

Farmington Observer

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Fifty Cents

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Taking control: ADC mother turned college prof, she blasts lack of government support for others./5A

Battle royal: An analysis of battle between Ronna Romney, Andrea Fischer for GOP committeewoman./16A

TASTE

Barbecue: Pork is one of America's favorite grilling meats. Learn new ways to barbecue old favorites like ribs, and lean cuts like pork tenderloin./1B

Convention: Chef Larry soaks up sun and culinary trends at the International Association of Culinary Professional's annual convention in Miami./1B

STREET SCENE



Music makers: From the debut album of the Ann Arbor-based Big Chief to the latest from the Pale Saints, the record industry has a plethora of new sounds on the market these days. And some are well worth a listen./6B

SPORTS

Soccer tourney: Farmington Hills Mercy was in the running for a Class A district championship in girls soccer Friday when it played host Birmingham Seaholm./1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Keeping informed: The Tri-City Update is on your local access Channel 12. Check your guide for times./

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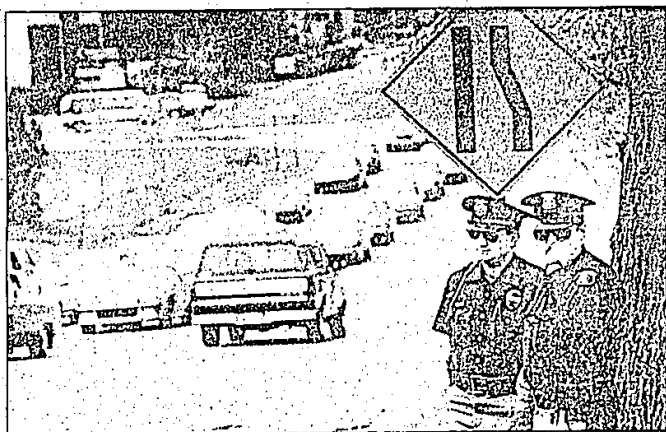
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Reminder...

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Foot patrol: Farmington Hills police officers Richard Hennessy (left) and Craig Hurt monitor traffic at Grand River and Halsted Roads. The officers say the intersection is so congested that it's more effective to be out of the patrol car.

Border cops team up



BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Put yourself in the police officer's driver's seat. You see a motorist in the middle of a traffic violation. But with all the congestion at certain Farmington and Farmington Hills intersections, it's not easy to go after him.

"It doesn't matter whose road it is. As we get more traffic, it's more difficult for a single officer to observe a violation and react and make a stop," said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department's traffic section.

Imagine trying to do just that at an intersection like Halsted and Grand River. Frustration for your average motorist looms at a high-congestion site — and often results in traffic violations.

But a cooperative traffic enforcement effort by Farmington and Farm-

ington Hills police at intersections that are common borders for the cities is expected to take care of that problem — officers' problems as well as motorists who are committing violations.

A couple of weeks ago, two Hills officers and one Farmington Public Safety officer were assigned to jointly enforce the first common border intersection — Halsted and Grand River — for about five days. Tickets were written. Though statistics aren't in yet, it looks like the joint program just might work.

For example, a Farmington officer will observe the violation, perhaps someone running a red light on a turn, or cutting through a parking lot to avoid the intersection. That officer will inform the Hills officer who will stop the motorist.

"It's easier, it's safer," said Gary Goss, Farmington Public Safety dep-

uty director. "They (officers) report enforcement problems because of safety problems getting to the drivers. But collectively, we can do a much more effective job."

The whole idea of the program is to reduce the number of accidents at some of these common border intersections. Goss said.

"If we looked at the reports, you wouldn't think these intersections ranked the highest accident-wise," Cranston said. "If you keep the numbers separate (between cities), the intersections wouldn't rank high. So, we said, 'Look, we ought to add up all the cars that go through these intersections.'"

In 1990, for example, at Grand River-Halsted intersection, 12 accidents were reported on the Farmington side and 48 on the Hills side. Farmington has jurisdiction over one-quarter of the intersection, while the Hills has three-quarters.

By themselves the numbers for each city of a specific intersection may not be as high. Together, however, the numbers — 60 accidents at

See BORDER, 4A

Incumbent: experience counts

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Helen Prutow has made a career of volunteer service to school boards and organizations locally and throughout the state.

"Our children — ours, mine and everyone's — are our future," she said. "They deserve the best we can provide."

The 51-year-old Farmington Hills resident believes her 16 years on the Farmington Board of Education gives her the experience to carry the district through some tough financial times ahead. She wants to be part of the process.

"It's hard to be upbeat, but we've got to for the children's sake," she said, of the current financial crisis facing education. "They say we 'throw money' at education and 'fund' defense. Well, why can't we just 'fund' education?"

CANDIDATES

Prutow is vying for her fifth term on the Farmington school board, facing challengers Joseph Saker and Richard DeVries.

Two four-year terms are open on the non-partisan board. She is also president of the Oakland Intermediate Schools board and president-elect to the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Teamwork is Prutow's campaign theme this year, something which has carried her through four other elections. She believes not only the board, but the community, needs to work together in a positive manner, especially in light of the problems faced by educators today.

"We need that if we're going to keep

providing a good education," she said. "All employees, parents, non-parents, business people and students all have to work together."

The mother of two grown sons who are graduates of North Farmington High School, she became interested in the school board because of special education issues and her involvement with the Parent-Teacher Association. She was first elected in 1976 by defeating a school board incumbent using a grass roots campaign approach.

Although she said this will be a tough campaign, she believes she has the support in the community to win again. She said she will make her appeal this year to non-school groups and businesses for support.

See INCUMBENT, 2A

River savers needed

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The Rouge River still needs your help.

And once again your help will come in the form of a little sweat and elbow grease when you remove some log jams

ROUGE

and debris from the river flowing through Farmington Hills.

This year's Rouge Rescue will be 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 6, at the Farmington Nursing Home, 39405 Folsom Road, on the southwest corner of Tuck and Folsom, north of Eight Mile, east of Orchard Lake Road.

You don't have to bring anything for the cleanup except yourself, dressed in old clothes, boots and gloves.

As in past years, volunteers will help with smaller jams and debris, while city crews, equipment and trucks will do the heavier lifting and hauling.

Joan Barrett, Farmington Hills assistant to the public services director, expects about 250 to 300 volunteers at the cleanup — if past years are any indication.

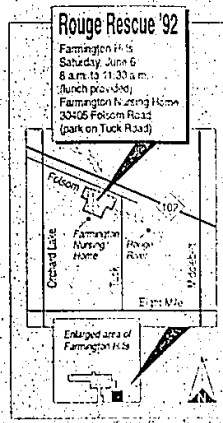
Registration for volunteers will begin at 8 a.m. at the site. It may sound like a lot of hard work, but there's plenty of fun and camaraderie in store — not to mention a chance to get good and dirty.

When the morning's work is done, lunch will be served about noon. Volunteers also will receive the now famous Rouge Rescue t-shirts.

The annual cleanup day is specifically designed to remove debris, log jams and other objects that pile up in the river and block it or aid in changing its course. In past years, volunteers have found tires, sleds and even office chairs clogging up the river.

When the river "changes its course because of blockage, it erodes the river banks and prevents the river's natural abilities to cleanse itself of contaminants," Barrett said.

See RIVER, 2A



Summer fun coming up

Farmington Youth Assistance will sponsor a summer activities center for area teenagers that will operate from June 16 to Aug. 7 at the William Grace Elementary School, 29010 Shawansee, Farmington Hills.

Hours will be 2-8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, the center will feature field trips and the times will vary.

Students ages 11-15 who live in or are students in Farmington and Farmington Hills are welcome to participate in the activities like basketball, air hockey, crafts, theme nights, dances barbecues and movies.

There will be a \$2 membership fee. Each field trip — including the Red Oaks wave pool, a Tiger game, Cranbrook and Bob-In — will cost \$3. For more information, call Farmington Youth Assistance at 489-3434.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Nice going, Leonard

The Salvation Army honored Farmington Hills Leonard Krugel at the annual "Army of Stars Civic Dinner" May 11 at the Fairlane Manor in Dearborn.

Krugel, a Salvation Army employee for about eight years, was honored for his "dedication and the excellent financial guidance he has provided to the Eastern Michigan of the Salvation Army and the Detroit Harbor Light System," according to a Salvation Army official.

Krugel was one of 14 people to receive the Army of Stars medalion for his contributions.

Roger McCoy, of Channel 50, and WKQI-FM's Gene Taylor were masters of ceremony at the dinner,

which featured an authentic Salvation Army meal dished out of kettles in a soup kitchen atmosphere.

Memory Lane

From the May 22, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

In honor of Farmington's war dead, the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion arranged a patriotic window at Hinton's Hardware in downtown Farmington. The display included a raised grave, white cross, miniature church, white helmet and fallen rifle. Memorial Day parades were planned in Farmington and Clarenceville. Gov. G. Mennen Williams dedicated a war memorial in Nov.

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