

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 109 NUMBER 97

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1996 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 36 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1996 International Communications Corporation

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

And they're off: The two Oakland County Prosecutor candidates — Republican Dave Gorcyca and Democrat Steve Kaplan — are gearing up for the November election. One candidate is working hard to get his name out fast while the other is cautiously stepping forward. /A7

TASTE

Back to School: Home economist Christine Venema offers tips for making school lunches your kids won't throw away. /B1

Focus on wine: Farmington native Dan Moore makes splendid wines at Lynmar Winery in Sonoma County. /B1

SPORTS

Football focus: North Farmington is counting on veteran players to help the Raiders post better results in the 1996 season. /C1

Court duel: Two of Oakland County's top-rated girls basketball teams faced each other Thursday when Farmington Hills Mercy played Walled Lake Central. /C1

INDEX

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Artistic Events | B3 | Obituaries | A4 |
| Auto report | D1 | O&E On Line | A9 |
| Classifieds | B-D | Personal Scene | B4 |
| Crossword | B7 | Police and fire | A4 |
| Malls | A8-9 | Sports | C1-3 |
| Movies | A6 | Taste | B1-3 |

City leads way with web site



Need information about your city? If that city is Farmington, just reach for your computer mouse and access the city's new home page on the Internet's World Wide Web.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington municipal operations are hardly a web of intrigue, but many city folks are intrigued with the web. Especially with the city's new home page on the Internet's World Wide Web, which is believed to be the first of its type for a municipal government in Michigan.

Residents can access information on city operations, ordinances and even print out a building permit application from their home computer.

Homeowners unsure of what type of fence they can erect or if they need a building permit to construct a dog house can check the city's ordinances and building codes on their

personal computer.

The site — <http://www.ci.farmington.mi.us> — is designed to be a time-saver for both the city's government and its residents.

"We have a dream these sites can actually be working sites for government to save the city administration and the people time and making their jobs easier," said Ron Baker of Southfield-based Marketing Communications Counsel, which designed the site. "And, making government accessible seven days a week, 24 hours a day."

The home page features photos of landmark sites such as Warner

Manston, Village Mall and the Civic Theatre, depicting the city's historical character.

With a click of a mouse, residents can find out the latest city government news, hours of operation and city council meeting dates.

Computer users can also send suggestions. City officials receive the message as e-mail.

"It is sort of an electronic suggestion box," City Manager Frank Lauhoff said.

As well as a bulletin board, the site has the potential of being a glob-

See INTERNET, A3

Actors take their cuts for 'Damn Yankees'



STAFF PHOTO BY CRAIG BRIDG

Actors at North Farmington: Actors from the public schools and the community at large go through their paces during a rehearsal of "Damn Yankees" to be staged at North Farmington High School. For a story on the production and more photos, see page A3. For more information, call 480-3534.

Botsford 'community' expands by 179 beds

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Another part of Botsford Continuing Care Corporation's effort to offer long-term health care was celebrated last week.

Officials from Farmington and Farmington Hills, the corporation and the medical community were among those on hand at the grand opening of new three-story, 179-bed nursing facility on the grounds of Botsford Commons on Archwood Circle off Folsom Road.

"We don't see this as just another building," said Linda Mlynarek, corporation president and administrator of the Botsford Continuing Health Center. "This is part of a continuum of health care."

Mlynarek made the remarks on the eve of the facility's grand opening ceremonies. It will be the new residence of patients now in the older building, that was originally used as a polio clinic for children and then converted into the Farmington Nursing Home.

"What a beautiful setting," said Sally Manns, who was a polio

patient at age 19 in 1955. "I had thought then what a beautiful place it was. It was really nice to come back."

The new building replaces the older structure, allowing the implementation of a host of state-of-the-art features such as accessible showers with benches, patios that are safely enclosed but provide a view and a view of woods and the nearby condominiums and apartments that make up what Botsford CEO Gerson Cooper calls a "community."

"We didn't just create a building, we added another part to a community," Cooper said.

The older building will be used as offices and for some assisted living patients.

The new facility will have 69 beds dedicated to subacute care. That would provide a patient with something less than the intensive care, and cost, of a hospital stay after an operation, but with a staffed, recovery facility until they are ready to return home or to another facility.

A dementia unit will have 60 beds

See BOTSFORD, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY CRAIG BRIDG

Time on his hands: Volunteer Jack Joynt installs a clock at the new Botsford facility in Farmington Hills.

Faxon settles school in Hills

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A former state senator, but forever a school teacher, Jack Faxon is back in Farmington Hills — to educate.

The International School, founded by Faxon in 1968, and specializes in foreign language immersion for children in kindergarten through grade 8.

The school has moved to the former Lubavitch Center, a 15,000-foot facility on Middlebelt Road, between 12 and 13 Mile roads.

The International School, which opens for classes Thursday, was previously in Beverly Hills.

"I'm a new neighbor," said Faxon, 60, who has been an educator for 40 years.

It could be argued he never really left Farmington Hills.

After retiring from the political arena two years ago, the outgoing legislator recently moved his residence from Farmington Hills Wood Creek subdivision to downtown Birmingham.

However, instead of conjugating verbs, the language academy was suddenly a school in search of a building when its lease wasn't renewed.

"We were an orphaned school," Faxon said. The International School had bid unsuccessfully for a facility on Walnut Lake and Inskate roads before finding the former Jewish school. The facility sits on five acres and includes a playground area.

See FAXON, A3

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Community Festival drawing on

... (text is mostly illegible due to image quality) ...

... (text is mostly illegible due to image quality) ...