

Civil War puns  
come to camp. 1B

Softball  
honors, 1D

Hills council may  
televise meetings. 6A

# Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 79

Thursday, July 6, 1989

Farmington, Michigan

72 Pages

Fifty Cents

©1989 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## 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.

**CALLED** back. Of 38 Farmington Public Schools teachers plus all-pup back to work this fall. District officials say they hope the other eight will be called back before the start of the new school year.

**PARKING** scofflaws. State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, urged the Farmington Hills City Council June 26 to look into training volunteers to enforce handicapped parking laws in private lots. The state law regulating handicapped parking spaces, toughened last month, allows police departments to deputize civilians to assist with parking warnings and citations.

**FORUM** bound. Farmington Hills City Council named Mayor Terry Sever and councilman Ben Marks as the delegate and alternate to the Michigan Municipal League annual conference Oct. 5-7 in Marquette.

### QUOTE of the week

6 We want to reinforce the urgency with the (city) council of solving drainage problems (in Farmington Hills).

9 — Dunford resident Joann Graves, after the June 21 downpour (Story on 3A).

### what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 4B
- Business . . . . . Sec C
- Cable connection . . . 6D
- Classifieds . . . . . Sec. C, E-H
- Index . . . . . 5G
- Auto . . . . . Sec. C, H
- Real estate . . . . . Sec. E, G
- Employment . . . . . Sec. G, H
- Creative living . . . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 10E
- Entertainment . . . . . 5C
- Obituaries . . . . . 7B
- Opinion . . . . . 10A
- Points of view . . . . . 11A
- Police/fire calls . . . . 8A
- Recreation news . . . . 8D
- Sports . . . . . Sec. D
- Suburban life . . . . . Sec. B.

**find your place...**

whether it's a house, condo, or apartment, we have hundreds of selections in the **Observer & Eccentric classified ads**

## Man's wish to die a step closer

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

In an unexpected move, Oakland County Circuit Judge Hilda Gago Wednesday said there's no need to give permission for Farmington quadriplegic David Rivlin to be removed from his life-sustaining ventilator.

Gago's lack of a ruling on Rivlin's May 17 petition forces the 33-year-old Oak Hill Care Center patient and his attorney, David Rosin of Detroit, to search for a physician willing to perform the procedure.

"I haven't talked to any physicians yet," Rosin said Wednesday morning after a hearing on Rivlin's petition asking permission to have a physician remove him from his ventilator. Gago's response to the petition surprised both Rosin and Rivlin's aunt, Marlon Gornbel-Melton of Palm Harbor, Fla., who has Rivlin's power of attorney. "I was surprised," Gornbel-Mel-

**'There is no question whatsoever... a capable adult person has the right to decline medical treatment.'**  
— Judge Hilda Gago

ton said. "It appears she really doesn't think there's anyone against it (Rivlin's request)."

Rosin said he believes Rivlin will be unhappy but understanding of the hearing's outcome. Rivlin was not in court Wednesday.

"I DON'T think he will be encouraged by this because he's so decisive about this," Rosin said of Rivlin, who has been connected to the ventilator for almost three years. "Prolonging the agony is not really good news."

Rivlin could not be reached for comment.

Because no one has formally opposed Rivlin's May petition asking that he be disconnected from his ventilator, Gago said there's no need for his request to be brought into court. "We're here to settle disputes. There's no dispute before me," she said. "This is purely a private personal matter between a patient and his physician."

Rosin informed the state attorney general's office and Oakland County prosecutor Richard Thompson of Rivlin's request to die to determine if there was any opposition. Spokesmen for the attorney general and for Thompson have said they have no plans to interfere with or oppose Rivlin's request.

Gago said it's apparent Rivlin is a competent adult capable of making his own decisions. "There is no question whatsoever... a capable adult person has the right to decline medical treatment," Gago said.

Rosin told Gago that some physicians might refuse to disconnect



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Quadriplegic David Rivlin wants to be removed from the life-sustaining ventilator in his room at the Oak Hill Care Center in Farmington.

Rivlin's ventilator for fear of civil and criminal liability. "What you're really here for is to seek legal immunity for some unknown physician," Gago said.

If Rivlin and Rosin can find a physician willing to perform the procedure, there's no need to return to court.

Please turn to Page 3

## Decision gives states more abortion control

By Philip A. Sherman staff writer

The battle over a woman's right to an abortion has left the nation's capital for the lawmakers bodies of each of the 50 states.

With the announcement that Roe vs. Wade is intact, but that states can regulate the circumstances under which a woman may obtain an abortion, the Supreme Court has effectively absolved itself of the responsibility to regulate abortions on a local level.

Pro-choice and pro-life leaders in Michigan were still discussing the complex decision, Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services, hours after it was released by Chief Justice William Rehnquist. The high court ruled 5-4 for Webster.

"IT'S VERY COMPLICATED, but one thing is clear — the rights of

women have been diluted," said Douglas Fraser, chairman of the Milliken Committee, a statewide pro-choice organization. The former president of the United Auto Workers said the ruling has great potential to limit abortions, depending on how states react to the decision.

"If this trend continues, you could conceivably see the reversal of Roe vs. Wade," Fraser said.

Barbara Listing, director of Michigan Right to Life, said, "we're very pleased and not at all surprised" by the decision. "We're especially pleased that the court has upheld the preamble to Webster — that life begins at conception," Listing said.

PRELIMINARY READINGS of the decision indicate the court did not directly rule on viability — the time at which a fetus is viable outside the womb. However, the court

abandoned Roe's trimester framework, which said a woman, without intervention, could have an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy.

Now, through Webster, the court has said a state can intervene any time after conception.

"It's a signal to the states that you can legislate in this area," Listing said. She sees no immediate effect of the ruling in Michigan, but said she will be "sitting down with pro-life legislators soon."

At the top of her agenda is a mandate to nullify a minor's right to an abortion without parental consent, Listing said.

Pam Dooley, executive director of the state branch of Planned Parenthood, based in Novi, said her "initial reaction (is that) it's a real step backward."

Please turn to Page 5

## High court ruling spurs a mixed local reaction

By Casey Hans staff writer

Reaction in the Farmington area was mixed to Monday's U.S. Supreme Court decision, which essentially weakened — but does not eliminate — the right for women to have legal abortions in this country.

The justices chipped away at the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade case by allowing individual states to restrict the circumstances under which women may obtain abortions. At least one Farmington-area anti-abortion activist believes the country is now on its way to eliminating abortion entirely.

"We upheld Proposition A (which prohibits state-paid abortions in Michigan). I definitely think we're on a roll here in Michigan," said Farmington resident Carole Schneider, who has been arrested twice for her participating in Operation Rescue demonstrations in the Detroit area. "Now they've put it back into the people's hands."

But state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, said he doesn't believe any laws need to be changed.

"I'm not for any removal of the rights of women to make a choice," he said. "Pro-life people have always been very adamant. I think they should respect people's rights to

make their own decisions and not impose their standards on other people."

IN RULING on the case of Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, the Supreme Court focused on a challenge to a Missouri law that states life begins at conception and that unborn children have "protectable interests in life, health and well-being."

The high court sidestepped the "major issue of viability, when a fetus becomes viable, outside the womb," but weakened current legal pro-

Please turn to Page 4

## Recycling centers opened to help ease trash problem

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Garbage will never be the same for Farmington and Farmington Hills residents with the debut this week of refuse recycling centers in both cities.

"This is the first step in what's going to be a long-range program to deal with the refuse problem," Farmington Hills city manager William Costlick said.

Centers at the public works departments in both cities began accepting recyclable refuse Wednesday. The Farmington Hills center, open 7 a.m. to dusk, is behind the De-

**'This is the first step in what's going to be a long-range program to deal with the refuse problem.'**

— William Costlick  
Farmington Hills city manager

partment of Public Works building, 57245 Halstead, between I-694 and 12 Mile. The Farmington center, open 24 hours, is on Nino Mill, west of Orchard Lake Road.

"We're doing the identical program to Farmington Hills. We're small. All we need is here," Farmington city manager said.

Please turn to Page 6

## Founders Festival to lead off with a bang

Related story: 1B

A Civil War re-enactment will march into this year's Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival.

The Confederacy will meet the Union at Farmington Hills Heritage Park during re-enactments Saturday and Sunday, July 8-9. They will include everything from soldiers and horses, to rifles and cannons.

Observers can be prepared to take a trip back in time as they watch 100 people acting as soldiers and civilians bring the Civil War

period to life. Several smaller battles, or "skirmishes," will be re-enacted.

"Small encounters between two company-sized units were more common during the late Civil War mainly because man count per regiment decreased as soldiers perished in the war," said Don Everett, president of the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Company B, Inc., a non-profit Civil War re-enactment organization.

The re-enactors will be clad in blue and gray uniforms and clothing replicated from that period. In those days, soldiers were outfitted

Please turn to Page 2