

Farmington Observer

Sunday
September 21, 1997

VOLUME 110: NUMBER 103

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 80 PAGES • <http://observer-ecentric.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1997 HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Open, shut: An open house at Hillside Elementary on the same day as the school bond election made for some parking problems for potential voters. /A2

Listen-in: State Sen. Bill Bullard spent some time in school last week, as Farmington teachers shared their concerns. /A3

TASTE

Food safety: Celebrate Food Safety Month by cleaning out your refrigerator, freezer, cupboards and pantry. /B1

ARTS & LEISURE

Music: Two nomadic local chamber music groups, the Lyric Chamber Ensemble and the Detroit Chamber Winds, are presenting concerts. /D1

INDEX

■ Arts & Leisure	D
■ Business & Finance	C1-4
■ Classified	H-J
■ Autos for sale	K5
■ Crossword	H4
■ Employment	J2
■ Home & Service Guide	K4
■ Index	J4
■ Real Estate	H1
■ Rentals	H6
■ Health & Fitness	E4
■ Malls & Mainstreets	B4
■ Movie Guide	D4
■ New Homes	G1
■ Obituaries	B6
■ Road Watch	A7
■ Sports & Recreation	E

Mysterious donor's gold fills 'Tag Days'

More than \$23,000 was collected last weekend during the annual "Tag Days" fund-raiser organized by parent boosters for music departments at the Farmington district's three high schools.

Nearly \$1,000 of that amount was directly tied to the generosity of one anonymous individual. Someone walked up to three locations where money was being collected and dropped folded dollar bills into the canisters. But, according to "Tag Days" chairperson Karen Ealinger, there was quite an exciting surprise inside those bills.

One-ounce solid gold commemorative Liberty coins, with a face value of \$50, slid out of the bills when they were unfolded. "Obviously, this person wanted to be anonymous," Ealinger said.

The coins were taken to a coin shop by Holly Owen, owner of Colonial Car Wash and president of Music Patrons for Farmington High School. The estimated value of each: \$320.

That will help go a long way toward buying sheet music and other extras that are not provided for in the regular music department budget.

"Obviously, (the person) didn't want to get known," Owen said. "It's a neat thing. For one individual to do something like this is just remarkable."

Ealinger said the money will be equally divided among the three high schools, Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison. She also thanked the area businesses who participated in "Tag Days," which took place Friday, Sept. 12 and Saturday, Sept. 13.

— Tim Smith

Board to weigh religion policy



BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

A re-worked policy governing religion in Farmington schools is expected to be introduced for consideration during Tuesday's Board of Education meeting.

But, prior to the 7:30 p.m. meeting, the school board's policy committee will review the policy, to make sure all the holes are filled before taking it to the

full board, said Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

"Assuming there aren't a lot of concerns, we'll go ahead with the first reading," said Maxfield, adding that the earliest the policy revisions can be approved is the first school board meeting in October.

The committee meeting is set for 5:15 p.m. at the Farmington Training Cen-

ter, 33000 Thomas. The regular board meeting will take place at the nearby Lewis Schulman Administration Building, 32500 Shawwassee.

Maxfield said the policy, under discussion for two years, addresses "a raft of issues" cropping up in a district where students come from many different religious backgrounds. The policy was assembled by another panel, The Religion in the Schools Study Committee, chaired by district curriculum director Jerry Fouchey.

That committee is comprised of educators, clergy and parents.

Some of the issues included in the policy are: the presentation of holiday

music at school plays and/or in classrooms; whether students can be exempted from participating in activities not related to their religion; how religious holidays are observed; and the use of school facilities for guest presentations.

"We review our policies as a matter of course," said Cathy Webb, school board vice-president and chair of the board's policy review committee. "It was time for us to address this again. There have been concerns centered around religious holidays and sensitivity" to different religious beliefs.

Please see PLAN, A4

Dangerous scene



Injury crash: Six people, including three children, were treated for injuries following a three-vehicle traffic accident on 12 Mile Road, between Inkster and Middlebelt, around 5:30 p.m. Thursday. The crash occurred after a Geo Metro was struck from behind while waiting to turn left into Birmingham Temple, Hills, police said. The Geo Metro was then knocked into eastbound traffic and struck by an oncoming Ford Escort station wagon. The injured were taken to Botsford and Providence hospitals. Their injuries were not believed to be life-threatening, police said. Fire Department Battalion Chief Lee Panoushek of Farmington Hills is at left near the wrecked car.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Loud music drums up neighbors' anger

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills car stereo outlet is giving nearby residents too much trouble and store management doesn't believe the complaints are totally baseless — just misdirected.

Cora Street residents say they've continually complained about loud music coming from Mickey Shore on Eight Mile to the company and police, but the noise continues.

"It's so loud it rattles the stuff my walls ... It's mind-boggling car stereos can be allowed to be that loud," said

Julie Kula, who said the problem has been ongoing for the nine years her family has lived on Cora Street.

"I would say they're more obnoxious in the last two years."

Youthful sounds don't sit well with another Cora Street resident's 7 1/2-month-old daughter.

"You put her down for a nap and they'll put on the music, and she'll be up in a heartbeat," said Garrin Anderson about his daughter, Haley.

"You call over there and ask them to turn it down. They'll turn it down and then they all stand in the parking lot

and stare at the house."

Their latest complaint to Farmington Hills police came Wednesday after a teen, later identified as a salesman, left a stereo booming on a 1993 Ford Probe. Police talked to the teen, who said he left it on for only a minute to demonstrate the stereo to a customer.

Police spoke with the store manager, Steven Abercrombie, who said complaints should be directed at customers of the store and that he tells them to turn down the stereos.

Also, a new store policy requires sales people to bring vehicles inside

when demonstrating stereo equipment, Abercrombie said.

The store manager said he's spoken to upper management about the problem and wants to cooperate in any way, which will include posting signs to alert customers to be considerate of their neighbors.

Residents' complaints are valid "to a degree," the store manager said.

"There needs to be some understanding that we need to do business, too," Abercrombie said. "We need to exist and pay our taxes as well. As long as it

Please see LOUD, A6



It's official: Ceremonial ribbon cutters include, Calsonic President Yasuo Yamauchi, left, Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, state Rep. Andrew Raczowski and state Sen. Bill Bullard.

Calsonic's new \$15 million Hills headquarters opens



BY VIVIAN DEGAIR
STAFF WRITER

A Japanese-based automotive supplier corporation with operations in five states, Mexico and Canada, officially moved into its new North American headquarters in Farmington Hills with a grand opening Wednesday.

Calsonic North America, Inc., a subsidiary of Calsonic Corporation in Tokyo, moved from California into temporary Farmington Hills offices a year ago, but opened its new 105,000 square-foot office and testing facility

Thursday at 27000 Hills Tech Court at Halsted and 11 Mile.

The headquarters, a contemporary building with Asian and American design influences, was built at an estimated \$15 million. The firm currently employs 120 people in Farmington Hills and 10,000 in North America, and supplies, for instance, exhaust components for the 1997 Corvette.

Three test centers are housed in the brand-new complex, in addition to engineering and marketing offices. The research and development labs include a wind tunnel chamber and two electromagnetic

Please see FIRM, A2

Just a peach

Dr. Brian Nocella was giving out peaches last week. That can only mean one thing — he's a father again.

The Farmington Chiropractor gave out bananas when his son, Brice, was born 4 1/2 years ago, and Clementine tangerines when his daughter, Bailey, 2 1/2, was born.

Last week, his wife, Jacqueline, delivered their third child, Brienne Jacqueline on Sept. 12. In honor, Nocella took the other children out to an orchard where they picked 70 pounds of peaches. By Tuesday, he had handed out 30 pounds to patients at his Grand River Avenue practice, members of the Exchange Club and businesses around town. Expect

plenty of peach cobbler at the Nocella household.

Hearing the voice

High school students can earn valuable scholarship money by tuning up their patriotic sound through the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition.

Commander Sy Simonson of Farmington Hills' VFW Post 2269 said, "Young people who participate in the competition benefit by gaining a better under-

standing of their country, their freedoms and their obligation to America."

This 61st year of the contest offers its national grand prize winner a \$20,000 scholarship, with lesser denominations for state and regional winners.

Contestants need to write and record a 3- to 5-minute audio essay that fits the theme "My Voice in Our Democracy." The essay must be spoken in English with no music or enhancement allowed, and no identification of the entrant, city, state or school on the recording.

They will be judged on originality (40 percent), content (40 percent) and delivery (20 percent). Deadline is Nov. 1. For more information call VOD chairman Elden Funk at 478-1648.