# Farminaton Observer

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 111 years

Putting you in touch

#### Performing tonight



Stars: Dean Cobb,
Farmington Public Schools
telecommunication director,
directs the younger
members of the "Oliver"
cast. The production
continues tonight at 7:30 at
North Farmington High
School.

Agenda: The Farmington Hills City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. in city hall, 31555 11 Mile.

#### TUESDAY

Schools: The Farmington Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the board offices.

#### WEDNESDAY

Hearing: The library board will meet at 7 p.m. in the Hills library for a hearing on the millage.

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#### Northwest couple waits to take flight

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STATP WAITER

The turbulence of being on atrike aubsided for one Farmington Hills family as news of a possible settlement in Northwest Airlines pilots' 14-day walkout came Thursday night.

Phil Young, a Northwest captain and pilot, and his wife Elicen, a flight attendant, are happy there appears to be a resolution. The 6,200-member pilots' union had yet to ratify the tentative deal, but the association's executive council is expected to vote on Saturday.

As of Friday, Phil didn't know when he'd be back flying. Northwest officials said full service should return in eight to 10 days.

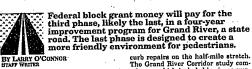
Young's wife is on leave from her flight attendants job but, like other 30,000 other workers, received a layoff notice as a result of the strike.

"It's too bad it went this long," said Young, who has been a Northwest pilot nearly 20 years. I always thought we'd generally a layout the said off."

During the past two weeks, Young has kept himself busy by catching up on house



# **Grand River hits stride**



Grand River corridor improvements have stepped into third gear and are in the home stretch.

The city of Farmington Hills has started work on what will likely be the last of the four-year and multi-phased project to improve the stretch of state road. The city is using \$300,000 in community block grant money to pay for Phase III.

The overall purpose is to make Grand River from Eight Milo to Orchard Lake more pedestrian-friendly and inviting.

Orchard Lake more pedestrian-friendly and inviting.

"If you look between the sidewalks and the road, there is just a hodge-podge of stuff," said Rick Lampi, Hills Community Development coordinator.

"This is a process of recapturing the right of vay and greenbelt area between the sidewalk and street."

Sidewalk extensions and pedestrian lighting are part of the plan as well as

curb repairs on the half-mile stretch.
The Grand River Corridor study committee – which included business owners, residents, planning commission, city council and Economic Development Corporation members – developed the rehabilitation plan in 1994.
Thase I covered both sides of Grand River from Middlebelt to Eight Mile. Phase II involved work from Middlebelt to Tuck Road near the West River Center while Phase III will go westward to Orchard Lake.
Phase I and II were completed with \$700,000 of block grant money with help from the Michigan Department of Transportation.
Economic Development Corporation also contributed money for a now entrance sign at Grand River and Eight Mile while Ameritech removed several old utility poles, saving the city considerable money.
Business owners are enthused, too.
I think it will make it look really

turing the right of way and greenbelt area between the sidewalk and street.'

Rick Lampi

—Hills Community development coordinator

nice," said Tom Davidson of Henderson Glass. "I think it opens up the area and, with the lighting, will make it look beautiful."

The project has already garnered statewide attention, winning the Michigan Society of Planning Officials planning repeiet award in 1996. Members of the Michigan Community Development Association will tour the site in October.

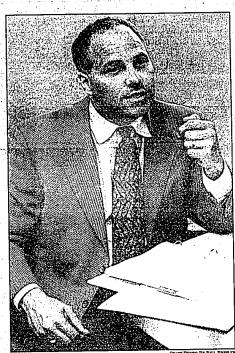
More importantly, the work has inspired property owners and others to get involved, Lampi said.

"We had three vacant auto dealerships on that corridor when we started this project; now, we have none," Lampi said.



PART TWO

Touching up: Cement workers put the finishing touches on the curb in front of the U Haul building on Grand River.



Going global: Larry Lobert, executive director of personnel in Farmington Public Schools, touts a new, online method of attracting top-quality teacher candidates and finding out where their talents are best needed. The two-way, interactive database gives building principals and teachers from all over the world the opportunity to meet electronically.

EDUCATION UNDER FIRE BY TIM SMITH · STAFF·WRITER

## Schools log on to find the best

o far, school district per-sonnel departments don't have fancy computer soft-ware that instantly signals "good hire" or "bad hire" when candidates for teaching jobs come calling.

"good hire" or "bad hire" when candidates for teaching jobs come calling. Through technologically aided hiring practices now established in Farmington Public Schools, that day might be getting closer. A new application expety online for specific jobs. Those who make it beyond the carry stages then are figured by stages then are figured by the stage of the carry stages then are figured by the day of the carry stages then are figured by the day of the carry stages then are figured by the day of the carry stages then are figured by the day of the carry stages then are figured by the day of the carry stages the are the system of the carry stages and the peep the five stages of the carry stages of the

Please see SCHOOLS, A3

selection includes the following steps:

- El Position is posted on Farmington Public Schools Web alta, job line, colleges and universities, profes-sional organizations and all school districts in the tricounty area.
- thicounty area.

  2 Applicant submits mail application and screener and is sutematically assigned an applicant number Paper credentials are flowarded via regular mail.

  2 Applicant himmation is advantaged and applicant number paper credentials are flowarded via regular mail.

  3 Applicant himmation is demonsted into a database. Other information is added to district controlled data fields for use in screening. A principal's report form is produced, summarizing all applicants for position and sorted according to stated preferences.
- preferences.

  First 24 questions of Gallup SRI Teacher Perceiver re given to top 15-20 qualified candidates in order to develop building interview last of 6-20 finalists, interviews are scheduled. Electronic application are printed and forwided to building joint will mailed in credenillas. Personnel department sends letters to nor-finelists.

  Building interview toam meets to develop candidate
- mailed in credentials. Personnel department sensitetiers to non-infelists.

  Building Interview toam meets to develop candidate profile, interview and other acticulous strategials. The building selection process measure the profile interview and other acticulous strategials. The building selection process measure that appendix normal selection process measure that appendix in a series of the selection of the selection of the selection series. Principale conducts reference checks, completes recommendation to hire forms and forwards all materials to the personnel office.

  Personnel director completes 8RI interview, reviews all application treatments, ensures compliance with district procedures and applicable laws and confers with principal.

  Candidate is given conditional offer of employment. Notification is given to all other applicants.

  Recommendation for employment made to the school board.

### **Bounty**

#### Master gardener sows involvement

By TIM SMITH
BY ATTER

Then Carel Hyska bought her

Ward was nothing but a patch
of flat, green grass.

Now look at it.

The bounty that comes from Hyska's
award-winning garden includes everything from thick, juicy becistesk tomatees and lemon verbena tea to sweetly
perfumed heliotrope flowers and rows
of basil. It's enough to make a fullfledged farmer jenlous.

"I make the best peato in the world,"
said a proud-but-not-boastful Hyska,
recently recruited to the Farmington
Beautifleation Committee.

But the advanced master gardener
has a lot mere in her life's solad bowl
than pop-in-your-mouth cherry tomatoes plucked from the perineter of her
home. Following are just a few of her

many endeavors:

Volunteering in the "Friends" program at Betsford General Hospital, cheering up patients.

Protecting her street as block captain of the neighborhood watch.

Entering – and winning – a blue ribbon in the recent Michigan State Fair. Hyskat sentry of golden marjornam won in the oregane category of the dried herbs contest. Her entry was on display throughout the two-week fair.

fair Guiding visitors as a docent through the Warner Mansion on Grand River in Farmington.

"I'm a guide that imparts historical facts," said Hyska, who always puts a light spin on things. "Actually, I always say you teach hysterical things."

Meanwhile, she'd like to see the hal-

lowed old home and "beautiful" grounds being used to greater capaci-ty, "I'd like to see it busy. I mean busy."

busy.

And, on top of everything clse, Hyska, a native of Green Bay, Wis., has time to root for her beloved football Packers. In fact, she still retains season tickets to seats at Lambeau Field, which has a 10-year waiting list and makes obtaining Red Wings heckey tickets seem like a walk in the park.

park.
"Am I a Packer fan? Are you kidding?" joked Hyska. "I danced with (legendary coach) Vince Lombardi when I was 17."

She knew it was good

Beginning with the concrete wel-come mat inscribed, "Welcome To My

Please see GARDENER, A4



Involved: Carol Hyska has a green thumb, not to mention a resume of community involvement.