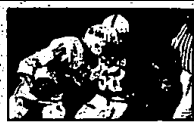


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# Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 104

Monday, October 3, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

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## farmington FOCUS

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**S**IGN language. Farmington school board president Jack Cotton said he had a feeling he was in for a rough night Sept. 28 after he read his horoscope earlier that day. "You may feel you are walking in a field of land mines."

Figuratively speaking, that's exactly what he did as the board, facing a board room full of anxious parents, wrestled with options in the wake of a Sept. 19 bond issue defeat that would've provided \$37.25 million for a new west-side elementary and early childhood center and districtwide safety improvements.

**VOTERS**, take note. The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 8 general election is Tuesday, Oct. 11. You may register at the clerk's office in your city or at any secretary of state's office.

**CHANGE** in dates. The Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Citizens of the Year banquet has been changed to Friday, Oct. 28, at the Botford Inn. For a nomination form, call the chamber: 474-3440. Nominations are due Oct. 6.

## Memory lane

**50 years ago:** Frank Shoup, retiring commander of the American Legion Groves-Walker Post in Farmington, is suffering from injuries as a result of his car crashing into a pole on Grand River near Albion. Although completion of its 50th year of publication is still two weeks off, the Enterprise is the recipient of a certificate of membership in the American Press Half Century Club. A bicycle derby, to be staged at the high school athletic field, is one of the events planned for local residents by the supervisors of the WPA student and adult recreational program. — Farmington Enterprise, Oct. 6, 1938

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**FALL CAR CARE**  
Special Section  
In Today's Issue

# Fight looms on day care zoning

See related story on Page 5A

## Brotherton vows battle to retain local control

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Republican state Rep. Sandy Brotherton promises to oppose state Democratic Sen. Jack Faxon's bill overriding local zoning controls and allowing child home day care in residential areas.

"If it comes before the House in the same form as the Senate, you bet, I'll vote against it," said the

Farmington representative. "I wouldn't favor it. I think it's an unwarranted intrusion into the prerogatives of local government."

Senate Bill 687, which would affect cities such as Farmington Hills, passed the Senate last week and is now before the state House social

services and youth committee. "Our hope is that we will see it pass by Dec. 31," said Robert Egan, Faxon's aide.

Some are pleased with Senate passage of the series of three child day care bills for cities and villages, counties and townships.

Farmington Hills resident Margaret Frucha, who operates a family day care home for six children, supports a local override. "They (Farmington Hills City Council) were trying to impose regulations that made no sense," she said, referring to Farmington Hills' ordinance regulating child day care.

IF THE bills pass the House, licensed or registered family day care homes for six children and larger group child day care homes for a maximum 12 children would be con-

sidered a residential use. The legislation also would exclude such homes from special use or conditional use permits or procedures.

"Of all neighborhood uses, this is about as harmless as any," said Faxon, of Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Hills City Council wouldn't necessarily agree. In July, the council adopted a resolution opposing the legislation.

"The enactment of Senate Bill 687 would be a further infringement upon the authority of local units of

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## On stage

The color and drama of the flamenco comes to Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills this weekend as staged by Los Flamenco Dance Theater. Leading performers in the art of

Spanish song, music and dance are (from left) Eugenio Vara, Birmingham's Christina Scott, Raul Salcedo and Juan Serrano. For a closer look at the weekend concerts, read next Thursday's Suburban Life section.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

# Out-of-district students win tuition break

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Three students who live in the Clarencville school district, but attend school in Farmington, will get a reprieve from at least one semester's tuition.

They appealed their case for a second time to the Farmington school board last week.

The mother of one of the students is also circulating petitions to appeal to Oakland Intermediate Schools to transfer her property and that of several neighbors, into the Farmington district permanently.

In early September, the board voted to allow these students to attend Farmington schools for a one-year grace period. The decision was made after newly computerized bus routing uncovered that the students did not live in the district, but on the border, and had attended Farmington schools for many years. The

grace period was granted after the families appealed to the board.

**RENEWED INTEREST** in the issue drew heated remarks last week from some school officials, who wanted the district's tuition policy followed to the letter, and from involved parents and students who did not feel they should pay tuition at all.

The families appealed to the board a second time because they received tuition bills in the mail.

"Since there has been so much confusion, and since we're in the fifth week of school, . . . I am suggesting waiving the first semester's tuition," said trustee Jack Inch, in proposing a compromise.

Inch had requested that registered letters be sent to students affected by the boundary snafu. That was not done, and Inch was concerned because the district had nothing in writing.

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# Coalition battles CPC furnace plan

By Susan Steinmueller  
staff writer

A Troy-based coalition has given a proposed \$49 Consumers Power Co. residential furnace service plan a cold reception.

The Michigan Coalition Against Unfair Utility Practices, which claims statewide support, has filed suit in Ingham County Court against the utility, claiming the plan would violate antitrust and consumer protection laws, and would mislead the utility's customers.

Under the Consumers Power Heating Security Program, the company, for a one-time \$49 fee, would

replace defective furnace parts for up to a year, at no extra charge.

Clifford R. McCourt, coalition chairman and owner of Day & Night Heating & Cooling Co. in Farmington Hills, said the program would drive small companies such as his out of business.

"The basis for the antitrust complaint is that it would be harmful to the other contractors that provide the service," he said.

"We speak for a couple of thousand businesses and tens of thousands of employees. They are using

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# More high school expansion on tap

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The Farmington school board will consider Tuesday whether to add another \$1.7 million to a Farmington High School project for building improvements, in addition to revamping the media center.

Both the \$1 million — already approved for the media center — and the additional money would be taken from the district's Capital Projects Fund, which has money from the 1985 sale of property to Little Caesar's Enterprises.

The entire project, including media center, would cost \$3.7 million, and would leave about \$1 million in the fund.

James Abernethy, trustee who heads the Building and Site Committee, said last week the board would need time to consider what was now proposed to be a multi-million-dollar project.

"We need to take a look at what we ought to commit ourselves to," he said. "I never heard any number like that before."

TRUSTEE HELEN Prutow said she was not surprised by the additional amount, adding that the board had directed administrators to

*'In one swoop, we can not only get rid of the smokestack, but add a satellite dish.'*

— Michael Flanagan  
deputy superintendent

review facade improvements for the building.

In addition to an improved facade and entryway, the proposed work would include a parking lot extension, work on the sidewalks, and tearing down the school's smokestack to install a satellite dish to accommodate new technologies planned for the revamped media center.

"In one swoop, we can not only get rid of the smokestack, but add a satellite dish," explained deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan.

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Farmington High School juniors Kevin Young and Kristi Koes work in the school's current library. By next Sep-

tember, space at the facility will be doubled, and equipment will be state-of-the-art.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer