

Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 8

Monday, October 31, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

farmington FOCUS

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HOW hot an item was the videocassette, "E.T. The ExtraTerrestrial," when the 1982 movie by Steven Spielberg hit the video stores Thursday?

At Blockbuster Video in Farmington Hills, sales were "phenomenal," assistant manager Karen Weatherford said.

By day's end, 90 of the 140 videos stocked for immediate sale had been bought at the list price of \$24.95 (Pepsi-Cola offers a \$5 rebate). The 123 videos that will be rented through Dec. 8 were pre-bought for \$9.95.

"No one was in line when the store opened at 10 a.m. People started to come in at lunch time," Weatherford said.

"We're open till midnight," Video Jack in Farmington received only a third of its order Thursday. "All 27 tapes we received about noon were sold by 4 p.m. to customers who had pre-ordered them," manager Ladonna Fagan said. "We had none to sell to walk-in customers."

Video Jack's price for the MCA Home Video tape, already the best-selling video ever, is \$19.95.

Memory lane

25 years ago:

Farmington Township trustee Thomas A. Duke introduced a measure calling for strict controls on the development of multiple housing in the township. Duke, a builder and land developer, expressed concern over the township's present zoning ordinance, which apparently lacks effective means to control the extent of multiple housing development in certain areas.

Farmington Township police arrested two 14-year-old boys after a truck driver was seriously injured from glass, which shattered when a pumpkin was dropped from his windshield when he was under an I-69B overpass.

— Farmington Enterprise, Oct. 31, 1963

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills firefighter Denny Hughes (left), Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin and fire Lt. Michael Garr help reload spilled crates of milk cartons. The road is covered with foam used to dilute gasoline, which leaked from the milk delivery truck.

3 hurt as truck runs into 2 cars

Three people were slightly hurt when a milk delivery truck collided with two cars on 12 Mile, east of Farmington Road, Friday morning.

Several crates of half-pint cartons of milk spilled onto the roadway.

The Melody Farms truck was westbound on 12 Mile at 8:30 a.m. when it struck a car southbound on New Market that was about to enter 12 Mile. The 1977 box truck

tips, careening into an eastbound car waiting to turn north onto New Market, Farmington Hills police said.

The truck driver, an 18-year-old Westland man, was ticketed for careless driving. He was among those slightly hurt and was not wearing a seat belt, said Sgt. Ray

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Teen on probation after 2 die in crash

By Dave Varga
staff writer

A Birmingham teenager was sentenced to three years probation and ordered to give lectures to high school students about drinking and driving for his part in an auto accident that killed two people leaving an Alcoholic Anonymous dance this year.

Joseph Vincent Walker IV had been charged with two counts of manslaughter for the deaths of Samuel Shreeman of Detroit and Judith Ann Ferrier of Farmington Hills, who died after the Feb. 21 car crash on Lahser Road near Lincoln in Bloomfield Township.

Oakland Circuit Judge Norman Lipsett accepted Walker's pleading under terms of the Youthful Trainee Act, which allows youths 17-20 years

old to be put on probation without pleading guilty to a crime. After a successful probation, Walker will have no record of a crime.

Lipsett ordered Walker to give up his driver's license for at least one year and abstain from alcohol or visiting places that primarily serve alcohol during his three-year probation. He must pay \$300 in court costs.

WALKER MUST also perform community service by working with the probation department to develop lectures for local high schools on the effects of drinking and driving. Those lectures will be delivered when the Brother Rice graduate is on break from Boston College.

Before Lipsett granted the YTA probation pleading, he heard a statement from two of the victim's children, including Charles Morris,

whose mother was killed in the accident.

"Joe willfully drank and he willfully chose to take the risk and that's what manslaughter is," Morris said later. "For him to get YTA under those circumstances I do not think is right."

Court testimony during Walker's preliminary examination showed Walker was legally drunk at the time of the accident, with a .12 blood alcohol level, which is above the state drunk driving limit of .10. A police expert also testified Walker was driving about 55 mph in a 40 mph zone.

However, several witnesses testified the headlights on Shreeman's car were not turned on when they arrived at the scene.

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Family wins its battle for smoke alarm law

By Janice Brunson
staff writer

Last Monday was "a very big day" for a family that has been fighting for more than six years for legislation requiring smoke alarms in Michigan hotels.

Edwin and Faye Greenfield of West Bloomfield, whose son, Frank, died during a 1981 fire at the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas, were present in Lansing during enactment of the new law calling for smoke alarms in all hotel hallways.

"It was a very big day for us. This has been a family effort," said a second son, Steven of Farmington Hills, who manages the family-owned shoe store. Daughter Linda manages a similar store in Southfield, the same store Frank managed at the time of his death.

The family was attending a shoe exhibition in Las Vegas when Frank, then 22, perished on Feb. 10. Frank stayed in his room when the family went to dinner in the hotel restaurant. Fire broke out five minutes later, killing eight people. Greenfield said the hotel was not equipped with smoke detectors, fire alarms or sprinklers.

"IT WAS A simple matter of a \$6 or \$7 item that could have saved lives. Why didn't we have it?" asked Edwin Greenfield, who is the activist in the family.

Vowing "what happened to our family should never happen again," he bombarded lawmakers with letters and petitions in support of legislation requiring smoke detectors and sprinkling systems in hotel rooms.

The new law "should include a sprinkler system." But Greenfield was told "the law would never pass" if sprinklers were included. In addition to fire alarms, the new law also requires fire signs, fire extinguishers in hazardous areas and fire safety training for hotel employees.

"Isn't it wonderful? And it only took 6 1/2 years," Greenfield said. At times, the battle was discouraging, according to son Steven.

But the elder Greenfield added, "the more complicated it got, the more determined we became."

"WITHOUT YOUR determination and persistence, this would not have happened," Gov. James Blanchard told the Greenfields as he signed the legislation last Monday.

The family was supported in its efforts by the Michigan Retailers Association. The Michigan Shoe Trainers Association, where Fay Greenfield is employed, was also supportive, and the national branch of the association is working in conjunction with the family to have similar legislation passed in all 50 states. A federal bill was introduced this past summer, according to Edwin Greenfield.

After Monday's signing, Greenfield said friends suggested his job was done. He has other ideas.

"We've taken care of hotels. But what about schools, hospitals, nursing homes? What about movies, night clubs, office buildings? What about all the public buildings where people gather that still are not covered?"

"No one should ever die in a hotel fire. We're talking about lives. If you can avoid the situation and make these hotels and other public buildings safer, then why not have it done?" he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Road tax increase splits county candidates

Republican county commissioner David Moffitt favors Oakland County's proposed \$25 vehicle registration fee while his Democratic opponent, Albert Zolton, opposes it.

It hits those that can least afford to pay, namely seniors and students," said the Mercy College of Detroit professor.

The Bloomfield Township incumbent will square off against his Democratic challenger from Farmington Hills in the Nov. 8 general election. The 15th county commission district takes in northeast Farmington Hills.

Although county commissioners sought state approval for other ways to pay for road work — like user fees or developer's fees — the state Legislature would only allow the vehicle registration fee.

Moffitt, a Bingham Farms attorney and vice chairman of the commission's public services committee, said the fee is really the only option available to pay for much-needed road repairs in growing Oakland County.

"In the privacy of the voting booth I will vote 'yes' " on the vehicle tax, the 26-year district resident said.

He tried to get his fellow county commissioners to pass a resolution supporting the tax, but he was outvoted from even introducing the issue.

"This is by no means the most attractive alternative," said the two-term commissioner. "However it is the only alternative the Legislature has afforded us."

ZOLTON, WHO also ran against Moffitt in 1984, said the county's "terrible road problem" needs a user tax.

"I think (the vehicle registration fee) is an unfair tax because I think

The 12-year district resident added that the county should have done something sooner about increasing road revenue. For example, the county should have been lobbying the state and federal governments. "Why can't Oakland County have a lobbyist in Washington? Universities have offices in Washington. Why can't Oakland County?"

IN REGARD to bringing county government closer to home, Zolton said the county clerk could have satellite offices around the county to make it easier for senior citizens and others to conduct county business. "You can't do everything by phone," he said.

Saying the 15th district "needs better representation," Zolton said he saw Moffitt cast a commission vote based on the thumbs-down prompting of another commissioner. "I'm an independent thinker, not a follower," Zolton said.

Moffitt noted that most policy debates are at caucus or committee meetings and informal discussions, not board meetings. Dismissing the suggestion he's ineffective, Moffitt said his opponent is "grasping at straws." He added that his attendance record at county sessions is excellent.

THE TWO candidates also addressed the need for more courthouse space. The Legislature has ap-

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15th district county commission



Albert Zolton opposes road tax



David Moffitt favors tax increase

- ☐ Albert Zolton
- ☐ age: 63
- ☐ party: Democrat
- ☐ college: BA, MA, Michigan State University
- ☐ experience: associate professor, theater/communications, Mercy College; 30 years experience as administrator, educator, precinct delegate, caucus manager, county commission candidate, 1986.

- ☐ David Moffitt
- ☐ age: 35
- ☐ party: Republican
- ☐ college: BA, University of Michigan; JD, University of Detroit
- ☐ experience: Trial attorney; county commissioner; vice chairman; GOP commissioner; caucus; vice chairman; public services committee; road commission public hearing officer and nationally published author.

Enterprise greeting

To those who chance to read me
And to every loyal friend
A birthday greeting fond and true
To each and all I send.

Ten years ago today, dear friend
I came a stranger new.
With kindly welcome you bid me come
And make my home with you.

But I was not a quiet child
Within your peaceful home.
For other ones enticed me here
And so I learned to roam.

And now my homes are many.
They are increasing too.
In fact, to reach them every one
I must travel the U.S. through.

And may I always be your friend
Be you near or far away.
The best of wishes to you I send
On this my tenth birthday.

— Sarah Thomas Courcy

This poem was written for the Farmington Observer's 10th anniversary edition in 1988. The Enterprise merged with the Observer in 1988. The 100th anniversary edition is part of today's newspaper.