



IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Drumroll please: A Farmington Hills police detective used his musical talent to help open the new George Burns Theatre in Livonia./13A

Hooked up: Farmington Hills City Council approved a water connections for some residents./6C

COUNTY NEWS

Studs stuns: Pulitzer prize winning author Studs Terkel wows an Oakland University audience with his humor and humanity./11A

OPINION

Endorsements: Who does the Farmington Observer support in the local judicial race? It's on the editorial page. There are also judgments in the county executive race and on Proposals A and C./18A

SPORTS

State champion: Farmington High senior Jason Buha is the Class A champion in boys golf after winning the two-day finals in East Lansing./1B

Tennis tourney: League champions Mercy and North Farmington qualified for the state finals in girls tennis during regional play last weekend./1B

SPECIAL SECTIONS

Voter guide: The League of Women Voters' guide to the general election appears inside today's paper. The cover incorrectly states it is a guide to the primary, but it covers ballot issues and candidates for the Nov. 3 election.

Dial for election news

Find out the latest information on this year's election by dialing Election Line beginning on Monday, Oct. 26.

By dialing 933-2024 you will hear a recap on who is running for what offices and the endorsements made by our staff of editors at the Observer & Eccentric. This information will be available through election day.

Beginning on Nov. 4, by dialing that same phone number, you will find out the latest in election returns. You will receive complete returns in local elections and state ballot issues. The Observer & Eccentric also will provide you with information on how your hometown voted in the national sweepstakes for president.

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Bench foes have their day on TV



Jack McDonald and Maria Parker, the candidates for the judgeship on the 47th District Court in Farmington, were quizzed in a cable TV forum Monday. The show will be shown twice before election day.

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Maria Parker touted her experience as court magistrate, and John "Jack" McDonald told viewers about his longevity in the district, his community involvement and the top rating received from the Oakland County bar.

The show was "Your Next Judge" a forum sponsored by the Farmington Observer and moderated by editor Tom Baer to introduce the two candidates for an open seat on the 47th District Court bench.

The forum will be shown twice on cable access Channel 12 prior to the election: at 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct.

22, and at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28. Parker, 37, and McDonald, 53, both attorneys with private practices in Farmington Hills, will square off in the Nov. 3 general election. The top vote-getter will earn a six-year, non-partisan term on the court, which serves Farmington and Farmington Hills. That person will replace retiring District Judge Margaret Schaeffer who leaves the bench in December.

Both candidates said they would get more involved in the community if elected.

Parker vowed to "walk the entire

district every summer" to talk to people about the issues and suggested regular court "open houses," and McDonald said he wanted to visit more local classrooms to talk to students about the judicial system.

Although Parker called for occasionally taking the courtroom to the high schools to give students a first-hand account of how it operates, McDonald said he believed that move would be far too costly for the court.

See CABLE, 4A

Alternative approach leads her to excel



BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Heather Samson was always a loner — and an unhappy one at that.

A small classroom setting of between 12 and 15 students and a different approach at the Farmington Alternative Academy has allowed the 17-year-old to thrive on her special form of independence.

Samson is in her second year at the high school, designed to give special attention to students who have problems learning in a traditional school environment. The program is housed at the former Farmington Training Center in downtown Farmington.

For Samson, coming to the academy meant leaving North Farmington High School behind. It also meant better grades, expanded interests in subjects like journalism and, overall, a happier young woman.

"Socially, I just didn't get along at North, and my grades weren't good," Samson said. "Now I get high B's and A's. I would never be able to pull that off at North. — they expected too much of me."

She said each school day at the academy is fresh: "Every day, it seems you turn over a new leaf," she added.

Funded by state

The Alternative Academy — named by students shortly after it opened last year — is part of the Farmington Public School District's adult education program. The academy is funded totally by the state and serves students age 16-19 and

students of varying ages attend classes together. The program is the first attempt by the district to deal with an alternative program for students under 18; those over 18 previously attended traditional adult education programs.

There is no "typical student" who attends the academy. Their stories are as varied as their lives but most have trouble adapting to traditional high schools for any number of reasons. Many are intellectually bright and score well on standardized tests.

The curriculum for the academy program offers one similar to traditional high schools, but with a specialized focus. Samson said there is a one-on-one approach between teachers and students, and many classes allow in-class time for study.

'More positive'

Samson first heard about the program from a friend. She was so unhappy, she was considering not returning to school.

"I told my friends if I didn't get accepted here, I just didn't want to go back," she said. "Before, I had a really bad attitude. Now, they say I'm a lot more positive."

Adult education director Terry Klenczar said she is pleased with the two-year-old program, saying it has exceeded her expectations. "I think they've developed a love of learning and a positive attitude towards education," she said. The program is run by Dianne Duthie, who has worked in other alternative education programs for the district.

One of the most positive things about the academy is its size.

Thirty nine students currently attend school there and Samson said

See ACADEMY, 3A

Jurczyk follows his political yearnings



Robert Jurczyk

BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Attorney Robert Jurczyk, a confessed political and current events devotee, is taking the next logical step: He's running for elective office.

Jurczyk is the Democratic challenger on the ballot in the race for a seat in the 37th State House District, which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills.

His opponent in the Nov. 3 general election is Republican incumbent Jan Dolan, who is seeking a third term.

"I've always been interested in politics and following current events," said Jurczyk, 39, who added that he was encouraged to run by the Oakland County Democrats.



Election '92

The one-year resident of Farmington Hills has been an attorney for 11 years. As a lawyer, he handles probate, real estate, bankruptcy and consumer cases. He has worked at United Auto Workers Legal Services.

Asked his strength as a politician: "I have the ability to listen to both sides and work out a compromise."

He acknowledges that Dolan has done a good job and will be difficult to unseat.

"It's going to be difficult," he said.

But he said he plans to align himself with the Democrats and the Clinton-Gore platform.

When he talks with people in the district, he said he stresses what can be done at the state level to match the Clinton-Gore platform on the national level.

He said he considers Lansing a "mini-ature of what's going on in Washington" and called Gov. John

Engler's administration an "obstructionist government."

Some of Jurczyk's issues:

■ Education — He's opposed to Proposal C (known as Cut and Cap and opposed by school people).

"We're going to see defeated millages again," he said. With Proposal C, he added, "we've ensured mediocre education for everyone." He believes in more money — perhaps from an increased sales tax — for education. He believes the state should increase sales tax for education.

■ Abortion — Jurczyk, who is pro-life, said abortion should be illegal except when necessary to save the mother's life. "That might be confusing. It's a flip-flop of the roles," he said about Dolan's strong pro-choice stand. "If someone asked, 'What's different between me and Jan Dolan?', it's the first thing I come up with."

See CANDIDATE, 4A

County commission race becomes a 2 man show

BY MARY LOU SONG
STAFF WRITER

They're at it again. A Farmington-area county commission race has become the David and Al Show.

In District 18, which includes the northern half of Farmington Hills, the Nov. 3 election will mark the fourth-straight time that Democrat Albert Zolton has challenged incumbent Republican David Moffitt.

Both candidates say they are campaigning vigorously. Both agree that solid waste, roads and crime are important election issues. But similarities — and most agreement — end there.

One point of debate is the solid waste issue. The controversial incinerator was "a bad idea

DISTRICT 18

from the beginning," Zolton said. "We have to start thinking in terms of the future, not just the status quo and the present time."

While the candidate supports recycling, Zolton also suggests that Oakland County consider yet another alternative to the solid waste problem: Bioremediation.

Moffitt says he also does not favor the incinerator. But he stresses his support of recycling, reusing and limited landfilling — components of the original solid waste plan.

Instead, Moffitt says he would support whatever

plan residents of District 18 favored.

"Local support of the incinerator from the people I represent dissipated," Moffitt said. "The county is not imposing a plan and Farmington Hills is free to seek their own solution. I would endorse that solution."

Another point of contention in the race is roads and development.

Farmington Hills should not become a sea of asphalt, Zolton says. "I would hate to see the day when Oakland County became a sea of office complexes and shopping centers."

See RACE, 4A