



IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Down the drain: The challenger for Oakland County drain commissioner would do away with the office if she's elected./11A

OPINION

More endorsements: Who does the Farmington Observer support in state House and county commission races? The answer can be found on the editorial page. There are also endorsements for the state Court of Appeals./10A

TRAVEL

Scenic Cincinnati: Seven hills make up the area, and there are some remarkable views of the gentle, winding Ohio River./5B

STREET SCENE

Oh so campy: They were campy, vampy, even a bit trampy, but the one thing Erasure wasn't was a disappointment. The British pop duo was literally the "belles of the ball" when they performed at Detroit's Music Hall earlier this month./7A

SPORTS

Gridiron games: Farmington hoped to gain its first football victory Friday, and North Farmington tried to keep its playoff hopes alive./1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Real People, Real Solutions" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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Observer & Eccentric
ELECTION LINE
(313) 953-2024

From now through election day you will be able to hear who is running for office and a recap of the endorsements made by our staff of editors by calling the Observer & Eccentric Election Line.
On Nov. 4, our Election Line will bring you the complete returns of local elections and state ballot issues. You'll also be able to find out how your hometown voted in the national sweepstakes for president.

Sled hill safety rules tightened



Farmington's sled hill near the school district central office — an "attractive nuisance" in the words of one school board member — will remain open with new rules.

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

A community sledding hill in Farmington, the subject of liability and safety concerns in recent years, will remain open this season — but will be given additional attention.

"We have an attractive nuisance,

no matter how you look at it," said Farmington Board of Education trustee Jack Cotton at a recent meeting where the hill was discussed. "I don't know how you can shut it down."
The Farmington School Board agreed to implement a set of recommendations made by a community

safety committee last week, which include: posting the hill as "unsafe" when conditions warrant it, improving drainage at the bottom of the hill to avoid dangerous ice formation, covering manhole covers on the hill and increasing the berm height at the bottom of the hill to improve safety.

Safety measures

Hay bales and safety fencing will continue to be used on the hill as they have in past years for safety.
The Farmington school district

owns the hill, which is next to the district central office at Shiawassee and Farmington roads. Discussion about the fate of the hill came last week just as the first snow of the year was falling.

The board considered closing the hill earlier this year after an injury lawsuit was filed, but that suit was dismissed this fall, citing governmental immunity. Three injury accidents reportedly occurred on the hill during the past sledding season, as

See SLED HILL, 2A

'Rest in yeast'



JOHN STORMZAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Frankenstein's monster is mixing dough and Dracula is hanging from the ceiling. The Poltyn Bakery, owned by Rose Poltyn (above), is so adorned thanks to Tawneya and Jeremiah Teeplees.

Schools oppose 2 plans

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Farmington school trustees cast their collective vote recently against two November ballot proposals which officials said will cripple education.

The board passed a resolution against Proposal A, known as House Joint Resolution H, and Proposal C,

PROPOSALS

otherwise known as the "Cut and Cap" proposal which is supported heavily by Gov. John Engler and state business groups.

If passed, both proposals would cap property tax assessment increases and Proposal C also would cut school property taxes by 30 percent.

A \$30-million loss

That means a \$30 million loss for the Farmington district in five years when the plan would be fully implemented, said assistant superintendent for finance Bruce Barrett.

The first year, the district would experience a 10 percent cut, with a phase-in of 5 percent in each of the second through fifth years. Cuts for Farmington would begin at about \$10 million the first year and work up to \$30 million.

Among other things, the board resolution states that the proposals "do not address the inadequate and inequitable funding of schools across Michigan" and that the district has "a vital interest in maintaining respect for and confidence in our property tax system."

Most income local

The Farmington district gets 93 percent of its income from local property taxes.

Proposal A calls for a 5 percent assessment cap and Proposal C calls for a 3 percent cap for current property owners. Critics of both proposals say that passage would make taxes on neighboring properties disproportionate and would penalize new home buyers.

School officials say the caps would cut away at local school budgets, since inflation is currently at a higher "rate."

Proposal C also calls for the state to reimburse the tax loss to local districts. But Farmington officials say they have little faith in that. And they fear the state will not reimburse districts, but continue to cut funds as well.

"It appears to be a complete tax shift," Barrett said. "But we cannot

See SCHOOLS, 4A

2 county board contestants see same issues, different solutions

By MARY LOU SONG
STAFF WRITER

Third time's a charm. For Republican Donn Wolf, who seeks re-election to a third term as county commissioner, that might be good news.

But the battle for 19th District county commissioner may take more than charm to win. District 19 includes the southern half of Farming-

ton Hills, all of Farmington and a lone Southfield precinct.

Wolf, a former Farmington Hills councilman, faces Democrat Ken Murray, a construction electrician and safety consultant, in the Nov. 3 general election.

Wolf, a consumer affairs specialist for Detroit Edison, is keeping busy these days with his own campaign, while managing the race of Republi-

19TH DISTRICT

can Joe Knollenberg, who's running for Congress in the 11th District.

Both Wolf and Murray list the usual issues — solid waste, roads and crime — as central to their campaigns. But each is taking a different

See 2 HOPEFULS, 2A

On the plaque

There's a plaque in the Farmington City Council Chambers listing the city's top city leaders. The late John Allen's name was added to the list recently.

Allen, a three-term Farmington councilman from 1966-76, was an architect who designed some notable structures in the Farmington area including City Hall, the Elks Club, the Huron Hunting and Fishing Club and the 47th District Courthouse.

Allen also served on the city Planning Commission, the Construction Board of Appeals, the District Library Board and the Community Center Board. He died Oct. 1, 1989, at the age of 69.

Following the addition of the name to the plaque, son Bob Allen said that his father "drew

FARMINGTON FOCUS

great pleasure for service to the community."

Added councilman Richard Tupper, "He was a fine public servant."

Any blankets?

Members of Junior Girl Scout Troop 3303 of the Farmington area new or clean used blankets for use by the homeless from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, and Sunday, Nov. 1, at the Orchard/10 IGA super market in Farmington. For more information, call Patricia Henson, troop leader, at 478-8654.

Check your auto

Motorists can learn if their cars are ready for winter by stopping at AAA Michigan's free Winter Care Inspection centers — including the one at Center Tire, 23534 Farmington Road — through Oct. 31.

Memory Lane

From the Oct. 30, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Farmington Township voters were to use the new voting machines for the first time in the upcoming presidential election. City of Farmington voters, however, would continue to use the conventional paper ballots.