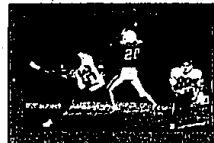


Car deals
a landmark



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FARMINGTON



FOCUS

COLUMBUS called the ocean blue in Fourteen Hundred and Ninety Two... and the post office closes every Columbus Day to celebrate the feat.

The U.S. Postal Service — including Farmington-area post offices, will operate on a holiday schedule on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 8.

Farmington Postmaster Kenneth B. Harris said there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery. Special delivery, Express Mail and post office box service will be available.

Limited called service will be provided only for customers who regularly pick up their mail at the Farmington (33200 Elcom) or Farmington Hills (32455 W. 12 Mile Road) post offices.

In addition, there will be no post office window service on Saturday, Oct. 6. Delivery and collection service will be provided, however.

Normal mail service will resume Tuesday, Oct. 9.

THE FIRST checks to be distributed from the CROP Walk 1990 — an annual church-sponsored walk against hunger — have been received by representatives of Head Start, Farmington Hills' Neighborhood House and Salvation Army, and the Baldwin Shelter in Pontiac.

The amount collected by the 500 walkers was \$20,419.46. Of this sum, \$5,104.39 will go to community causes. The rest will go to Third World causes. This spring's group of walkers represented 14 Farmington-area churches.

ATENTION Farmington-area youths between 12 and 16 years old: The Friday Night Teen Center will re-open Oct. 12.

The center, co-sponsored by Farmington Youth Assistance and the Farmington Hills Recreation Division, will be located at East Middle School, 25000 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills. Hours will be 7-10 p.m.

Activities include basketball, volleyball, dancing... and just hanging out. Membership cost is \$2, which includes a photo ID.

Volunteer chaperones are needed for the program. If interested, call Farmington Youth Assistance at 489-2434.

THE ICE Wolf, a play performed in American sign language, will be staged at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Farmington Community Library, Farmington Hills branch, 33737 W. 12 Mile Road.

The free play, which centers around an Eskimo folk tale, promotes awareness of the hearing-impaired. For more information, call Carol Hand at the library at 853-0309.

MEMORY LANE — From the Oct. 17, 1940, Farmington Enterprise:

Senior class officers at Farmington High School were George Brykalaki, president; Bob Carlson, vice president; Paulette Gamble, secretary; and Margaret Leach, treasurer.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21899 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Activists fight for the right to read

By Casey Hans
staff writer

They're devotees of the written word.

And they want you to have the right to choose a book anytime, anywhere.

Bookstore owners, librarians and school media specialists from around Farmington and elsewhere are fighting a growing national trend of book banning and challenging, although they say the issue is not a big problem in the Farmington area.

"We haven't been challenged too often — we've been lucky," said Marilyn Smith, branch manager at the Farmington Community Library facility in downtown Farmington. "We have an educated community here and they have always been supportive."

In the Farmington Public Schools, there are occasional gripes about books, but most are resolved at a building level, said director of media resources Peggy Schmidt. And, as with the public library system, the school district has a complaint procedure which reviews not only the complaints but the book content as well.

BOTH FIGHT removing books from the shelves.

"The purpose of a library... is to provide all types of information," Schmidt said. "We want to make sure nobody is cut off." She said parents, of course, retain the right to tell their child not to read something, and that the schools offer alternative selections in such situations.

At the Little Professor bookstore at Grand River and Halsted, owner Paula Herstein is focusing on "supporting the right to read" with a recent display in the store window to commemorate National Banned Books Week, which ran through Sept. 29. She said customers were so interested in the display that several asked to sign petitions, although the



Paula and Richard Herstein stand in front of their Little Professor bookstore on Grand River in Farmington, where they did a window display showing a variety of books banned from

schools and libraries. They believe in allowing the customer a choice about what books to read.

bookstore wasn't offering any for signing.

The intent of Banned Book Week and the display was strictly informational and is "getting more and more

attention" each year, she said. "We sell everything and we support the First Amendment," she said. "When 'Satanic Verses' was published, we sold that. We don't feel

we should ban things." Hundreds of books, including classics like "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck and basic reference guides like the 1986 edition of Webster's

Dictionary have been challenged or banned because of content. Steinbeck's book was challenged because

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Challenger says her efforts can make a difference

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Politics is in Denise Alexander's blood.

Even when she relaxes in her Southfield kitchen with her gourmet cooking, the fruits of her labors often go to feed volunteers who help with weekend door-to-door campaign efforts.

For the 38-year-old Republican state Senate candidate, a love of politics started with high school student government, carried into judicial campaigns and various Republican races and finally took her into city government, where she sat on the Southfield Planning Commission for seven years and, more recently, on the city council.

"I love American government and history," said Alexander, one of

ELECTION



STATE SENATE

three candidates vying for a chance at the 15th District state Senate seat. "I call it 'the continuing American Revolution.' I have always believed

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Denise Alexander offers a taste of her gourmet cooking to her pet Great Pyrenees, Max, in the kitchen of her Southfield state Senate seat.

Honored Employers of handicapped are praised

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It all started with Jerry. "He's never been sick. He is one of the most dedicated people I have ever worked with. He's part of our family," said Danny Goff, owner of Mama Locricchio's restaurant in Farmington Hills.

Jerry's story in the June 8, 1989 edition of the Farmington Observer struck a chord in Republican state Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills. When she read about Jerry, who is mentally retarded, successfully working in the restaurant, an idea dawned on her.

"Making jobs accessible to workers with handicaps is not just a matter of basic human rights but makes economic sense," Dolan told Farmington area employers Monday. "There must be more employers in

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Youthful flag-burners could face charges in Hills incident

They could have been exercising their constitutional rights.

But six teenagers and one young adult, all Novi residents, could face charges, including arson, in connection with the Sept. 28 burning of at least two American flags that until recently flew above businesses on Freeway Drive in Farmington Hills.

"All will probably be charged," said Detective Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills police.

Just before midnight Sept. 28, a police officer noticed a car parked in the middle of Research Drive.

The car moved again to Freeway Drive. Then someone got out of the car, put a bundle in the middle of the street, lit it and an "enormous flame 5 feet high" followed, according to a police report.

The car left the scene as police approached. The teenagers and young adult were stopped by uniformed officers at 7 Mile and Newburg in Livonia.

The car's driver, a 17-year-old, had to be forcibly removed from the car when he clung to the steering wheel and refused to get out, police said.

IN THE CAR'S trunk, police found two sticks wrapped with socks and soaked in gasoline.

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The showcase of homes that attracts thousands of people. The section that people love to read in today's Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.