

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 109 NUMBER 101

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1996 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 48 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Kurzeja honored: Massie Kurzeja, outgoing Farmington Hills councilwoman, was honored for her service./A10

OPINION

Write on! So many Farmington Observer readers have been writing that we are able to have a Letters to the Editor page in this issue./A5

SPORTS



City champs: Farmington High's girls and Farmington Harrison's boys captured cross country honors Thursday in the annual all-city meets./C1

Gridiron duel: Intra-city rivals Farmington Harrison and North Farmington clashed on the football field Friday afternoon./C1

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AIDS remark has phones ringing



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Kathy McElroy was really tuned into a radio talk show while driving Tuesday afternoon, especially when a parent called in complaining about how kindergartners are taught about AIDS along with their ABCs. Then the caller, a man, said he was from Farmington Hills.

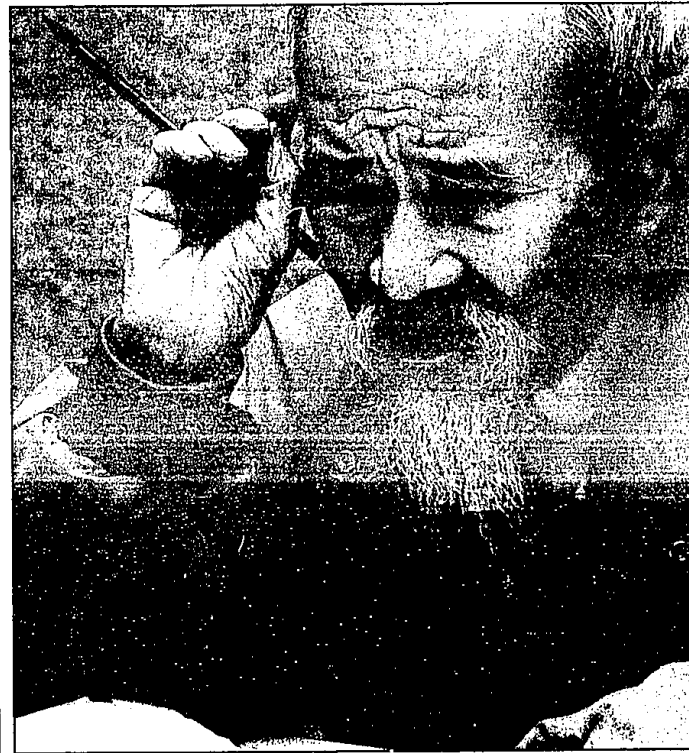
"I almost drove off the road," said McElroy, coordinator of Farmington Public Schools' Health and Family Life Education. "As soon as I heard him, I started writing furiously." "When he said 'Farmington Hills,' I said, 'Oh God, that's me.'" The call came during "The Dr. Laura Schlessinger Show," which is heard on WJR. The news reportedly

drew an angry response from the host, who is best known for her non-sense advice and curtness with callers. Farmington school officials spent Wednesday clarifying what was heard over the airwaves. "We've had calls," said Don Cowan, director of Kindergarten through Grade 12 Education. Children in kindergarten through grade three are taught about AIDS — but only as to the dangers of coming into contact with someone else's blood. Sex is not part of the instruction, McElroy said. "We have a comprehensive health

education program and AIDS is part of that," McElroy said. "The thing that Dr. Laura did yesterday was she made the common mistake where she automatically linked AIDS with sex. "AIDS education in the lower elementary is not about sex. Sex is not even mentioned in grades K through three." Rather, students at that level learn about the importance of washing hands correctly to prevent the spread of germs, that spitting at people is not acceptable, and that

See AIDS, A5

Diversity: From awareness to action



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Horns sounded, people sang and spoke — passionately.

But the written principles unveiled are expected to reverberate long after Thursday's multicultural and multiracial kickoff dinner have faded from memory.

The guidelines presented at the rally attended by more than 100 people in the William Costick Center are obviously still being massaged, though. What were seven principles on a handout in how Farmington and Farmington Hills will maintain a diverse community were whittled to six.

"You can tell this is a draft because we've combined two and three," said Karen Bolen, co-chair of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multicultural Community Council.

At the urging of both city councils and Farmington School Board, the community council drafted the guidelines that address employment, education and housing. A focus group will be formed to develop the final article to be formally adopted by the cities and school board.

Six principles symbolize something else: The community council's transformation of a group bringing awareness to one of action.

Thursday's tightly-choreographed rally was intended fuel the ongoing mission, which started in the late 1980s.

City and school officials spoke from center podium while community members and students popped up from all four corners to express their views. North Farmington High Marching Band and a mixed choir from Harrison High put a musical charge into the festivities.

If the council sought affirmation for its work outside its usual corps of supporters, TV anchor woman and longtime Farmington Hills resident Diana Lewis provided it. "It saddens me every time I

See KICKOFF, A5

Taking names: Winston Cheng of Farmington Hills writes the names of those attending the multicultural/multiracial dinner in the ancient art of Chinese calligraphy.

Rocky 'PACs' financial punch

By WILLIAM COUNTANT
STAFF WRITER

Andrew Raczkowski is getting cradle-to-grave financial support and a lot in between in his bid to win a seat in the state House of Representatives. Raczkowski, 27, received contributions of \$7,974.64 between July 22 and Aug. 26 in his Republican Primary win over three other candidates. He finished with total contributions of \$24,588.14 and a balance of \$816 at that point.

Raczkowski, a Hills businessman, has received the endorsement of Michigan Right to Life.

Among his most recent contributors were the United Cemeteries of Michigan in Rochester (\$200), the Pharmacy Action Council in Lansing (\$500) and the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association in Lansing (\$500).

Raczkowski also received political action committee (PAC) money from the Michigan Auto Dealers PAC (\$200), Team Ameritech PAC (\$300), and the Ken Sikka Leadership Fund PAC in Lansing.

Other contributors included John Kulhavi of White Lake (\$300), Edward Levy Jr. (\$500) and Julie Levy (\$500) of Bloomfield Hills.

GOP runner up Cathleen Webb by far had the most financial help, getting \$9604.32 between July 22 and Aug. 26 to bring her total to \$46,939.98. She wound up with a balance of \$10,288.36.

Steve Dibert, 29, who defeated Carl Christoph in the Democratic primary, received \$2,795 in contributions between July 22 and Aug. 26 to bring his total to \$7,235, leaving him with a balance of \$333.20.

Dibert and Raczkowski will run in the November general election for the 31st District House seat now occupied by Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills.

Raczkowski was his own biggest backer in the latest filing, giving his campaign \$2,099.64. Linda Jolicœur, who ran unsuccessfully against Raczkowski, contributed \$200 and former Hills City Councilman Paul Sowersby gave \$250.

Dibert also helped himself the most, giving \$2,500 to bring his total to \$5,000 for the campaign. No one else gave more than \$50 to his campaign for the period.

Frustration at a boil over cable woes

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Frankly, Farmington Hills resident Torikild Nielsen told Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission members, they're wasting their time.

"You should spend once a month doing something else," said Nielsen during public comments at SWOCC's recent meeting. "You can

do better things for the communities you represent."

The offer may have been tempting. Especially after another typically acrimonious meeting where residents, cable company officials and SWOCC members left confused and as angry as they came in.

SWOCC is the regulatory body and represents Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi. City officials from all three cities sit on the board.

CABLE TV

Every month, they hear the same complaints about the following: Rate hikes, no Spanish channel and Time Warner's profit margin. SWOCC members say they have little or no control over the three. The commission does have author-

ity over broadcast basic rates — that jumped from a \$1 a year to \$10.62 a month three years ago — public access programming and implementation of the franchise agreement, which expires next year. Frustration is at a boil. Some residents are starting to turn on those representing their interests.

See CABLE, A5

Realtors plan house fix-up

Home is where the heart is, they say, and a group of area Realtors others will put some heart into a house renovation that will help a needy Farmington family.

Sponsored by the Farmington Public Schools' Headstart program and the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors, the renovation will take place Friday, Sept. 20.

The volunteer effort involves roofing, electrical work, plumbing improvements, painting and landscaping. Labor, materials and financial support comes from Farmington-area residents and business people.

Anyone interested in helping should call Denise Bryngelson at 478-1700 during business hours, or leave a message at 1-313-548-7770 after hours.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Challenges, anyone?

Would you like to be better at managing people, organizing work loads and public speaking? If you do and you're age 21-39, you might be interested in the Farmington Area Jaycees' programs.

The Jaycees offer leadership experience through planning and execution of community projects like volleyball, softball, Christmas tree lighting, Halloween Haunted House and Vegas Nights. Call 477-5227 for information about the group.

Planning for college

Sheryl E. Krasnow, a college and career counselor, will be at the Hills Branch of the Farmington Community Library 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, to offer advice on planning for a college education and how to obtain financial aid.

"Strategies and Timetables" will be the topic of the Sept. 26 session. Other sessions with Krasnow will be held Dec. 27 and Jan. 6. The library is located on 12 Mile Road between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address is packy@oonline.com.