

Farmington Observer

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VOLUME 111 NUMBER 89 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 46 PAGES http://observer.eccentric.com SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS © 1998 HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Park it: Family Day in the Park takes place noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at Heritage Park on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

MONDAY

Council gathering: Farmington City Council meets at 8 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Among the topics will be the Eight Mile Boulevard Association.

TUESDAY

HMO lowdown: Joyce Hunt of the Area Agency on Aging will talk about managed care and HMOs 10:30 a.m. at the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center.

WEDNESDAY

Business briefs: Business Network International Farmington Hills meets 7 a.m. at the Grand Cafe in downtown Farmington.

INDEX

■ Opinion	A4
■ Obituaries	A6
■ Agendas	A6
■ Police calls	A6
■ Classified Index	H3
Real Estate	E1
Crossword	E7
Jobs	H1
Automotive	J1
Home & Service	J3
Taste	B1
Business	B4
Arts & Leisure	C1
Sports & Recreation	D1

Racial slurs prompt swift response

It might have begun as a prank. But nobody is laughing about last Sunday night's discovery of two cardboard posters, one covered with words of hate against African Americans, which were found on the front porch of Rainbow Rehabilitation in Farmington.

And the pranksters, three teenagers who attend Farmington High School, face charges in Oakland County Probate Court for violating the state's ethnic intimidation law, said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

Goss said there were no indications that the teens, ages 15-16, were targeting Rainbow Rehabilitation, 23825 Gill Road. There are blacks among those who live and work at the center.

"People need to understand that, not only does the community take this seriously," Goss said, "but that there are severe penalties for this kind of behavior provided by state law. This is a very serious matter. I think they got themselves into some pretty hot water."

He added that he didn't think the trio "understood the seriousness of their actions ... Why would you do something like that?"

Please see SLURS, A2

Man charged in murder



After a lengthy extradition process, James Field Summerville returned to face first-degree murder charges in the brutal slaying of a Farmington Hills man.

Thin and shackled at the ankles, James Field Summerville stood mute Friday at his arraignment on first-degree murder charges before 47th District Judge Maria Parker.

Summerville, 28, is charged with the May 1996 murder of Mikhail Ellis, 32. Ellis' decomposed body was found in his Independence Green Apartment by

Farmington Hills police. The Wayne County Probate Court worker had been stabbed 46 times.

Summerville was charged with first-degree, premeditated murder, which carries a punishment of life in prison without parole upon conviction, and first-degree felony murder.

Parker set 8:30 a.m. Aug. 7 for a pre-

trial hearing. Summerville, who appeared without legal counsel, requested a court-appointed attorney.

The defendant, who listed his sister's Warren apartment as his current residence, requested bond be set.

The prosecution argued that Summerville, who first fled to Ohio, then Kentucky and finally Minnesota where he fought extradition to Michigan, would be a flight risk. He also failed to appear in court on six prior occasions related to traffic matters.

Please see ARRAIGNMENT, A2



James Summerville

Polling their share



Rarin' to go: Harry and Philomena Faris will be among the many precinct workers out at the polls Tuesday.

Precinct pair

Couple casts sights on Election Day

The following scenario happens after every election for a Farmington couple. And Tuesday's primary probably will bring more of the same.

After putting in 14 hours or more toiling at election precincts for the city of Farmington, Harry and Philomena Faris go home and decide enough is enough.

"We say, 'Geez, why do we do this? I don't know if I'm going to do it again,'" said 76-year-old Harry Faris, sitting with his 78-year-old wife, nicknamed Phil, on their back porch.

But weeks and months pass, and slowly, too, does their resistance to the idea. The Farises start thinking about the people they work with at the polls. They think about the interesting conversations with total strangers from all walks of life who come to vote.

They do a complete turnaround by the time Farmington City Clerk Patsy Cantrell or Deputy Clerk Janice Schmidt calls to ask them to help again. The Farises, residents in Farmington since 1973, have worked

■ **'When it comes time again, and (City Clerk) Patsy (Cantrell) is on the phone asking us to work the election ... we change our minds.'**

Harry Faris
—Precinct worker

the city's elections since 1993.

"When it comes time again, and Patsy is on the phone asking us to work the election ... we change our minds," continued Harry, a one-time delegate for the Republican Party. "We say it's a great number of hours, but it only happens a couple times a year. If it were once a week, I wouldn't be doing it."

There is one caveat: The Farises won't chair the precincts. They prefer being among the underlings because, said Harry, "if you want to go on a trip or something, it's not as impor-

See election letters, Page A4
tant 'but you're there.'"

It's a long, busy day

Tuesday, starting at 7 a.m., Harry and Phil will be at it again. As usual, he'll be working at Precinct 1, based out of Farmington City Hall. She'll be over at the Farmington Training Center, where voters registered in precincts 5-6 will help decide various races and the \$11.7 million Farmington Community Library tax proposal. Precinct 5 voters normally cast ballots at Longene Elementary School, but ongoing construction there forced the switch.

Their duties include: putting up precinct signs before polls open; checking in registered voters; making sure ballots are properly cast and deposited without jamming machines; and wrapping everything up into a nice, neat, error-free package after the election.

They work out of different

Please see PAIR, A2

FARMINGTON'S AUG. 4 PRIMARY Election '98

GOVERNOR

REPUBLICANS

- John Engler
- Gary Artinlan

DEMOCRATS

- Larry Owen
- Doug Ross
- Geoffrey Flegler

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL

33TH DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN

- Joe Knollenberg

DEMOCRAT

- Travis M. Reeds

STATE LEGISLATURE

15TH SENATE DISTRICT

REPUBLICANS

- Bill Bullard, Jr.
- Barbara Dobb

DEMOCRAT

- S. Ruth Fuller

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

37TH DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN

- Andrew Rackowski

DEMOCRAT

- Steve Dibort

OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

32TH DISTRICT

REPUBLICANS

- David Moffitt
- Linda Jolicoeur
- Laurie Wine

DEMOCRAT

- Ryan Gesund

10TH DISTRICT

REPUBLICANS

- Terry Sever
- Ben Marks
- JoAnne F. Molin

DEMOCRAT

- Deborah J. Goldberg

NON PARTISAN SECTION

JUDICIAL

OAKLAND CIRCUIT COURT 6TH DISTRICT

- Richard D. Kuhn, Jr.
- Colleen O'Brien
- Steven Kaplan

PROPOSAL 5

OAKLAND COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

MILLAGE AUTHORITY

- Yes
- No

If approved, this proposal will renew the 0.33 mills levied by the Oakland County Transportation Authority in 1997 and allow continued support to the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) for a public transportation system serving the elderly, handicapped and general public of Oakland County.

LIBRARY MILLAGE PROPOSAL

- Yes
- No

Passage of this proposal of .60 mills (60 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value of property in the Farmington Community Library District for 15 years starting Dec. 31) will provide for operating expenses and debt retirement for a renovated and expanded Farmington Hills Branch Library, and enhanced services, including, but not limited to, expanded days and hours of operation, increased book collection and other materials and additional technology.

In each precinct, there will be opportunity to choose delegates to the county convention.

Eager readers to be rewarded

Some 3,000 children are reading this summer in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area as participants in the "Reading is Din-o-mite" Summer Reading Club at the Farmington Community Library. They will be taking part in a special celebration which will be held Monday, Aug. 3, 7-8:30 p.m. at the William Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

This program will be co-sponsored by the Farmington Community Library, Farmington Hills Special Services and the Farmington YMCA.

This event will feature sidewalk art, face painting, book swaps, exotic pets, inline skating safety tips,

FARMINGTON FOCUS

hayrides and more. San of the music group Gemini will perform at 7:15 p.m. Free swimming is available also-tickets can be obtained at the pool door starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are limited to 150.

This event is free of charge. If you need more information about this program, call the Children's Department of the Farmington Community Library at (248) 848-4315.

Voter guide on-line

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is offering a voters guide for Tuesday's primary online at www.mclib.mi.us/~lwvml

The league compiled the information by contacting candidates for biographical information and answers to questions on issues.

The answers are printed as submitted and have not been edited, except for necessary cutting when replies exceeded the stated word limitations.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization and does not endorse candidates. The league takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the candidates' statements.

