

Historical winners

Trays for the IB

Loud house is home for local rock video, 3A

Farmington Observer

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FARMINGTON
FOCUS

GRACIOUS LIVING
The subdivision of Orchard Lake Road, west of Farmington, Michigan, was all but finished in 1988 with four model homes on small lots. Before electricity, indoor plumbing, sidewalks, gravel roads and water, the homes were built by the Detroit Urban Railway System. Now with 64 more homes in the neighborhood, the Farmington Hill Historical Commission has been asked to put the homes on the map with a historical marker Sunday, July 28.

On hand for the dedication was Mayor Aldo Vagstad, historical and city commission members from Farmington Hills Historical Commission, chairwoman Ruth Mochman, and Farmington Hills District Commission member Ruth Mochman.

Finally, after World War II, people were on the move again and Pasadena Park goes. The sidewalk planned by the Oakland Land Company, however, only leads to the four model homes, one of which Bayles lives in.

ANOTHER RIDE
Don't forget that the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, or SMART, has a new expanded service on Route 300-Grand River.

For more information on Route 300, call SMART Customer Information at 993-5818.

MEMORY LANE
From the Aug. 2, 1991, Farmington Edition, Enterprise.
Paul Blakeslee joined the Enterprise as the new editor. He replaced Ernest Hickman, who was the editor for 2 1/2 years. Blakeslee worked for the North Lansing News and Lansing Labor News.

Council considers curtailing cats

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Farmington resident Joseph Inquinto wants some rules for irresponsible owners of roaming felines.

"I have suffered damage to my car from scratches costing thousands of dollars to repair," said the Fairview Drive resident.

"Worst of all, wildlife on my property has been tortured and killed."

Inquinto complained to the Farmington City Council Monday that his neighbor's cats use his children's sandbox as a litter box.

"When cat owners are asked to either confine their cats or put bells on them, their normal resort is for me to drop dead. My lawyer informs me that it would cost between \$5,000

and \$10,000 to force an individual cat owner to cease using my property," Inquinto said.

Farmington city attorney John Donohue will draft an ordinance to pull in the reins on irresponsible owners of roaming felines.

The draft ordinance, to be presented to the city council in 30 days, is also expected to address the need to ensure rabies immunization of cats in the community.

This issue came to the fore when Farmington resident Joyce Weary of Annewood Street complained in June.

BEFORE THAT the city council took no action on two previous occasions. Cat behavior is different from dog behavior and roaming cats seldom bite people, City Manager Robert Deadman said in June.

The city of Farmington's animal ordinance

section now regulates dogs but not cats.

Frank Lauhoff, Farmington public safety director, suggested that owner responsibility for clean after both dogs and cats be included in the regulations.

Lauhoff recently obtained ordinances of eight communities that pertain to cat control. These were from Michigan cities of East Detroit, Livonia, Lowell, Novi, St. Clair Shores, Oak Park and Wayland.

The St. Clair Shores ordinance is an inch thick, Lauhoff said.

In general terms, these ordinances limit the number of animals kept; regulate the conditions (noise, odor), require immunization; and permit police to take action against the owner if the animal is vicious; and allows for restitution of damages.

Lauhoff discussed the problem of enforcement with other law enforcement agencies.

"It is generally found that unlike stray dogs that can usually be apprehended, stray cats that do not wish to be caught will not be," Lauhoff said. "Most stray cat activity occurs at night given their nocturnal tendencies."

"It is widely recognized that having public safety officers attempting to apprehend stray cats is a poor use of manpower under normal conditions. Therefore, citizens should not believe that the public safety department alone is capable of eliminating any perceived stray cat problem."

CAT ORDINANCES, however, do allow citizens to sign complaints as witnesses, Lauhoff said.

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Celebrating our cultural differences is what kids did best at the Hillside Elementary cultural week. Alexis Johnson (left to right) carries a flag of Israel, while Kaven and Steven Leonard represent Mexico.

Global Foreign firms impact local business climate

Editorial comment, p. 12A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The business climate in Farmington Hills is growing more global by the day.

Companies selling or manufacturing a variety of items, including French yarn, German auto components, Italian carburetors and machine tools, and Japanese robots, auto parts, instruments and engineering services are all part of the business picture here. Australia and

THE CULTURAL TREE

Growing new roots in Farmington and Farmington Hills

England business interests are also represented.

"We've been pretty successful getting Japanese firms in," said Jody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills

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Comic strip humor hurts handicapped

By Joanne Malazewski
staff writer

Humor is a medicine for George Mell. He loves a good laugh.

But the Farmington Hills retiree wasn't laughing Monday morning after he read his daily dose of cartoon strips in the Detroit Free Press.

"When I see something like this, it can be funny or it can really hurt," Mell said. "This really got to me. And I enjoy the comics."

What got to Mell was the "Luann" cartoon strip by Greg Evans in Monday's Free Press.

In that cartoon, Luann and her friends are making fun of Luann's brother, who has just gotten a job in Weenie World, a restaurant. What got Mell is that the brother is described as "physically disturbed."

Luann asks if her "physically disturbed" brother will spoil customers'.

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Using life's lessons Book helps author work through grief

She did not always feel at peace with herself. In a synopsis chapter of her book, she talked about the loss of her younger brother and closest sibling, Rick. "His death devastated me, for you see he was my very best friend. . . I could not endure this pain, stacked on top of the other pains. I could offer my

know your neighbor

Please turn to Page 2

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Karen Cox has made life's hardships her strength.

The 35-year-old Farmington Hills woman has taken what life has to dish out and is holding her own, despite the death of her young 39-year-old father in 1973, and the subsequent, unrelated deaths of her three siblings.

Oldest brother Mike, 29, died of cancer in 1984. Lary, 32, was lost in a fiery car accident in 1985 and one year later Rick, 29, died following a robbery and shooting in Detroit.

To save her wounds and help others through their grief, Cox is writing a book which details the trauma, pours forth her feelings, and offers others a sense of how to handle the overwhelming and unbearable feelings which grip a person following death.

In her case, she had barely gotten over one death when the others hit like dominoes.

"It was really hard to understand why God would do this to my family," she said. "The hardest rule I've learned to live by is 'life is not fair.' Once you learn that, you can live with it."

"THERE'S NO magic ways of getting through this," she added. "I think I just got through it."

After the deaths, she and her mother clung together and Cox said she could find nothing to help her in any bookstore — another reason for writing the book. Her husband Tom, a Farmington police commander, and her two daughters Tara and Brooke were a help, but much of it was being able to reach inside and find strength, she said.



Farmington Hills resident Karen Cox sits at home with many items from Christmas Around the World. She is a regional director for the home sale company.

Classes will begin on schedule at Gill

By Susan Buck
staff writer

The good news is that school will start on time for students at Gill Elementary in Farmington, which is undergoing a renovation project.

The bad news is that completion of the six-room addition, the gym and the media center will probably be delayed.

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Farmington school officials authorized in November 1989 design plans for building expansion and renovation at Gill Elementary. At that time, the Farmington school board approved only one phase of the project for \$1.42 million, but agreed with an administrative recommenda-

what's inside

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