

He swaps rock'n'roll for dial-and-chat, 6A



Observer Relays, 1C

Kids help mom in the kitchen, 1B

# Farmington Observer

Volume 103 Number 62

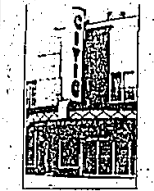
Monday, May 4, 1992

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Fifty Cents

## FARMINGTON



### FOCUS

**LOOKING FOR A JOB?** Looking for someone to fill a job? The first-annual Teen Job Fair, sponsored by the Farmington Area YMCA, might be helpful.

The event will be held noon to 6 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the Mercy Conference Center, 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads, Farmington Hills. For employers, the cost is \$15 per space, including a six-foot table and four chairs.

For more information, call the Farmington Area YMCA at 553-4020.

**LET THE MUSIC PLAY.** The Farmington Community Chorus' annual spring concert — entitled "Night and Day" — is at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 8-9, in the auditorium of Farmington Harrison High School, 29295 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

The program will feature many popular Broadway tunes. The Perfect Blend, formerly The Farmingtons, also will perform. The 20-voice Community Chorus is directed by Steve SeGraves, with accompaniment by Susan Garr.

Tickets at \$5 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens and students may be purchased at the door. Tickets are available in advance from any chorus member or at the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, 31555 W. 11 Mile.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Kathy Hall, chorus manager, at 471-4516.

**AND THEN THERE WERE TWO** candidate forums for the Farmington School Board election, that is.

The public is invited to attend a forum sponsored by Citizens For Quality Schools which will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 15, in the city council chamber of the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. The event will be cablecast live on MetroVision Channel 12.

The other forum, co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, at the Southwest Oakland Cable Television Studios, 24021 Research Drive, Farmington Hills. Live cablecasting is also planned.

District residents are also invited to attend, although seating is limited at the TV studio. Questions may be submitted in advance to: Candidates: Night, 22782 Hayden, Farmington 48336.

Two seats are open for the June 8 Farmington School Board. Candidates are incumbent Helen Prutow and challenger Joe Svoke and Richard DeVries.

**MEMORY LANE** — From the May 8, 1952 edition of the Farmington Observer:

John Panick, a Farmington resident and a private first class in the U.S. Army, participated in the atom bomb tests at Camp Desert, Nev.

The Farmington Board of Education approved the purchase of 41 acres of land on Shilwassee near Orchard Lake Road as the site for a new Farmington High School. E. Viola Kelly was listed as the seller. Earlier, plans had been approved for the 22-classroom high school.

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



## Academic All Stars

The 1992 all-star team will be profiled in a special section in Thursday's Observer. These students — 10 of 16 — named to the team — are some of the brightest young men and women graduating from high school this year. Read about their plans, hopes, dreams and who influenced their high school academic careers. Pictured are:

(back from left) Matthew Morrison and Jonathan Zanca of Catholic Central, Sachin Kherterpal of Stevenson, Karin Zitzewitz of Franklin, Ben Pinsky of Harrison, Marc Scario of Farmington, (front from left) Ben Spector and Tara Schubert of North Farmington, Pamela Smith of John Glenn and Karuna Mantena of Mercy.

## Jesus Center gets 10 days to meet code

By Joanne Maliszowski  
staff writer

Jesus Center officials have 10 days in which to resolve building and fire code violations in the Farmington Hills church.

"I'm not going to have it on my conscience if anything happens over there," said Oakland County Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert.

She refused Wednesday to allow 45 days to address the violations, as requested by attorney Margaret Costello, who represents the center, 26911 Inkster Road.

The center and the city met again in circuit court Wednesday on two unsuccessful motions — one from each side — in a continuing conflict over violations at the church.

City attorney Derk Beckerleg was denied his motion to close down the church, because church officials failed to meet an April 1 deadline — established in a March 12 court order — to comply with city requirements on 27 violations. Center officials have resolved approximately seven violations, Beckerleg said in

*"The Jesus Center, for whatever reason, has been unwilling to hire competent people to get what it needs done."*

— Derk Beckerleg, city attorney

her motion. Costello said more than half the violations have been corrected.

"The Jesus Center, for whatever reason, has been unwilling to hire competent people to get what it needs done," Beckerleg told Gilbert. "This building is a fire hazard."

On the other hand, Costello asked Gilbert to set aside the March 12 order, including the April 1 deadline to close the center.

**COSTELLO ARGUED** that the March 12 order was misrepresented.

Please turn to Page 4

## Reactions vary on Rodney King case

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Farmington-area residents had varied reactions to the jury acquittal last week of four Los Angeles police officers who were charged with assaulting a black motorist.

Whatever the opinion, most everyone said they were sickened by the situation and felt affected by it.

Farmington Hills resident Eleanor Bulloch lived in California when the Rodney King case occurred on March 3 of last year. She said she was "very surprised, shocked in fact," by the verdict. "It's purely race discrimination," she said.

The officers, who were white, were acquitted last Wednesday despite videotaped evidence which showed King being kicked and beat-

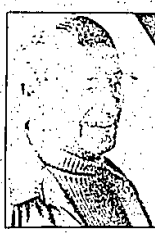
en 56 times as he lay on the ground, then shocked with a stun gun. The acquittal appalled many people across the country and caused mayhem in the streets of the west coast city and violence in some other urban areas.

Officers, who had just followed King on a high-speed chase, said he was unruly and that they were trying to subdue him. Still pending is civil litigation by King, possible federal civil rights charges and an internal police investigation of the matter.

**LONGTIME FARMINGTON** resident Charles Birschele said he was sickened by the post-verdict violence, in which stores and cars in Los Angeles were set on fire and people shot and hurt.



Charles Birschele



Stanley Hajduk



Eleanor Bulloch



Dorothy Quaine

Please turn to Page 4

## Farmington starts 125th festivities

Farmington-area residents are invited to step-back in time this week, as the community celebrates the 125th anniversary of Farmington's incorporation as a village.

The kick-off is this week, and events will run throughout the year and involve dozens of volunteers and civic groups. The incorporation occurred on May 6, 1867.

Some of this week's highlights include:

- Tonight, the Farmington City Council and other city officials don historical attire and craftswomen from the area will present a Heritage Quilt which details important aspects of the community which have been constants over the years. A reception to meet the quilters will begin at 7:15 p.m. and the city council meeting convenes at 8 p.m. at city hall.
- Open houses will be held Wednesday at Farmington City Hall and the downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library from 1-5 p.m. Refreshments will be served in both locations and tours offered for those interested. The Farmington Historical Society is sponsoring a library display of memorabilia from the Arthur Power family, including a \$5 note signed by former Farmington school board president John W. Power, a 19th century doll buggy and an 1846 map showing Farmington as "Powerville."
- At city hall on Wednesday will be an art display done by students from Hillside Elementary School in Farmington Hills. After studying a unit on local history, third graders drew pictures of buildings they had studied. Also Wednesday, Hillside students will hold an "1867" day where they will experience crafts, hobbies and cooking of 125 years ago.
- A two-hour invitational reception will be held Wednesday evening at the Farmington Historical Museum — which is also 125 years old this year — for descendants of Farmington's founding families. Seventy descendants were invited, as were local and state officials. Farm-

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### what's inside

Classifieds	Secs. B-D
Index	6B
Auto	Sec. C-D
Real estate	Sec. B-D
Employment	Secs. C-D
Crossword	7B
Entertainment	7-8A
Obituaries	10A
On the agenda	11A
Sports	Sec. C
Street Scene	6A
Travel	9A
CLASSIFIEDS	591-0900
CIRCULATION	597-0500
NEWS LINE	477-5450
SPORTS LINE	953-2139

Please turn to Page 10

## New Observer look launches new era

Your Farmington Observer is about to launch a new era.

Thursday, you will see a redesigned newspaper, full of your familiar hometown news, but with a contemporary look and fresh features, which make us more useful and enjoyable for you.

Two years ago, we hired the country's foremost newspaper designer, Mario Garcia, of the Fogarty Institute, in St. Petersburg, Fla., to give us the broad outline. Then we put the expertise of our entire staff from throughout the newspaper to work, designing a product we know you will find beneficial whether you be a reader or advertiser.

A key part of the redesign process was consulting with a cross-section of readers and advertisers through professionally monitored focus groups. We listened closely and incorporated key suggestions into what you will see this Thursday.

Your newspaper will look better and be easier to read and more useful.

It will reflect a more accurate view of your community, one of which you can be proud.

- HIGHLIGHTS ARE:**
- A scanner Index running the length of the left-hand column. It's a "roadmap" that will guide you inside to the major local stories in each section.
  - Farmington Focus in a new place — running across the bottom of Page 1.
  - Story summaries to give you a synopsis of what the story is about and story graphics to signal the content of a story.
  - A new expanded calendar of events which is easy to find and easy to read.
  - A whole new typeface and headline style.

• Bigger photographs.

• An opinion page which now includes more of your views because Community Voice — in which we ask you and your neighbors views on a particular topic — now will appear in addition to letters to the editor.

This is just a glimpse of the changes you will see in your Observer starting Thursday.

And just so you don't miss any of our changes, a users' guide will accompany the first issue to help explain all the changes.

Your Observer will have a whole new look. As always, we welcome your opinions. Please call our Reader Response Line (313) 953-2042 and let us know what you think.

Some things do change for the better. Take a look Thursday and see for yourself.

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Special Section  
In Today's Issue