## Trash pickup delayed; banks, offices closed — it must be the 4th

Farmington Observer

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READER SERVICE

"Gee, doesn't today feel like a Saturday?"

Those words will echo all over town Friday, as residents celebrate the Fourth of July (and a shortened work week) by sparking up the barbeeue, going to a parade or some fireworks or just relaxing on the couch.

But because many public employees also have the Fourth off, keep in mind that many local offices may be lelosed and services canceled for the day.

At least the following city offices and services will be affected:

Farmington and Farmington Hills city offices will be closed on Friday.

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■ School offices will also be

Friday trash collection for all area residents will be post-poned until Saturday.

■ Both local libraries will be closed all weekend and will

reopen Monday.

## 47th Distribe closed. 47th District Court will

■ The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will be closed.

All area banks will be

■ Both post offices will also be closed Friday, but open regular hours on Saturday.

Your local Farmington Observer office — like many other businesses — will also

Live Blues Bands

Fri. & Sat.

# Probation for 3 who marred San Marino

BY TODD WICKS

Three of the five teenagers accused of vandalizing the San Marino Golf Course in Farmington Hills in saity April were sentenced by Judge Nanci Grant in Oakland Gircuit Court Tuesday. Willism Zima, 17, Stephen John Munro, 19 and Michael Paul Tomey, 18, all of Farmington Hills, had their petitions for the Youthful Traince Act granted. Each was given three years' probation. mhation.

probation.

probation were also sentenced to 90 days in Oakland County Jail, which will be auspected upon their completion of Oakland County Sheriff's Boot Camp for youthful offenders.

It's a serious program. They really kind of kick their butts, so

to speak," said Kan Frazee, the prosecuting attorney in the case. "If they don't shape up in the program, they spend the time sitting in a jail cell."
The sentences also carry many conditions, including paying restitution and various court fees. The three cannot make contact with one nonther, and must serve 100 hours of community service.
Each must also write a 750-ward sessay to the court about

word essay to the court about the event, what they did, and how they would respond if some-one had done that to their own

roperty. Because both were sent notice Because both were sent notice to appear at the wrong time, the sentencing of Robert Jahn III, 18, of Farmington Hills and Ryan Nicholas Hubbard, 19, of Livonia was postponed to 1:30

p.m. July 8.

Each of the five-some pleaded guilty to two counts of malicious destruction of property over \$100, felonies which carry fouryear maximum terms, and one count of illegal entry, a 90-day misdemeanor.

count of lifegal entry, a 90-day misdemeancy. A charge of conspiracy to commit malicious destruction of property over \$100 was dropped by Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Shawn Ryan. The city of Farmington Hills is seeking restitution for the \$50,000 worth of damages done to the course, and lost income since the incident. There will be a hearing before the probation department to determine how the restitution will be divided among the five.

among the five.

Farmington Hills police have said that at least nine people

were involved in the incident, which began at a drinking party at a house near the course.

A truck, golf carts, a shed, the sprinkling system and the coursitable were damaged during two consecutive nights, April 2-3.

According to Commander Chuck Nebus, the case is still under investigation.

We do expect others to be charged, he said. The longer we've investigated, it just seems to lead us to additional perpetrators.

It think what happened is that restitution was so much that

"I think what happened is that restitution was so much that everybody was just deciding to squeal on the next guy."

Alox McGarry, defense attorney for Michael Tomey, said that the five teens currently being sentenced have agreed to testify in those cases if necessary.

# Road from page A1

widening) will be an improve-ment. Watson said.
Farmington city officials think so, too. They have asked the state Department of Transporta-tion to instell a left-turn lan-and stop light for 10 years. City Manager Frank Lauhoff said.

Manager Frank Launer saud.
A left-lane is expected to cut
down on the high number of
rear-end collisions, which are
caused as eastbound Grand
River motorists are not always
able to brake in time for vehicles
waiting to make a left turn onto
Shinwassor.

The road will be widened on the north side of city-owned right of way property near the

right of way proper cemetery.

A new traffic signal will make the intersection safer for motorists and pedestrians alike, city officials said.

We have more and more pedestrians trying to cross there, Lubuff said. 'It will be an improvement."

an improvement."
Pete Basile and Sons have been contracted to do the work.

The state Department of Transportation had to put the project out for bids three times in the past year before a contractor

past year before a contractor was found. The problem was that the project isn't a large enough to attract a lot of bidders, a state official said previously. In another roadway note, motoriets traveling on Farmington Road near Nine Mile and Freedom roads will get a reprieve, as repairs on the MS/Farmington Road bridge are not expected to start until spring 1998.

Poson Construction will do oson Construction will do

Posen Construction will do some preliminary shoulder work in September, but it's not expect-ed to disrupt traffic. Drivers on Farmington Road are already contending with con-struction at the Eight Mile inter-section, which has traffic down to one lane on north and south-bound That work is arrected to

to one iane on north and south-bound. That work is expected to be completed in August. "At least people won't have to put up with the bridge work, too," Lauhoff said.

#### Senior citizen tax break proposed

Senior citizens get a tax break under legislation introduced recently in the Michigan House. House Bill 4909 allows a ane-time exemption from the real estate transfer tax for sellers over the age of 65. The tax is three

The tax is three-quarters of 1 percent of the home's selling

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price.
"Significant tax relief was a "Significant tax relief was a key part of last session's agen-da," said Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, sponsor of the bill. HB 4909 was sent to the House Tax Policy Committee for consideration.



\$199 BATTERIES

### Founders from page A1

weeks we call everybody, make sure we've got the tents and Port-a-Potties and trash barrels and all those other things you don't think about, but are essen-

"It's a busy time."

"It's a busy time."
The Founders Festival is
Farmington's biggest annual
event, featuring food, arts and
crafts, and all sorts of exhibits,
contests, and entertainment.
The festival draws visitors from
around the state for its many
sights, sounds and tastes.
The highlight of the feature.

sights, sounds and tastes.

The highlight of the festival week is the parade July 12. One of Soronen's jobs is to remember all of the little details that often go unnoticed in blowouts like these for example, how to schedule the parade lineup.

schedule the parade lineup.

"We have a large number of Shriner units," she said. "Some other groups take up quite a bit of space and don't want to wait, so they want to be in front of the Shriners. The horses like to be near sirens, and you don't want to put the little children behind the horses. You kind of do a juggling act to put them where they'd like to be, but realizing that everybody can't be where they want. You don't think about that

when you see a parade come down the street. Sometimes it's a bit of a juggling act."

Eric Johnston, who runs the Betty Johnston Dance Studio in Farmington, has served as festi-val entertainment director for

val entertainment director for the last 10 years.

"We select the best of Detroit and Farmington and put it together, make it a down-home event," he said. "But the down-home people have a lot of sophis-tication. That's why it's diffi-cult."

Johnston spends about 50 hours selecting the right acts, putting them in order, and finding the right mix of things to appeal to local audiences.

appeal to local audiences.

"I make sure the festival goes forward and grows," he said.
"Expanding the quality, the duration, making sure that it's appropriate for the Farmington audience."

udience." Besides entertainment, there's plenty else to worry about: orga-nizing crafters, working with downtown businesses, and not least of all, the weather.

least of all, the weather.

"My ideal would be sunny and
76. That's probably not going to
happen," acknowledged Sorone.

If the days are real hot and
humid, we find that people come
down in the evening, when it
cools off a bit. I don't know that
we lose the crowds, they just
rearrange their schedules."

The days after the festival's end are wearying in their own

end are wearying in their own way.

"There's all the cleanup and financial records to get straight, and making sure that if we've borrowed anything that we return it," said Soronen. "We sort of tidy up and make sure we've covered all the bases. We're a little bleary-eyed, but we make it."

The little bleary-eyed, but we wake it."

But all the hard work is worth upholding one of the community's longest-standing traditions.

ty's longest-standing traditions.
"We know that a lot of people
whose families are still here but
they've married or moved off to
somewhere clae call, saying they
want to plan vacation time to be
here for the featival," said Sorone. "The familiarity is part of
the appeal for locals. We get people who come from everywhere
for the crafters and entertainers.

"It's the annual put-the-town-on-the-map event."

## Gala from page A1

open to those 21 and over, and will feature refreshments and food.

In past years, the Legion hall has hosted carnivals, dances and casino-type games in its parking lot as fund-raisers.

This year's Founders Festival will be the first in many years that the traditional Ox Roast is not being held, since the Elks Ledge where the popular event Lodge where the popular event was held closed down last year.

Christensen said he has not ruled out holding the roast at the Legion facilities in the

future.
"Wo're going to do this this year, see how it works, and consider doing something again next year," he said. "We do have a double facility, and a big lot. (But) it's too late to plan to do anything this year, plus we have to have the cooperation of the neighborhood."

The Gala Parties will begin at The Gain Parties will begin in 5 p.m. and last until 1 a.m. There is a \$3 cover charge at the door. Guests age 21 and over are welcome. The American Legion Hall is located at 31775 Grand



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