

Thursday  
July 10, 1997

# Farmington Observer

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 82

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 88 PAGES • <http://www.oonline.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1997 HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

## It's Founders Festival week

- **What:** Farmington's 33rd annual Founders Festival
- **When:** Today through Sunday
- **Where:** Downtown Farmington
- **Highlights:** Thursday to Saturday, check out arts and crafts sales, food, sidewalk safes, performers, rides, bingo, fun run, bike safes, and more. Saturday is Parade Day, starting at 10 a.m. on Grand River (streets close around parade site from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Sunday is the Fantasy Car Raffle hosted by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. Ticket holders could win a Corvette.
- **More info:** Check our special insert published Sunday (copies at our office); or call the chamber, 474-3440.



## 'Prime suspect' nabbed

BY SUZANNE L. PARKER  
STAFF WRITER

The man police arrested Tuesday for West Bloomfield's Tapper's jewelry store robbery and the "prime suspect" in the murder outside a Farmington Hills bank last year is also being investigated for his role in a major heroin trafficking ring, according to a federal agent.

The agent, who is involved in the investigation, said Antonio McKel-

ton, arrested Tuesday in Dearborn, and Derrick Davis, another suspect charged in the Tapper's robbery, may be part of a drug trafficking ring that steals jewelry to pay for large purchases of heroin that is then sold in Detroit.

"We believe the jewelry provides quick cash which is converted to heroin that is coming out of Colorado," said the agent, who asked not to be identified.

Federal officials believe the jewels are sent to New York for quick sale at pawn shops, the agent said. Since a string of robberies began in January, the FBI has been working in New York to track down the jewelry.

In the meantime, the Drug Enforcement Agency has been investigating what it believes is an interstate heroin trafficking ring led by a Michigan man. They believe the

Please see SUSPECT, A4



Caught: West Bloomfield police deliver Antonio McKelton to the police station.

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Kids day:** Youngsters of all ages found fun Tuesday at Kids Day. At right, Jamie Harris of Farmington Hills finds a comfy seat while holding a family friend's baby, Alexandra Ferick, 6 months./A3



## ENTERTAINMENT

**Jazz:** Botsford Inn hosts the Michigan Jazz Festival Sunday, July 20./E1

## SPECIAL SECTION

**Summer sale:** West Bloomfield's annual Summer Sidewalk Sale begins today and runs through Sunday, July 13.

## INDEX

At Home	D	Real estate	H1
Beliefs & Values	B7-8	Rentals	H5
Calendar	C5	Community Life	B1
Classifieds	F-J	Movie Guide	E6
Autos for sale	J6	Oakland Digest	A11
Crossword	H2	Oakland Journal	A10
Index	H1	Obituaries	A13
Employment	H7	Police, fire calls	A8
Service guide	J3	Sports	C



STAFF PHOTO BY DRYAN MITCHELL

The winner: Jennifer Hoemke, 23, of Farmington Hills reacts to her new title of Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills for 1997 as her crown is pinned on by last year's winner, Annette Hohl, during the ceremony Wednesday night at Vladimir's. Hoemke wins a \$10,000 scholarship and the chance to compete in the Miss Michigan pageant. Hoemke's singing took the talent portion of the show. For more on the show, see the July 17 Community Life section.

## Cable TV theft case tunes in to customer

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police are investigating a possible case theft of cable service after Time Warner technicians inadvertently found a computer chip in the customer's receiver box that was scrambling the signal.

As a result, a Farmington Hills resident was receiving premium service while only paying for basic service. The case is pending and no warrants have been issued, Farmington Hills police said.

"We're still looking into this," said Detective Bob Tiderington. The resident has been a subscriber since September at a Spring Lane Street residence, police reports said. On July 1, he asked that cable be hooked up at his

new residence on Colwell. He had been paying for basic service since October 1996. When reconnecting the service, technicians noticed the cable box was still getting premium channels and pay-per-view stations although it was programmed to receive only basic service. Cable installers then noticed the screws were loose on the bottom of the box.

After confiscating the box, Time Warner found a computer chip had been installed. "It's a very serious issue for us," said Dan Dinsmore, Time Warner regional marketing manager. "He took our own piece of equipment and defeated our security measures."

Under a new state law, cable theft is considered a felony. If convicted, penalties include up to five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. Novi police and Time Warner recently went undercover to buy the computer chips that allow cable signals to be scrambled. A Novi man was arrested in the sting.

Theft of cable service costs the industry upwards of \$5 billion, Dinsmore said. "That's a lot of zeros," he said. Technicians conduct regular sweeps. Otherwise, cable industry counts on word-of-mouth.

Please see CABLE, A2

## Family offers Indian cuisine at low prices

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO  
STAFF WRITER

One hundred and fifty years in the making, the unique flavors of Vantika Indian Cuisine are now available in Farmington Hills.

One of a few restaurants serving Indian food in western Oakland County, Vantika owners boast their food is flavorful, but not greasy and not too spicy. Located at the southeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Haggerty Road, Vantika offers daily lunch and dinner buffets at \$4.95 and \$5.95 respectively. And, Vantika co-owner Ashu Ahluwalia said, it will be difficult to beat the prices for individual entrees which range from \$5.95 — \$19.95 with most menu items costing \$5.95 — \$7.95. Carry out patrons receive a 15 percent discount off orders of \$15 or more. "I surveyed all the restaurants," Ahluwalia said. "Our prices are lower than everybody else's," she said of area fine dining establishments.

The Northville resident and her husband are not new to the restaurant business. Parbhat Ahluwalia's family operate two restaurants in India, with the original family restaurant opening over a century ago. Ahluwalia grew up learning the art of his family's Indian cuisine and carried that talent with him to the United States.

Parbhat, the restaurant's sole chef, began cooking his family recipes in Boston where he was a partner in a restaurant business. He started his own restaurant seven years ago in Des Moines, Iowa. Now Delhi Palace, which remains in operation under a new owner, was sold because the couple's desired to "be with our family," said Ashu Ahluwalia.

Friends and family encouraged the Ahluwalias to start a business in Farmington Hills because they thought the tasty cuisine would be difficult to match.

Please see VANTIKA, A2

## Neighbors worry homes are golf targets

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Some neighbors are worried continuing development near Copper Creek golf course will slice into the scenic splendor of the area.

Two new homes are being built on vacant lots on Golfview, which is adjacent to the first tee on the golf course. One resident is concerned about what's going to happen when a golfer shanks one while teeing off.

At least 90 percent of golfers are right-handed and slices — where a shot veers off to the right — are common, the resident said.

"My concern is someone is going to plunk down their money for a home near the golf course and four months later when the snow is gone they're going to be rained on by golf balls," said Jimmy Kollin, a Golfpointe View resident.

Some of those living in the four surrounding subdivisions were

under the mistaken belief the land would remain a vacant commons area.

A few have gone to Farmington Hills City Hall to examine previously approved site plans.

"All the site plans we have, have those as buildable sites — single family homes," said Charmaine Kettler, Farmington Hills staff planner.

"It seems to be a common misconception."

Farmington Hills City Council,

after an OK from the planning commission, approved final site plans for the 92-house development January 1992.

Due to concern over the closeness of the three lots to the first tee, Ivanhoe Company agreed not to build on the land until a solution was found for the potential of errant tee shots.

The developer agreed to put up a

Please see NEIGHBORS, A2

## Honesty policy

Fourteen-year-old Bob Hoyer doesn't need to be told to do the right thing.

The Farmington Hills teen had lost a wallet a couple weeks back at a Grand Rapids water park, while on his way to a 4-day summer camp with his church group. The wallet contained almost \$50 — money he had earned and saved as a Farmington Observer carrier. Bob was planning on using it to pay for food at the camp.

When he went to report the wallet missing at the water park, he was told he should forget about getting the money back. However, a park janitor told him that another wallet was found with no identification and \$90 cash inside. He told Bob it was black and pink.

"He said, 'If you claim it we'll split the money 50-50' and I said I didn't want to do that," Bob said.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

That made his mom, Lita Hoyer, pretty proud.

"You know, I read the paper and you read about all these teenagers destroying our golf courses," she said. "It's just nice to know there are honest kids."

Even though he had a chance to regain all but \$2 of his savings, Bob said he didn't hesitate to take the righteous route. "I don't feel that it's right to take other people's money. I just wanted my money back."

He didn't get it back, but Bob's father was near the camp on a business trip and dropped off some cash for him. So, it worked out and Bob said the camp was fun: "I'm a big fisherman and I was fishing a lot."

His mother was glad her son wasn't lured by temptation. "When you see the fruit of your work — it just makes you feel good," Lita said.

## Relay delay

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life that was scheduled for July 18 in Farmington Hills has been canceled.

Construction on the football field at Harrison High would have made it inconvenient for participants and hampered the event. Instead, participants for the fund-raising walk are invited to join the Relay for Life on Aug. 16 at Rochester High School.

One benefit to the change: Participants will get more time to gather pledges. The event offers cancer survivors, friends and family a chance to celebrate and raise money to fund cancer research. Call (248) 567-5353 to join the relay.