilling in any residential areas. "We can't keep isolated. We have to band together," said Carol Andriksides, who hosted a meeting Thursday for Farmington Hills, Northville and Livonia residents.

Cities such as Farmington Hills have zon-

ing ordinances that do not address drilling in residential areas. Township ordinances don't prohibit drilling but allow inspections of the area, for example. "OUR ZONING ordinances are permissive. Drilling is not included in the ordinance of things allowed. Based on that, we would not consider it (drilling) allowable (with residential uses) and we would not allow it," Farmington Hills public services director Tom Blasel said.

Farmington Hills residents are expected to discuss gas and oil exploration concerns with the city council at Monday's 7:30 p.m. meeting in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile. Some residents would like the council to follow the lead of Northville trustees, who recently adopted a resolution calling for a moratorium on residential oil well drilling until new legislation could be passed giving local governments more control over drilling.

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Firefighters Kevin Bersche (left) and John Wiele demonstrate the use of a defibrillator on a mannequin.

Life-saving shock

Firemen get defibrillator to help heart victims

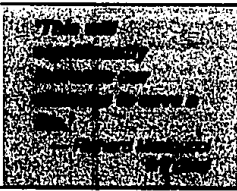
By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

The Farmington Hills Fire Department will soon be equipped to give you the shock of ever life.

Beginning Oct. 1, fire department emergency rescue vehicles will be equipped with portable automatic external defibrillators bought in cooperation with Bofafor General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Every minute counts in a cardiac arrest. And every minute can make the difference between recovery and death. But the portable defibrillators, operated by the department's emergency medical technicians, can extend the time in which recovery is possible, said fire specialist Kevin Bersche, who coordinates much of the department's medical programs.

"This will significantly increase our chances to save a life," Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said. Fifty-five of the department's EMTs have been trained to use the portable defibrators.



The four \$7,000-a-piece portable defibrillators will be used when EMT-trained firefighters are called to a cardiac arrest emergency. The hospital bought two of the machines and the department another two, Marinucci said.

The defibrillators are somewhat different than those with the paddles commonly used in hospitals or by paramedics. The computerized machine will analyze the heart

rhythm of the patient, Bersche said.

THE DEFIBRILLATOR will help patients whose hearts are in one of two types of chaotic rhythms. "We would be using this machine because we are the first responders. Hopefully we can convert the patient to a normal rhythm.

"If the machine analyzes one of these, then it will begin charging itself to deliver what is in essence a slap in the cells," Bersche said.

A large percentage of cardiac arrests, Bersche said, are the result of dysrhythmia or bad rhythm. The defibrillator will restore the proper rhythm to the heart so it again begins pumping blood throughout the body, he said.

Unlike the paddle defibrillators that hospital staff hold on a patient's chest, the portable machines are equipped with electrode pads that adhere to the patient's chest. "This is all hands-off with the pads," Bersche said.

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