

Thursday
June 4, 1998

Farmington Observer

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 111 years

HomeTown
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
Putting you in touch
with your world

VOLUME 111 NUMBER 72

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 82 PAGES • <http://observer.eccentric.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1998 HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Religious roots: Check out the plans for Our Lady of Sorrows' new Family Center and school expansion in Farmington./A2

Lights, camera: A downtown Farmington home hosts a production crew for an automobile training film./A10

COMMUNITY LIFE

Digging deep: Our Vintage Farmington column takes a look at the town's first undertaker./B1

SPORTS

4 tops: Four Farmington teams won district tournament championships Saturday: Harrison and Mercy High in softball; North Farmington and Harrison in baseball./C1

AT HOME

Magic touches: An area decorator shows how a few decorating "tricks" can make a small apartment space appear larger./D6

INDEX

At Home/D Movies/E6
Autos/J5 Obituaries/A16
Beliefs/B7-8 Opinions/A14-15
Calendar/C5 Police/10/A13
Classified/G4, J Rentals/H2
Class, Index/G4 Real Estate/G4
Crossword/G7 Service Guide/I1
Entertainment/E Sports/C
Inkwell/A11 Weddings/B4
Jobs/H5

HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 248-477-5450
Newsroom Fax: 248-477-9722
E-mail: dvarga@ee.hometown.net
Nightline/Sports: 734-953-2104
Reader Comment Line: 734-953-2042
Classified Advertising: 734-591-0900
Display Advertising: 248-901-2524
Home Delivery: 734-591-0500

Hills officials stormy after power outages

Farmington Hills residents will have a chance to talk current events with Detroit Edison officials, especially in light of lack thereof of power outages.

Many residents lost power Sunday, even though Farmington Hills sustained minimal damage in the fierce morning thunderstorm which bowled over trees and knocked out power in areas.

A meeting will take place with Edison officials 7 p.m. Thursday, June 18, at Fire Station No. 5 Community Room, Orchard Lake, south of 11 Mile. Reported power outages, including one for 12 hours in Meadowbrook Hills subdivision where City Manager Dan Hobbs lives, is partly prompting the session.

"We need to have the meeting anyway," said Hobbs, who went into the office at 6:30 p.m. to finish work that he couldn't do on his home computer. "We're not happy with the frequency or the duration of the out-

Please see POWER, A7

Catch this



Puckered for prom: As his limousine pulls away from the pre-prom photo session at Heritage Park, Harrison High School student Kevin Smith blows a kiss to his parents, Rick and Anne Smith, as he is coached off to prom at the San Marino Club in Troy. In the photograph at right, students from Farmington's Alternative Academy put a bit of humor into their pose. Shown, from left, are Erica Hall, Michelle Simonovic, Jessica Lewis and Crystal Scott. For more peeks at both proms, see Page A4.



What issues?

Limited campaign marks board race

Weather seems to be stirring up this year's race for the Farmington Board of Education more than anything else, according to incumbent candidate Jack Inch.

"I lost quite a few signs right off their frames" during Sunday morning's severe thunderstorm, said the 67-year-old Inch, one of five candidates vying for two board seats in the Monday election. "Let me know if you need a few empty frames."

But strong wind can't quite inflate what Inch said has been a low-key campaign so far, with no real controversial issues or upstart personalities making political waves.

"This has been a foggy election," Inch said Tuesday. "I'm not sure if any issues have been defined. In general, people are satisfied with the operation of the Farmington (school) board. So it's difficult to run against incumbents."

Inch and incumbent Cathy Webb recently earned the endorsement of the

**School board candidates answer our questions. Page A3.
See our endorsements. Page A14**

Michigan Education Association, and are united philosophically about what it takes to effectively run the board. Another organizational endorsement, the Farmington Area Republican Club, was not disclosed as of press time; the League of Women Voters interviewed, but did not endorse.

Webb, running for her third term, also agrees with Inch that the lack of controversy equates to residents being happy with current board leadership.

"I really don't see any controversy," Webb said. "But we were all willing to see and hear and have the opportunity to participate in the (Democratic Club/Farmington PTA-sponsored) candidate's debate (on May 28)."

"And I don't think there was any controversy or a great deal of difference among the candidates. I would tend to

Please see VOTE, A7

Hoedown tickets available

The 25th anniversary of Farmington Hills is an occasion to kick up your heels. The celebration committee is planning a "Coach House" Hoedown at 6 p.m. Friday, June 26, at the Botsford Inn.

Square dancing will follow the music of Caller Jim Tait & the Golden Griffon Stringtet. To help celebrate the farming heritage, diners will eat Dutch oven-baked chicken or hickory-smoked ham. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are \$25 per person, and space is limited. Call 653-2344 for reservations.

The event is part of a weekend celebration featuring an afternoon ceremony, musical entertainment

FARMINGTON FOCUS

and fireworks on Saturday.

Calling all model car buffs

Get out your glue and glasses. The 25th anniversary of Farmington Hills committee is hosting a model car/truck contest open to all residents of the city. Models from 1973 or earlier years will be acceptable.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place and the models will be on display in the Spicer

Store walkers say replace Farmer Jack

Martha Turner likes to walk for her groceries, but the 88-year-old pedestrian's steps, not to mention her shopping habits, will be greatly deterred if Farmer Jack closes as expected.

The Farmington Place resident, who shared her concerns with a sympathetic Farmington City Council Monday night, passed out 150 fliers in the senior apartment complex where she lives on Grand River.

Notices urge residents to write to the Downtown Center's owner, Kimco Realty, asking that another grocery store go in its place. Farmington council members agree. "The point is walking to the store," said Turner, who is a native of Edinburgh, Scotland. "It's not going to affect me as far as buying groceries. It's the walk."

"There are so many who walk over there to do their shopping."

Farmer Jack officials won't con-

City officials worry too. Page A5

firm the downtown store is closing, but they informed employees that its doors will shut June 27.

Turner and other Farmington Place residents are driven by van to Kroger regularly for their shopping needs.

However, only seven residents can go at a time and they're limited to buying only a week's worth of groceries. Without being able to walk downtown, they lose some independence, Turner said.

"So many of us don't have cars and we have no way of shopping."

Another downtown resident is upset at the news, too.

Pat Kaunelis, who has lived on Oakland Street for 10 years, has also seen Kroger close in the Grand/Inlet Plaza and Cattleman's Market in the Uptown Plaza.

Please see STORE, A5

Home at Heritage Park on Saturday, June 27.

Participants should bring their models to the Spicer House that day 8:30-10:30 a.m. The cars will be on display along with an art exhibit that day. Model-makers should pick up their miniature cars or trucks 5-6 p.m. that day.

Joe's Hobby Center, 35203 Grand River in the Drakeville Plaza, is one of the suggested businesses which offers the types of model necessary for the competition. But appropriate-year models from any business will be accepted.

To enter, call contest organizer Joe Derek, city naturalist, at 473-9574.

