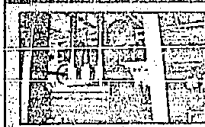


He's the new wave
of boat captains, 1D



He's winner
in life, 1C

Farm house makes
historic register, 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 92

Monday, August 21, 1989

Farmington, Michigan

64 Pages

Fifty Cents

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farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 593-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

HEATED discussion.

"Most of the heat comes from the heat already generated by us," Paul Sowerby responded when fellow councilmen Ben Marks inquired if the video equipment needed to be relocated.

Farmington Hills City Council meetings generated a lot of heat. The council last week voted 4-2 against soliciting bids to determine the actual cost of installing the equipment, shying from the \$80,000 estimate given by the city manager.

SCHOOL hotline. Farmington Public Schools now has a public information hotline to coincide with the opening of the 1989-90 school year next week.

Call 489-3337 for a recorded message about the first day of classes, school lunch prices and bus schedule information.

Memory lane

25 years ago:

• Farmington Township clerk Floyd Cairns swore in five new police officers: Gordon Bloss, George Maler, Dennis Nash, Muri Spencer and William Kokorelis. They will serve under Chief Irving Yakes.

• The Farmington school board sets tuition rates for the 1984-85 school year: \$160 for elementary students and \$220 for secondary students -- both \$20 increases.

— Farmington Enterprise, Aug. 20, 1964

This week

TUESDAY at 4 p.m. is the deadline to file nominating petitions for Farmington Hills City Council candidates. File petitions with the city clerk, 31655 11 Mile.

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SUBURBAN LIFE'S MONTHLY ALBUM

SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Repeat offenders at boys home

Assessment program detailed, 2A

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

Three days after saying Boys Republic housed only first-time offenders, officials Thursday acknowledged that repeat offenders are at the temporary home for delinquent boys ages 12-17.

Controversy arose at a Boys Republic-hosted meeting on Aug. 14 when officials tried to assure Farmington Hills neighbors a new short-term assessment program will bring only first-time offenders requiring medium security —

just like the long-term treatment program brings.

But three days later, Phyllis Griffin, Boys Republic executive director, told the Observer both programs have some boys who have committed more than one offense.

Assessment program boys don't "have an extensive criminal background, but it is possible that they have committed more than one crime. Usually, one or two," Griffin said.

Having repeat offenders in the treatment program is something that has evolved through the years, she said.

"We weren't aware of the change in the type of boys over there," said Delphine Plechowski, a neighbor since Boys Republic came to the

wooded 60-acre site on Nine Mile, west of Inkster, in 1944.

"We thought the boys have been from broken homes, abused boys, maybe caught in petty theft who needed guidance."

"TIMES HAVE changed and the definition of delinquent boys has changed," Griffin said. "These aren't orphans. These are youngsters who have a delinquent background."

"These kids develop certain survival techniques. When they come to Boys Republic and meet people willing to accept them for who they are, they are willing to surrender those survival techniques," Griffin said.

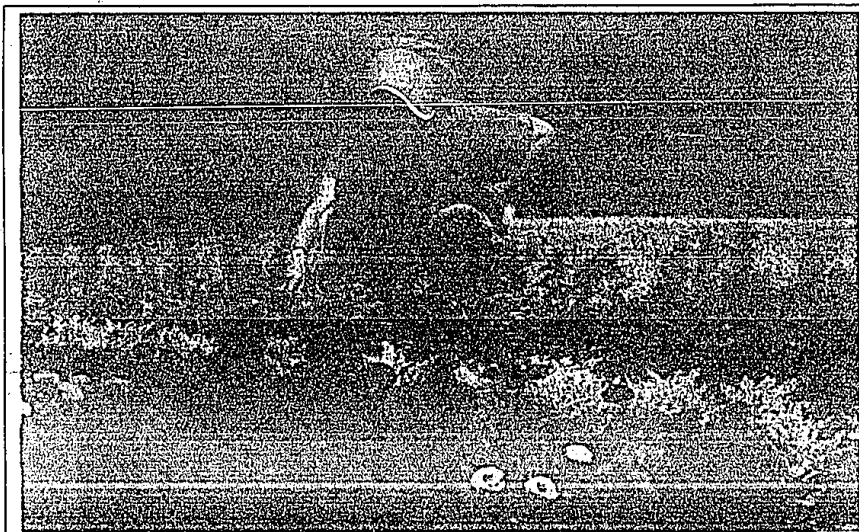
But Griffin didn't sway Plechowski, who

said: "I don't care what they say, those are not the same type of boys."

Tighter security has accompanied introduction of the new assessment program. It not only includes a fully secure assessment center but also increased security in the treatment program housing unit, which will help curtail campus truancy, Griffin said.

Last year, the state Department of Social Services warned Boys Republic — a private, non-profit, social service agency — it would stop placing boys there for long-term treatment if security was not improved to lower truancy, said James Grannan, Boys Republic board president.

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Elizabeth Hatton tends the annuals and wildflowers in a garden plot on the east side of the Farmington Hills City Hall.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Flower lady

She keeps Hills municipal gardens in bloom

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

She's called the Flower Lady for good reason. For four summers, Elizabeth Hatton has applied her green thumb to the flower gardens at Farmington Hills' city hall, fire stations and municipal golf course.

"I do the designing, pick up the plants and do all the planting. Then I take care of the gardens," said Hatton, recognizable by her sun bonnet.

A master gardener through Michigan State

University's Cooperative Extensive Service, Hatton works with fellow Department of Special Services employee Tom Wind. He trims the trees and bushes and does the edging.

Manual labor is a big part of her work. "I pull weeds," she said. "I don't use any chemicals. Once you start to pull weeds, there are fewer and fewer because there are fewer and fewer seeds."

She waters by hand when necessary.

IN SEARCH of a "picture perfect look," Hat-

ton doesn't hesitate to sweep walks and streets around the gardens.

"The whole look has to be right," the Farmington Village Cooperative resident said. "You don't have a nice garden with dirty streets."

During a weekday break under a noon sun at the eastern edge of the city hall, Hatton, a counselor at Joy Middle School in Detroit, said she's happiest when others stop to soak up the colors in full bloom.

"One day, two little kids pulled on their mom's arm to get them to stop to look at the flowers," she said.

7 eye council seats

Farmington field biggest since '79

Four challengers will square off against three incumbents for three Farmington City Council seats this November.

That makes it the biggest field since 1979. Challengers John Kenney of Pickett, Robert Walker of Oakland, Jo Anne McShane of Glenview and Joanne Fellenberg of Cass Court will try to unseat incumbents Arnold Campbell of Birchwood, Shirley Richardson of Oakland and Richard Tupper of Cass.

All filed nominating petitions with 50-75 valid signatures of registered Farmington voters by the deadline at 5 p.m. Friday, city clerk Jo Bushey said.

Candidates have until 5 p.m. today to withdraw; thereafter, their names will appear on the ballot.

Tupper, current mayor, is completing his second two-year term. Campbell, mayor pro tem, is completing his first four-year term. Richardson was appointed to fill the remainder of Alton Bennett's term in 1986.

McShane and Walker are board of zoning appeals members. Kenney is a 13-year resident. Fellenberg is a nine-year resident.

The top two finishers in the Nov. 7 election will serve four-year terms. The third-place finisher will serve a two-year term.

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 10.

Council members are paid \$900 per year. The five-member, non-partisan council meetings are the first and third Mondays of each month. Occasional special meetings also are held.

Tiger hurt in crash

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Detroit Tigers pitcher Charles Hudson broke both legs after his car hit a utility pole and broke in half when he lost control after passing another car on Northwestern Highway about 2 a.m. Saturday, Farmington Hills police said.

The 31-year-old West Bloomfield resident was listed in serious but stable condition Saturday afternoon at Providence Hospital Southfield. "He was moved to the intensive care unit for observation after surgery for compound fractures to the left leg and a broken right ankle, said Cynthia Stief, nursing supervisor.

"He's resting quietly and doing fine," Stief said Saturday afternoon. "His wife is with him, and his family

Barricaded gunman

No shots fired in neighborhood standoff with police

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

A barricaded gunman, distraught over family and financial problems, gave up after holding police at bay with a shotgun from his house on the 22000 block of Purdue, near Grand River and Middlebelt, in Farmington Hills Sunday.

A barricaded gunman, distraught over family and financial problems, gave up after holding police at bay with a shotgun from his house on the 22000 block of Purdue in Farmington Hills Sunday.

Threatening to use the gun after an argument with his wife, Norman Fehrenbach, 28, forced her and their four young children from the house at 5 p.m., then assembled a 12-gauge shotgun, police said.

"There were no hostages so time was on our side. When we have these types of situations, it's just a waiting game."

— Police Chief William Dwyer

Fehrenbach, a longtime resident who grew up in Farmington Hills, was laid off as a drywall hanger three weeks ago, police said.

No hostages were taken, no shots were fired and no one was hurt in the tense, 4½-hour drama that drew a crowd of neighbors and news reporters.

No charges are anticipated. "He needs psychiatric help," said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer.

Sharpshooters, wearing flak jackets, were prepared to wait out the gunman for days, if necessary.

the safety and welfare of our officers, residents in the area and the subject himself."

AFTER LEAVING their house, Fehrenbach's wife and children went to the home of a neighbor. The kids were later handed over a back yard fence and taken to safety.

At 7:45 p.m., after trying to reason with him by phone from the house next door, police convinced Fehrenbach to dismantle the shotgun, box it and put it between the side door and the storm door.

Police retrieved it 15 minutes later, but weren't sure if he had other weapons. "He had threatened suicide and also had made overtures about possibly shooting someone," Dwyer said.

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