



# Farmington Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Congressional race:** Joseph Knollenberg's campaign involves a lot of walking and skating in a quest for votes./6A

## SPORTS

**Tourney champ:** The North Farmington-West Bloomfield I Reliable baseball team won a Connie Mack tournament in Kenosha, Wis., Sunday./1B

**Soccer tourney:** Area youth teams will be among the many competing this weekend in the annual Wolverine Soccer Tournament at Schoolcraft College./1B

## ENTERTAINMENT



**Eating out:** Metropolitan Musicafe in Farmington isn't just a place to hear music and dance. They serve good food too. Find out more about the menu, and a summer pasta special./5B

## BUSINESS

**On the move:** A Rochester Hills man making his mark in the automotive supply business was recognized as the Master Entrepreneur of the Year./8B

**Hanging it up:** After 51 years of helping folks pick out paint and wallpaper, Leo Roddy has said goodbye to his customers at a Livonia store./8B

## SUBURBAN LIFE

**Keeping class smel:** Deborah Knapp is founder of Glastonbury School, an alternative learning center in Farmington Hills, where an 8-1 student-to-teacher ratio allows for more individualized attention./1C

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# Schools lose more in cutbacks



State legislators took another bite out of Farmington's school budget this week, recapturing millions of dollars to help balance the state budget. Educators here are concerned about the future.

BY CAREY HANS STAFF WRITER

Once again, Farmington will be the school district with the most to lose under a State School Aid Act passed this week.

Fortunately, school officials anticipated and budgeted for the cuts which

total about \$7 million for the district. About \$1.5 million of that includes new cuts.

"It's bad news. It isn't catastrophic, just more of the same," said Bruce Barrett, Farmington assistant superintendent for finance. "Certainly, this is another in a long line of 'take aways.'"

The legislation tacked by the state House late Tuesday by seven votes, after the state Senate narrowly passed the measure last week. Those representing the Farmington area, Democratic state Sen. Jack Faxon and Republican state Rep. Jan Dolan both opposed the legislation.

Cuts to Farmington include an increase in categorical aid recapture and a reduction in the amount the state pays for the employer's share of Social Security taxes. Previously, the state had paid the entire employer's share of the Social Security tab.

Related story, 14A

Editorial comment, 12A

Joining several of her colleagues, Dolan donned a black veil during Tuesday's deliberations in protest of the cuts. "We're in mourning for our schools," she said. "It's total frustration up here when it comes to the schools. They're having such an impact on quality schools like Farmington."

See CUTBACKS, 2A



SILVIAN LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Going, going gone: Ed Keywell holds his bidding number high as his son, Matt, watches to be sure they get the Pentax 35 mm camera they want. The father and son waited to bid on some speakers at Friday's city auction.

## Auction: Let's make a deal

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI STAFF WRITER

Everybody loves a bargain. And that includes people who want chairs and computers that don't necessarily work, film that's sort of old, bicycles galore and even car hood ornaments.

"Five dollars on a telephone. Five dollars on a portable telephone. Six dollars. Six dollars, seven," said Sgt. John Kohls of the Farmington Hills Police Department as he auctioned one of almost 300 items at the first city-police auction in two years Friday.

The successful auction proved one thing, according to onlookers: people love a deal even when it's for less-than-perfect stuff. In the competitive air Friday morning, buyers stood

close to Kohls and his microphone as other city and police staffers held the items up for show.

Bidders kept their eyes on the items. Quick response was a prerequisite as bidders used a flick of the wrist to make their bidding number visible to Kohls as he rattled off incoming bids.

Matt Keywell and his father, Ed of Farmington Hills, bought a camera. "The lens works and it's worth some money," Matt said.

The bicycle they bought was for Matt's sister at Michigan State University. But the Keywells were not about to leave. "We're waiting for speakers," Matt said.

In just a few minutes, Kohls auctioned a mini tape recorder for \$11, a pool cue stick for \$15 and a Pentax

35mm camera for \$40 — bidding on the camera started at \$5.

"I need somebody on my left doing some bidding," Kohls said, as buyers to his right were the only ones holding up their numbers. Competition was keen. A few seconds later, bidding numbers were raised above heads on the left side.

"Boy, it's pretty intense," said one police department employee who stopped by to check on the auction.

Some visitors stood back waiting to make up their minds on what they wanted to buy from items either owned by the city but now of no use, or items that were stolen, recovered by police and no rightful owner found.

See AUCTION, 2A

# Ruling pleases few

BY WAYNE PEAL STAFF WRITER

For Renee Chelian of Northland Family Planning Clinics, Monday's U.S. Supreme Court abortion ruling boils down to a single issue.

"We're concerned about the ruling, but we want to get the word out that

## ABORTION

abortion is still legal," said Chelian of the Southfield-based clinics.

The 5-4 ruling generally upheld abortion restrictions currently in effect in Pennsylvania — keeping abortion legal but paving the way for similar restrictions here.

"It's confusing, probably more confusing than if they'd overturned abortion altogether," said longtime pro-choice advocate Susan Rogin of Southfield. "If anything, I'm fearful for my daughters."

"The ruling didn't surprise activists on either side, but local reaction was strong with neither side overly pleased.

"Distressed is a mild word for the way we feel," said Barbara Fanger, a founder of Republicans for Choice, a Birmingham-based coalition that formed in anticipation of new abortion restrictions.

"I'm very disappointed they left Roe v. Wade stand," said pro-life activist Lynn Mills of Livonia, referring to the court's 1973 decision legalizing abortion nationwide.

Other pro-life advocates praised the ruling, but stopped short of claiming victory.

See RULING, 2A

# Candidate ready to answer age-old question



Steven Gabel

Editor's note: Seven attorneys have thrown their hats in the Aug. 4 primary race for one seat in the two-judge 47th District Court. The seat will be vacant when longtime Judge Margaret Schaeffer retires this year. The two top primary vote getters will square-off in the Nov. 3 general election.

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI STAFF WRITER

Steven Gabel expects voters to ask about his age.

To be specific, Gabel of Farmington Hills is 29 1/4 years old — 30 in October. He is the youngest of seven attorneys in the race for the open seat in the 47th District Court.

"Age is not necessarily a factor in deciding if you're a good judge," said Gabel, an attorney with the Southfield firm of Thurswell, Chayet & Weiner.

The talkative Gabel is willing to break the image that a judge must attain a certain number of years of life and legal practice before stepping up to the bench.

"It's not your age, it's your desire to make good decisions," said Gabel, who has practiced law for 4 1/2 years and now primarily handles medical and dental malpractice.

Experience, background and success in life should be considered in choosing a new judge, Gabel said. "I was able to buy a house in my 20s. I work for a good

firm. Voters may be missing out on a perfect opportunity."

Gabel, who moved to Farmington Hills in 1990, decided now was a good time to seek election. "I'd like to be able to practice another aspect of law."

Working for two good-sized firms has given him a chance to practice law on different levels, including district, circuit, federal and appellate courts. Following law school graduation in 1987 from the University of Detroit, Gabel worked for the firm of Sullivan, Ward, Bone, Tyler, Fioit & Asher, Southfield.

If elected, Gabel said he wouldn't recommend a major overhaul of the Farmington court — except perhaps timely-

See CANDIDATE, 4A

## Handicapped parking

The Farmington Founders Festival is coming up. July 7-11 are the dates. Again this year, handicapped people are invited to park free in the parking lot of the Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland near Grand River.

The entire 40-space lot will be reserved for the handicapped. To qualify, a vehicle must display an official identification card from the Secretary of State's Office.

## More Festival news

The Farmington Founders Festival is coming up and the Bingo games have long been part of the fun. The Bingo tent, sponsored by the Farmington High School Music Patrons, will be on Grand River just

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

east of Farmington Road July 9-11. Hours will be 4-10 p.m. Thursday, 4-11 p.m. Friday and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday. The final game every evening will be a "Winner Take All."

## It's in fashion

If you're planning a fall fashion show, the newspaper would like to hear from you.

A calendar listing of shows will appear in the Observer's annual fashion section in late August. The section will highlight the latest in fashion wear within the metro area.

Send calendar listings to: Fall Fashion Calendar, Special Sections Editor, Observer & Eccentric News papers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Include the name, sponsor, theme, date, time and location of the event as well as cost and reservation information. Also include a contact name and daytime telephone number.

More information may be obtained by calling Bob Sklar, section editor, at 853-2113.

## Memory Lane

From the July 3, 1952, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

● Attraction at the Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington was "Rancho Notorious" starring Marlene Dietrich.