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Farmington Observer

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THINKING about voting absentee in the Nov. 8 general election? Saturday, Nov. 5, is the last day to apply for an absentee voter ballot and still be able to return it by mail.

To accommodate last-minute requests, Farmington Hills city clerk Kathy Dorman will have special Saturday hours of 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 5. The city hall is at 31555 11 Mile.

Farmington city clerk Jo Bushey will have special Saturday hours of 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 5. Farmington City Hall is at 23600 Liberty.

Voters who wish to vote absentee Monday, Nov. 7, must do so in person at the clerk's office in the city in which they live.

TAKE note, motorists.

By Dec. 1, a traffic light should be up and working on Orchard Lake Road at Bristol Lane (about 12 1/2 miles) in Farmington Hills.

The city council Monday awarded the installation contract to Harlan Electric of Southfield at a cost of \$28,257.

Council members felt the light was needed to periodically break the road's heavy flow of traffic.

QUOTE of the week

“These aren't big sexy issues.”

—Oakland County Board of Commissioners 27th district Republican candidate Donna Wolf, explaining why people aren't overly interested in such county government issues as solid waste, a home rule charter, jail space and road improvements (see story this page).

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You can place your ad any day of the week. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday. We run over 10,000 ads a week and our phones get very busy on Tuesdays and Fridays. Call early so we can be sure to get your ad in the next publication.

WAYNE COUNTY
591-0900



Elizabeth Hatten works at the disputed corner of Gill and Nine Mile in Farmington Hills, where she had her flower garden planted.

Teacher tests trigger debate in House race

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Although both candidates for the 69th state House district seat strongly favor competency testing for teachers, Republican Jan C. Dolan still carries the endorsement of a statewide school union that opposes such testing.

Tuesday night, Democrat John E. Dolan — no relation to his opponent — called the endorsement, by a political action committee of the Michigan Education Association (MEA), one of “special interests.” He said it is “one of the major differences in this campaign.”

Although considering himself pro-labor, the 65-year-old retired Birmingham Farms businessman said he views the MEA as not only a union, but a strong lobbying force in state politics.

He appeared to see his opponent's endorsement by the Farmington Coordinating Council Political Action Committee as negative. The



group is affiliated with the Farmington Education Association. The FEA's parent group, the MEA, made its endorsement last July during the primary race.

A FORMER teacher and a long-time city councilwoman from Farmington Hills, Jan Dolan, 61, defended the endorsement. She added that she doesn't agree 100 percent with MEA positions.

“I have no problem requiring competency tests,” Jan Dolan responded. “Certainly, it should be a requirement of their employment. I have indeed been supported by the MEA and I'm very proud of that endorsement.”

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Candidates plan to stay in touch

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By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Democrat Steven Hill and Republican Donna Wolf aren't terribly bothered by the apparent lack of interest



in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners 27th District race. But both candidates have their own perspectives on how to bring county government home to the voters.

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Observer to publish anniversary edition

The mayor of Farmington wrote this greeting for the Observer's 40th anniversary edition in 1928. The Enterprise merged with the Observer in 1968. The newspaper's 100th anniversary edition will be included in the Oct. 31 issue.

THIS IS the birthday of our Enterprise, its 40th anniversary. We congratulate it, and wish for many happy returns of the day. The dress it wore as an infant, and preserved during these years by Mr. Fred Cook, shows it to have been a

lusty youngster, and whether or not it experienced all the ills of childhood such as colic, teething, mumps, measles, whooping cough, etc., it survived and now in its prime is capable of greater tasks and accomplishments.

Forty years of typesetting, of proofreading, acres of copy, 25 million square feet of paper, printers ink by the hundred weight, and midnight oil by the barrel. These have entered into the existence of our paper but they have been no more than the means to an end.

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Dispute focuses on flowers vs. sod

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Village Cooperative resident Elizabeth Hatten wants to maintain the colorful flower bed in the right-of-way on the northwest corner of Nine Mile and Gill. But the cooperative's association wants the flowers replaced with easy-to-manage sod.

“Evidently, they will destroy the garden, which is free and worth a lot of money, and sod it and expect everyone to pay for it,” said Hatten, Farmington Hills' master gardener.

Hatten and her husband, Bill, began planting flowers in the 250-square-foot corner patch of right-of-way two years ago.

“I've had hundreds of people who have told me they love the garden,” said Hatten, winner of at least 12 gardening and beautification awards. Her most recent award was presented last week by the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission.

But the association's board of directors and members of the cooperative's grounds and beautification committee want the flowers replaced with sod, which is expected to be placed in the area this week.

“We brought it up for a vote. We thought our money could be spent better. We told her that her efforts could be better spent inside the area,” said Warren Volker, grounds and beautification committee chairman.

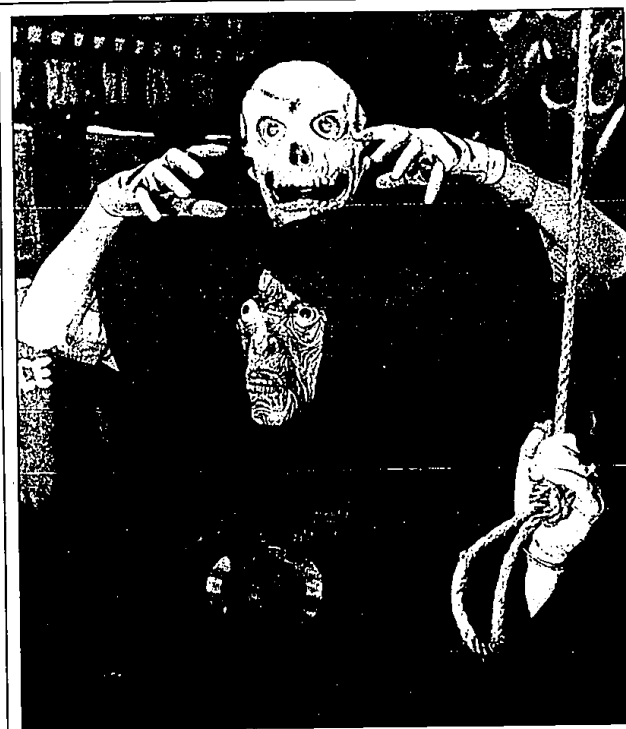
THE HATTONS, with receipts in hand, said they bought and paid for all the plants in the corner garden in the past two years. “It was a volunteer job,” she said.

Through a series of meetings, many of which annoyed Hatten because she maintains not all have been open to the cooperative's residents, the beautification committee decided it wanted to sod the area for several reasons.

Volker confirmed the reasons in a letter to Hatten. Among the reasons offered are that in winter months, the area is unattractive because the land is barren.

Because of the flower garden's position

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Haunted Winery

Thrills, chills and screams are the bywords at the Haunted Winery, presented by the Farmington Area Jaycees in honor of Halloween Monday, Oct. 31. Ghouls come out to play from 7-10 p.m. each night until Sunday.

Oct. 30, at the old winery, on Grand River at Orchard Lake Road, in Farmington. Among the Jaycees donning creature costumes are Larry Verbelun (top) and Kathy Woods.

Jury awards Hills woman \$1.39 million

A Wayne County Circuit Court jury awarded a Farmington Hills woman who tried to lose weight through stomach-stapling surgery a \$1.39 million judgment against the hospital and the surgeon.

The 1985 medical malpractice suit involved Patricia Rader, now 38. Represented by attorneys Elbert Hatchett of Pontiac and Robert Roether of Farmington Hills, Rader sued Dr. Randolph Roulier and the Michigan Osteopathic Hospital in Detroit for complications from stomach-stapling surgery in 1984.

The jury decided that Rader should receive 61 percent of the \$1.57 million verdict, which included 12 percent annual interest. “They decided she was 39 percent at fault,”

Roether said.

The defense maintained that the physician and the hospital should have known Rader wasn't a candidate for the surgery. “We argued that she was subjected to surgery for cosmetic reasons. We didn't feel she met the criteria for the surgery — being at least 100 pounds overweight and quite ill as a result of it. She was in pretty decent health at the time,” Roether said.

ONE EXPERT witness was Dr. William Pace, an Ohio State University professor emeritus. He originally performed the surgery in the late 1970s, then abandoned it in favor of a safer procedure, Roether said.

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Wells D. Butterfield