

Area residents greet coup with concern, 7A



Basketball season, 1B

Seminar aims to raise ethnic awareness, 3A



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FARMINGTON



FOCUS

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for two Farmington-area 12-year-olds who have taken national titles for their know-how and skill in baton twirling. Lisa Gutman of Farmington Hills holds the Debutante Princess, while Stephanie Allen of Farmington is the new Pre-Teen Majorette Queen. The youngsters, who march with the Clarenceville band, study under Derek Skarvi and are members of Skarvi's Dynamos Baton Twirlers.

SOFTBALL anyone? The Farmington Hills Recreation Department is now accepting applications through Aug. 31 for the fall softball season. Cost per team is \$325 for food and \$375 for men. A 20-game season (two games a week for five weeks) is planned. Each league will have eight teams, and the top four teams in each league will compete in a single-elimination playoff. For more information, call the recreation department at 473-9570.

AREA ELECTED officials are expected to be on hand at a Farmington Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce "mixer" 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Radisson Suite Hotel, 37529 Grand River. Invited are: U.S. Rep. William Broomfield; State Sens. Jack Faxson, Michael Bouchard and David Hongman; State Rep. Jan Dolan; County Commissioners Donn Wolf, David Moffitt and Lillian Jaffe Oaka. Cost is \$15 per person. Call the chamber at 474-3440 for more information.

SPEAKING OF the local chamber of commerce, its annual golf tournament is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Glen Oaks Golf Course on 13 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. The golf package is \$85 per person. For additional information, call 474-3440.

ANOTHER benefit golf tournament — for the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills — will be held Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Bay Pointe Golf club in West Bloomfield. The fourth-annual event, sponsored by local business and civic leaders, supports the programs and services offered to abused children by the center. Tickets are \$200 each and the price includes 18 holes of golf and dinner as well as door prizes. Scholarships are also available. A women's tournament will be included for the first time this year. A morning round of golf or bridge will be followed by lunch and a fashion show. Tickets are \$125 for golf or \$50 for bridge. Information on both events may be obtained by calling Artist Wells at 626-7537, Ext. 280.

MEMORY LANE — From the Aug. 22, 1991, Farmington Enterprise: About 80 candidates for the Farmington High School football team learned out for the initial meeting, according to coach Bill Nuse.

Baby snatched from floodwaters



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Lexine Grant, a Muirwood resident for about a year, says she awoke about 4 a.m. Monday to see a chicken bone float by her bed. She said there was sewage everywhere.

Rainstorm slams Hills neighborhood

By Susan Buck
staff writer

If 15-month-old Antonella Carbonaro could talk, she'd probably tell of her terror as the floodwaters reached the bottom of her crib in her parents' lower level apartment at Muirwood. And for sure she'd have a big thank you for upstairs neighbor Steve Pobur. Pobur had alerted her parents, Mike and Angela Carbonaro, to the danger as the waters rose during a flash flood early Monday morning. He ran downstairs to the Carbonaro's apartment, snatched the baby from her crib, took her back to his couch. "If I hadn't gone in there to get her out, she would have drowned," Pobur said.

The rainstorm that slammed into Farmington Hills early Monday morning concentrated its wrath at the 10 Mile-Grand River area, while missing other parts of the community.

William Costick, Farmington Hills city manager, was on the flood scene throughout the early hours of the morning as 4 1/2 inches fell. The same area was hard-hit in October 1981, when a flash flood dumped eight inches of rain in five hours causing extensive damage in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

TIE CADELL, Drain project, designed to solve flooding caused by major storms, was completed at the end of 1986 at a cost of almost \$6 million, paid principally by Farmington Hills but also by Farmington, the county and state, according to Skip Otwell, city engineer. "You don't plan storm sewers for 4 1/2 inches of rain in three hours," Costick said. "All (drains) were functioning at capacity. The outlets were there, but the water came so fast. It was a very unusual rainfall, just by how quickly it went away."

Tuesday, Otwell was calling the storm a "40-year rain." The Caddell project was designed to handle a "10-year rain," he said. "Everything is in good condition."

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Wet awakening Hills motel guest finds her bed afloat at 3 a.m.

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Yvonne Webb, a guest at the Red Roof Inn in Farmington Hills, said that her bed was floating when her husband awakened her about 3 a.m. Monday.

Motel personnel either telephoned or knocked on doors early Monday, urging guests on the first floor to grab their belongings and move to second-floor rooms as floodwaters rose.

"There was so much commotion," said Webb, a Santa Ana, Calif., resident. "I was trying to get my clothes on, but I couldn't. My husband said, 'Get on the bed and get your clothes on.'"

Half of their Plymouth Voyager was under water, Yvonne Webb said. "At one point all the car horns start-

"There was so much commotion. I was trying to get my clothes on, but I couldn't. My husband said, 'Get on the bed and get your clothes on.'"

— Yvonne Webb

ed sounding," Webb said. "They sounded like an air raid siren. The tow-truck driver said that Farmington Hills grew too fast with no adequate drainage system."

The Webbs, who had the family dog with them, are no stranger to travel disasters. During a New York vacation, they had their car stolen.

MARK KARIS, a Maryland resi-

"It's OK now, but it's the last night I'll stay here," he said.

At the Muirwood apartments, where water reached three feet in two apartments, feeling was also running high. Some 200 apartments were affected by the flood.

"When I woke up, I saw a chicken bone floating along side of me from the kitchen trash," said Lexine Grant, who has lived at Muirwood for about a year.

"I found out when I stepped out to go to the bathroom. I waded to the front door and there was a fireman outside telling us not to touch anything." There was sewage everywhere — in the shower, in the refrigerator and on her clothes and belongings, she said.

She said that Muirwood management has agreed to replace the carpets and damaged appliances.

Pact OK'd; developer plans housing project

By Joanne Mellezewski
staff writer

Condominiums, townhouses, maybe even senior adult housing. Developer Melvin Kafkan isn't sure yet. But his 14.5 acres will be devoted to multiple-family housing of some sort.

"It would be a good settlement, especially for the neighbors," Kafkan told the Farmington Hills City Council Monday. "But I need a little latitude."

The city council agreed to accept a consent judgment that would allow Kafkan's 14.5 acres south of Hillside Estates Condominiums, north of

Grand River and east of Drake Road, to be used as multiple-family housing. The land on which Hillside condos sit also is zoned for similar structures.

Council members' decision to accept that zoning was made within the one-week deadline Kafkan set Monday, Aug. 12. If the council had not made a decision by Monday, Kafkan threatened to follow through with the lawsuit he began a year ago, when city officials denied Kafkan's request to rezone his acreage from small office to industrial/research/office or IRO.

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5 vie for 3 seats in race for Farmington council

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Three incumbents and two newcomers will vie for three seats this November on the Farmington City Council.

Incumbent candidates are Ralph Yoder, William Hartscock and JoAnne McShane. Challengers are Arnold Campbell and John Kenney. The election is Nov. 5. The top two vote-getters will earn four-year terms, and the person

earning the third highest number of votes will get a two-year term. After the election, council members will elect a mayor who will hold a two-year term.

Many of the candidates have already hit the campaign trail in a race that promises to be a lively one, as all look forward to door-to-door visits and lots of grass-roots campaigning.

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

A bird on the arm . . .

Skywalker the cockatoo struts his stuff for the audience while hanging onto his pal, Steve Yauch, who is a traveling biology teacher. Yauch's "Back to Bones" animal information and entertainment show is new this year at the Boblo Island amusement park. For a story and more photos, please see the Suburban Life section, Page 1C.

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