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Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Fire check: Farmington Hills officials investigate after fire severely damages two rooms of a Grand River hotel. /A2

TASTE

Fab Famle: Chef Keith Famle is on a mission to be the best, have the best, and enjoy the best. /B1

Specialty foods: Necessity is the mother of invention for saucy products made with care in Michigan. /B1

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

First Impressions: Image consultants do a brisk business with employees in the public eye. /B4

SPORTS

Net title: North Farmington High wins the league boys tennis title. /D1

Diamond drive: Harrison will play Farmington High for the boys baseball league championship on Wednesday, after Harrison's victory Friday. /D1

SPECIAL SECTIONS

Summer fun: Check out this special guide to see what special events are planned this summer in your community. /Insert

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Walk right in pizza service delivers a scare

What a Farmington woman thought was a burglar tripping through her home turned out to be a precocious — and rather naive — pizza delivery man.

Farmington police were called to a Lamar Street residence around 4:45 p.m. Thursday on a report of a burglary in progress.

They arrived to find a delivery man from Jett's Pizzeria looking for a place to leave the pie.

The woman, who was in her basement washing clothes, was startled after hearing footsteps upstairs. She covered herself with a sheet and called police using a cordless phone.

After knocking, the delivery man — a 29-year-old Nigerian man — told police he went into the home through an unlocked door. He proceeded to ask for the person who ordered the pizza, stopping to use the bathroom and answer a ringing phone in the house.

The delivery man reportedly asked the person on the other line — a friend of the woman — where he should leave the pizza.

"I asked him, 'Why did you answer the phone?'" He said, "It was ringing a lot."

Tom Cox
—Farmington police commander

Police told the man that entering a house without permission, using the bathroom and answering someone's phone is not the customary way to deliver a pizza in this country. He was released at the scene.

A taste of science



STAFF PHOTO BY SHAWN LAMRICH

Starting young: First graders at Beechview Elementary hosted a science fair last week. Above, Paul Killingbeck participates in a science experiment with the help of his wife, Jean. Their granddaughter, Alyssa Killingbeck, is a 1st grader. The experiment, conducted by Kara Charbonneau and Kristin Schallmo, tests where the taste buds are located on the tongue. At right, Kathleen McFarland looks at a science exhibit with her children, first grader Ken (left), and Chris and Lisa (right), both age 4. Their dad, Mark, also came for the night out with the family.



Hills' bidding 'extensive,' fair

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council will again consider awarding a contract for a citywide computer network to an Okemos company Monday, after charges that the bidding process was unfair.

The process was exhaustive, extensive and fair, city officials emphasized last week.

Just before the April 28 regular council meeting, City Manager Dan

Hobbs asked the council to take the item off the agenda after representatives of two companies complained about the bidding process.

Peter Molnar of Midwest Business Systems and Michael Grievos, President of Data Systems Network, complained about the city's consultant and the way the bid process was handled.

The two men complained about a "seriously flawed" process. City Attorney John Donohue called the charges potentially "slanderous" and

said they should back up their charges in writing. Both sent letters to Donohue.

The bid submitted by Graycon Services, Inc. was the low bid between three finalists that included Sequoia Diversified of Auburn Hills and National Tech Team of Dearborn.

Among complaints from Molnar were that the consultant, Roberta Estes of Information Access Strategies, would only return one phone call. Molnar also filed several free-

dom of information requests for information.

"I knew where this was going early on," Molnar said. "Graycon was the only one that filled out the application correctly according to the city."

Molnar also said he resented Donohue's charge that what he said constituted slander.

"I thought he was totally off base," Molnar said. "I didn't appreciate his

Please see B1D, A7

Feldman touts access, readiness

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Schools residents have trustee Bobbie Feldman's number.

"People call me all the time," said Feldman, who is seeking a second, four-year term on the Farmington Board of Education June 9.

"When I talk to other board members, I'll say I got a call from this person about this or that issue and they'll say, 'Bobbie, you got more calls.'"

Feldman also solicits opinions on hot-button school issues at the ice rink — where her son plays hockey — or the grocery store. She believes her ringing phone speaks to her accessibility and preparedness as a board member.

However, Feldman learned quickly what the public thinks about a particular issue doesn't always settle well in

school circles.

Soon after she was elected four years ago, the trustee broached the touchy subject of sibling priority at Highmeadow Campus.

The policy allowed brothers and sisters of enrolled students first crack at openings in the popular school of choice. Parents, whose children weren't selected in the lottery, complained it was unfair.

Highmeadow parents and staff rallied against the change, though, and the matter was dropped. Recently, when the policy came up for review under the district's schools of choice provisions, Feldman pounced on it and helped revise the enrollment provision.

"I didn't feel that equality was being served," Feldman said. "It was a very unfortunate and unequal situation. The scales were not balanced. They were

tipped."

Through conversations at the rink and grocery store, Feldman learned early that the scales of public opinion were tipped against the district's \$110 million bond issue in March.

The board repackaged a proposal into two questions totaling \$95 million that will go before voters in late September.

"We're going to open our mouths big and loud," she said. "We're going to be very specific."

"We're going to say, 'This is what students need. This is what teachers need,' and why."

"Didn't that message get out in March?"

"We thought it did, but obviously we were wrong," she said.

The board and district is continually

Please see BOARD, A6



Name: Bobbie Feldman
Age: 41
Family: Two children: Mike, 14 and Johanne, 9.
Occupation: preschool teacher in Berkley School District.
Education: Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education Oakland University.

Gypsy's be gone

That helicopter spraying part of Farmington Hills Tuesday morning isn't some secret experiment. It's part of the Oakland County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program aiming to get rid of Gypsy moths.

About 27 acres in Farmington Hills — the north east area south of 13 Mile and west of Farmington Road — will be sprayed with the biological insecticide B.T., which is a naturally occurring chemical that isn't harmful to humans, water or any other creatures — except gypsy moths.

Check out the candidates

The Farmington Democratic Club will host a candidates' forum at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at the

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Farmington Hills City Hall.

Each candidate will make an opening statement. Afterward, each candidate will have the chance to question the other candidates for five minutes. Former school board member Michael Shipice will then spend 10 minutes questioning the candidates, followed by public questions and closing statements. Attorney Barry Brickner will moderate the forum.

Golf outing remembers Nutter

The first Lynn G. Nutter Memorial Golf Outing is set for June 16.

Nutter, the longtime Farmington Public Schools

principal and administrator, died of a heart attack in December. Since he was a golfer and to raise money for scholarships, the family has organized an outing at Kenanston Golf Course.

The 18-hole, 4-person scrambles includes a barbecue dinner, prizes and refreshments on the course. Cost is \$75 per person, \$35 for dinner only. Tee times are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with dinner from 6-9 p.m.

All proceeds, including hole sponsorships at \$100 each, will go to the Lynn G. Nutter Continuing Education Scholarship Fund for the three Farmington public high schools. Entry is limited to the first 112 paid golfers.

Checks should be made payable to Rich Nutter and mailed to him at 1010 Countrybrook, Ada, Mich. 49301. For more information, call (616) 676-3242 or (248) 626-4973.