

Mothers choose single parenthood, 10



Baseball action, 1B

Finding a health club to fit every need, 3A

Farmington Observer

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LITTLE GIRLS are made of sugar and spice and... a determination to do the right thing in an emergency.

At least that's the case with Jim Kelel's little girls — Rebecca, 6, and Rachel, 5. They knew just what to do recently when an 800-pound raft fell on their father at his cottage in Hamburg Township near Brighton.

Kelel, a Farmington resident, was maneuvering the raft into a lake when it toppled on him, breaking his pelvis. The youngsters helped save the day. Rebecca ran to the cottage and telephoned for help, and her younger sister dashed to a nearby cottage for more assistance.

"They remained cool and calm and did what they had to do to save their dad, who was flat on his back," said Kelel, who works for a company that distributes daily products.

"I pushed the raft off myself," he added. "You've heard about an adrenalin rush? Well, I had one. I pushed that thing off myself."

He was taken to a hospital in Howell, but is home now and feeling much better.

WHY ARE certain local and state officials sharpening their scissors and practicing their snipping skills?

Well, Maple Drug Stores is celebrating the grand "re-opening" of its newest store in the Farmington Grand Plaza on Grand River just west of Orchard Lake Road, and a ribbon-cutting is planned.

The cutting will take place at noon Saturday, June 29. Mr. M.M. The Grimmeys and the Big Foot Monster Truck will be on hand. A trip for two to Toronto will be raffled off, and samples and gifts will be given away.

ANTIQU quilts and coverlets will be on display at the Spicer House in Heritage Park in Farmington Hills from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, July 6-7, in conjunction with the Founders Festival Civil War Days.

The display is free for everyone. Among the heritage items on display will be a Barber family basket pattern quilt of eceru and green made in Farmington Township about 1930; a Dove family quilt of spool pattern on an eceru background dating from the 1890s and quilted in Farmington Township; and a blue-and-white woven coverlet dated 1869 from Florissant County, Iowa.

Also on display will be a crazy quilt made from party dresses with patches of velvets and satins in elaborate embroidery stitches.

The show is a gift of the Friends of Heritage Park and the Farmington Hills Historical Commission. Heritage Park is on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile.

MEMORY LANE — From the June 28, 1991, Farmington Enterprise:

Firefighters from Farmington, Detroit and Redford Township responded to a blaze at a farm building at the Boyer Republic, Nine Mile and Inker. The fire was doused in short order, but the building was destroyed.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



Shoes — "bags and bags of them" — surround Andy Konjarevich in the back room of his Farmington Shoe Repair in downtown Farmington. The shop has been a downtown fixture since 1958.

Shoehorned shop

Veteran cobbler is comfortable with his craft

know your neighbor

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Even without a sign to read, you know you've found the shoe repair place. Your nose tells you.

The pleasant smells of leather and polish predominate. And then there are the sounds: the light buzz of machinery and a constant tap-tap-tapping from a back room somewhere.

"Music to my ears," said Andy Konjarevich, the owner of Farmington Shoe Repair in downtown Farmington.

His shop is, ah, shoehorned into the back of a building at Grand River and Farmington Road. It's one of downtown's oldest surviving businesses, and it's in one of the Farmington area's oldest buildings.

Konjarevich has been fixing footwear since he was 8, and his shop has been a downtown fixture since 1958. At this point, the trade must seem as comfortable as, well, an old shoe to

the 56-year-old Livonia resident.

And old shoes ("bags and bags of them" in Konjarevich's words) do find their way into his establishment.

BUSINESS IS good these days, what with people who'd much rather pay \$39.50 for new soles and heels than \$150 or more for new shoes. Department and shoe stores also send Konjarevich new leather goods needing repair.

"People treat me well. Let's put it that way," said Konjarevich, who learned the trade as a youngster at the work bench of his father's shop in northwest Detroit.

Later, he studied engineering but chucked the textbooks for leather-working tools.

"The shoes were more relaxing, and I liked working with my hands. It's rewarding, working with your hands. Look, you should do what you want with your life. You'll live longer."

AND IF what you like is repairing shoes, you'll always be in business "as long as babies are born without shoes on their feet."

You can tell a lot about a person

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It's red white and blue for Fest

Founders fete salutes patriots

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Flags will be waving and colors flying for this year's Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival, as organizers draw on the nation's patriotic mood.

"Hurrah for the Red, White and Blue" is the theme for the 27th annual summer event, spread throughout the community in a variety of activities from July 6-14.

The festival is sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, which schedules its own events and coordinates activities of other community groups during the weeklong summer celebration.

"There seems to be a particularly patriotic feeling this year, so it seemed an appropriate theme," said festival coordinator Jody Soronen, executive director of the chamber.

"Our founders celebration, patriotism and the development of our community all fit together."

The festival kicks off Saturday, July 6, with a Civil War Encampment and antique quilt and coverlet display at Heritage Park, and carries on through the week, culminating July 13 with the annual bed race and parade in downtown Farmington, a special salute to Operation Desert Storm families in Heritage Park and other activities throughout the area.

Selected events carry over to Sunday.

SORONEN SAID the usual crowd of about 85,000 people or more is expected to attend the various events throughout the week and flock to the arts and crafts exhibits and food booths downtown.

Festival schedules are available at businesses in the area and at the chamber offices.

Some highlights of this year's festival include:

- The Civil War Encampment, held all day Saturday and Sunday, July 6-7, at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills, complemented each afternoon by the antique quilt and coverlet display at the Heritage Park Spicer House. Because of noise concerns, no cannons will be fired at this year's encampment, Soronen said.
- Tuesday, July 9, is the 12th Annual Kids Day in the Park from noon to 5 p.m. at Farmington's Shawwassee Park between Farmington Road and Power, with the annual Festival Pet Show at 1 p.m. The Farmington Community Library's downtown branch is also hosting "Wild, Weird and Wacky" kids activities both Tuesday and Friday.
- The Miss Farmington Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant is

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Hospital cooling tower noise bothers residents

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Older Town residents Marlene McBride and Betty Cook describe the noise they live with as a jet engine.

"It just drives you crazy. You absolutely cannot sleep," said Cook, who lives on Oxford street, south of Independence.

McBride, who lives a street over on Collingham agrees.

"It sounds like a jet engine coming down our driveway."

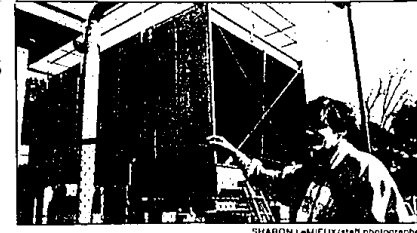
The neighbors are talking about a relatively new cooling tower that sits — almost across from Cook's

house — on the west edge of the Botsford General Hospital campus, north of Grand River Avenue.

The new cooling tower, which is more than 12 feet high, joins two older towers that neighbors say are much quieter when they're turned on.

Neighbors want the hospital to do something to ensure that they can live their lives peacefully when the new cooling tower is turned on. They're hoping the hospital will do

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Betty Cook stands near the new cooling tower at Botsford General Hospital. The tower isn't far from Cook's house on Oxford. The noise from the tower is annoying many of the residents in the neighborhood west of the hospital. Hospital officials have turned off the tower until they can figure how to muffle the noise.

Police cadet ticketed at party

By Todd Schneider
staff writer

The Livonia Police Department is investigating involvement of one of its police cadets in a Farmington Hills party that resulted in 20 arrests and injuries to two Farmington Hills police officers last weekend.

"One female cadet received a ticket for being at the party. We are investigating her involvement," said Livonia Police detective Lt. Mike Murray.

Murray declined to identify the cadet. He said he wasn't sure of the nature of the ticket but that it might have been for interfering with a police officer.

Police Chief Lee Grove was out of town and unavailable for comment. Witnesses had reported that a man identifying himself as a police officer was arrested and kicked out the back window of a police car during the melee Friday night on the 22800 block of Tulane.

That person was not the ticketed cadet, Livonia police said.

CADETS AREN'T sworn officers but are paid, full-time entry-level city employees of the police department.

Cadets are classified as civil service workers and are members of the union.

The incident began about 10 p.m.

when neighbors called to complain about the party, which drew an estimated 150-200 people. Most of the partygoers were in their late teens or early 20s, according to police reports.

Two officers were hurt during the confrontation, which witnesses said featured people throwing rocks and bottles at the officers.

One officer suffered a broken hand and the other unspecified head injuries, police said. Violations issued to partygoers included assault on police officers, drunkenness, disturbing the peace and resisting arrest.

Staff writer Joanne Maliszewski contributed to this story.

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EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the holiday, we will be closed Thursday, July 4, 1991.

To place your classified "Liner" ad for the July 4 edition, call before 5 P.M. Monday, July 1, 1991.

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