

Just clowning around for that 'degree,' 1D



Prep grid games, 1C

Owners take their prize pets for blessing, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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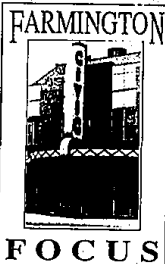
Monday, October 8, 1990

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Fifty Cents

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FOCUS

## Plan in works for M-102, Grand River

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

It's no secret. You know what it's like to drive through the traffic-clogged M-102/Grand River interchange.

Anticipation builds as you near Halsted. And then the back up begins. There's nowhere to go.

And it's worse if you're traveling west and want to make a left onto M-102 or Halsted. It's quicksand. No one moves and when they do, it's slowly.

"It is one of the worst areas I think we have in this city as far as the road network," Biaseil said.

Yet the Michigan Department of Transportation has long denied the city any attempts to fix the problems — basically a lack of capacity, particularly to make left turns onto Halsted or M-102 off the bridge.

But take heart. A new route is being taken to get necessary improvements to the interchange. Complaints about the problem haven't worked. So a conceptual plan of improvements to the interchange has been drafted.

COMMUNITY business leaders are joining forces with the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation to try to get the ball moving on an estimated \$6.5 million improvement for the congested interchange.

"At this point, I think we need the business community to get involved with the city," city manager William Costick said.

"The location of this meeting is appropriate. Anyone not familiar with it, should begin to see the problem," said Tom Biaseil, Farmington Hills public services director.

The location was the Holiday Inn on Grand River, just west of M-102. The problem and the reason for the gathering was the continuing traffic congestion at the M-102-Grand River interchange.

"We are concerned for the future and we want to make sure you are satisfied," said

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PEOPLE with voices talents should sing out... the Christian Community Chorus needs you.

Sopranos, tenors, altos and basses are needed to sing in the chorus' performance of Handel's "Messiah" Sunday, Dec. 2. The first rehearsal is 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23615 Power, Farmington.

For more information, call Kathy Boettcher, 471-5583, or Mary Nugent, 478-8105.

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

Nearly 840 Farmington-area men between 21-35 registered for the first-ever peacetime military draft. According to a front-page story, the registrations went smoothly "without undue rush or confusion."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21228 Farmington Road, Farmington 48836, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LEMUEUX/staff photographer

## Some pumpkins

Their pumpkins grow so large this summer that Jim and Karen Morrissey of Farmington Hills can't even lift them on the scales to weigh them. They believe the thigh-high pumpkin above would tip the scales at more

than 200 pounds. The jumbo pumpkins have been drawing visitors daily. Two of the Morrissey's three children — Megan (left), 6, and Darren, 8 months — play on the pumpkin.

## Agent: family drug war key

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The realities of the world's drug war were placed squarely on the shoulders of Farmington-area civic and business leaders by a Detroit-based federal drug agent who offered a firsthand account of the problem.

Local officials called his message "alarming" and "sobering."

Rodolfo Ramirez, assistant special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Agency in Detroit, said Wednesday his agency is sorely understaffed and underpaid, that agents throughout the world are being shot and killed routinely, and that the DEA must rely heavily on state and local law enforcement agencies for help.

But, he said, any enforcement efforts will be for naught unless families change.

"Why is it we have a drug problem in the United States? I think the times are changing," said Ramirez, the keynote speaker at an anti-drug breakfast at Mercy Center. "The families have changed. We no longer do things with our kids."

"The only way we can do something about the war on drugs is to do something in the home."

WEDNESDAY'S BREAKFAST was sponsored by Farmington Families in Action, as a kick-off to Substance Abuse Awareness Month. Several other activities are planned this

**'The only way we can do something about the war on drugs is to do something in the home.'**

— Rodolfo Ramirez,  
Detroit DEA chief

month, including a family walk/run, a number of religious activities that are donating proceeds to FFIA, and a family day with an anti-drug theme. Students, educators and business leaders are being encouraged to wear red ribbons throughout October to show their anti-drug stance.

The DEA has only 2,900 agents throughout the world who are working to stop drugs at their source; their starting pay is \$22,000 per year, Ramirez said.

"Some of these countries have no drug laws on the books," he said. "Generally, their attitude is 'Hey, we don't have a drug problem. You have a drug problem in the United States.'"

"Nevertheless, we still have a job to do." As part of their job, agents seized \$1 billion in money and assets from drug dealers and suppliers in 1989, and made 26,000 arrests of which 9,000 were "major violators," he said. A total of 80,000 kilograms of

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## 2 gunmen rob Hills restaurant

Two masked gunmen took an undisclosed amount of money after roughing up the manager and tying up him and two employees at Mountain Jack's Restaurant at 8 a.m. Sunday, Farmington Hills police said.

The manager, whom police did not identify, was punched in the face but was not seriously hurt. The gunmen left in a newer, four-door, cherry-red station wagon, Sgt. Paul Cavan said.

The restaurant, at 24275 Sincola Ct., near Grand River and 10 Mile, later opened for lunch as usual Sunday.

Both gunmen were described as black and in their 20s with short black hair.

Police gave this account: As two men approached the manager outside the restaurant, each pulled a nylon stocking over his head, donned plastic gloves and showed a short-barreled revolver.

The manager was punched in the face several times before his hands were bound behind his back and his mouth was taped. Two arriving employees also were bound. One was hit in the face.

The gunmen then untied the manager and told him to open the restaurant door. They then ordered the employees into a restroom and forced the manager to open the office safe.

The robbers slashed the money in a plastic trash bag. One robber was described as 5-7 and 140 pounds with a medium build, a thin mustache and a small goatee. He wore white pants, a red and white warmup jacket, a baseball hat and white, high-top, basketball shoes.

The other was described as 6-1 and 180 pounds with a thin build. He wore a blue nylon windbreaker and blue pants.

When contacted Sunday, restaurant management declined comment. Call tips to the police: 474-6181.

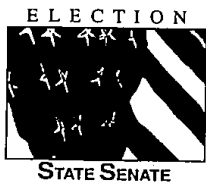
## Faxon relies on experience to beat 15th challengers

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

In 26 years of back-and-forth trips to Lansing, state Sen. Jack Faxon has maintained a strong anti-smoking sentiment and a love of the arts. The veteran 54-year-old Democrat has been instrumental to passing legislation banning smoking in public buildings, plus he paints and collects art from around the world, which decorates his Farmington Hills house.

He also tinkers at the piano and even hopes to dance again in the Nutcracker ballet, as he did last winter.

But this month Faxon's focus is on



politics, as Republicans dump money into his district in an attempt to oust him and win the seat. He faces

challenges from Republican Denise Alexander of Southfield and Libertarian Steve Silver of Huntington Woods in the Nov. 6 General Election.

"This is the first time it looks like they're (Republicans) targeting it," he said. "They've run before, but this year they've made a conscious effort to find a person who would hit at my base."

But Faxon contends he is "not running against anyone. I have years of experience behind me. I've not been asleep at the switch. I think people like experience and people who have the background."

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SHARON LEMUEUX/staff photographer

State Sen. Jack Faxon, facing a stiff challenge in the upcoming election, shares a moment with his mother, Pauline, 94, in their Farmington Hills home.

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Look for the Farmington Hills Suburban Cable Weekly



## Most Oakland reps, challengers say: 'Read our lips, no new tax increases'

Bipartisan opposition. With one exception, that's the phrase best describing how Oakland County's representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives — and their opponents — felt about the proposal to cut \$500 billion from the federal budget with unpopular tax increases and painful cuts in benefits. The exception was Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield, who voted to support the package.

Four other representatives whose districts included part or all of Oakland County voted against the proposal.

In a speech from the House floor,

Levin said he supported the package because the choice was between "chaos and an orderly process" in approaching the budget deficit.

The proposal was unfair, Levin said, particularly changes in Medicare benefits. But he would personally work to correct inequities in committee before the proposal took effect.

"This package was the wrong medicine at the wrong time," said Rep. Bill Broomfield, R-18th District. "It would be bad news for my district and for Michigan which depends so heavily on the auto industry and tourism."

Opposition from Broomfield, senior Republican in the House with 34 years, was almost symbolic of the GOP outcry. "Congress should reduce government spending, not increase taxes," he said. Broomfield's Democratic opponent was even more critical.

THE PACKAGE was based on faulty economic assumptions and "unfairly taxed working people," said Walter O. Briggs who hopes to upset Broomfield in the Nov. 6 election.

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