

Farmington Observer

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Sunday October 24, 1999

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 113 years.

VOLUME 113 NUMBER 9

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 62 PAGES • <http://observer.eccentric.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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We're making a list and checking it twice

Are you affiliated with a group or organization that is planning a cool holiday activity or program? If so, the Observer Newspapers would like to hear from you. Send us the information about your activity or program and we'll include it in our upcoming holiday shopper.

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Letters must be postmarked by Friday, Nov. 5.



THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Vote: Students at Farmington, North and Harrison high schools will participate in a mock election.

WEDNESDAY

Listen: The public is invited to a candidate forum hosted by the Council of Homeowners Association at 7 p.m. in Farmington Hills City Hall.

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Police: Stolen drug likely to kill



Someone stole a shipment of a drug used by anesthesiologists from Muirwood Apartments. Police are concerned that the thief may not have a clue about the seriousness of the drug, which can cause death.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
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Authorities have issued a warning after a shipment of a drug anesthesiologists use during surgery was stolen from a Farmington Hills apartment.

A pharmaceutical representative told police \$2,000 of Raplon was stolen from his residence on Highland Park Court in Muirwood Apartments Oct. 8. He made a report on Wednesday after discovering the theft.

'I have to believe the person responsible didn't know what they were stealing.'

Bill Dwyer
—Hills police chief

Raplon is a surgical muscle relaxant and can cause death if taken, police said. The fear is whomever stole the package may not be aware of the drug's

lethal nature. The person might try to sell it or ingest the drug himself, Chief Bill Dwyer said.

"I have to believe the person responsible didn't know what they were stealing," Dwyer said.

The package had 80 plastic vials of the drug in liquid form. The manufacturer, Organon, shipped the package from a warehouse in Allentown, Pa., Oct. 5.

On Oct. 8, the courier service R.P.S.

Please see DRUG, A5

Mayor winds down

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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At Wednesday's quadrant meeting, Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi finished what he started.

As Vagnozzi's term as elected mayor is winding down, the neighborhood meeting was his last. He started the quarterly meetings as a way for city officials to meet residents outside the confines of city hall.

Fittingly, the last forum took place at St. Alexander's Catholic Church where he's a member. City Manager Steve Brock, Mayor Pro-Tam Nancy Bates and Councilwoman Vicki Barnett joined Vagnozzi for the summit.

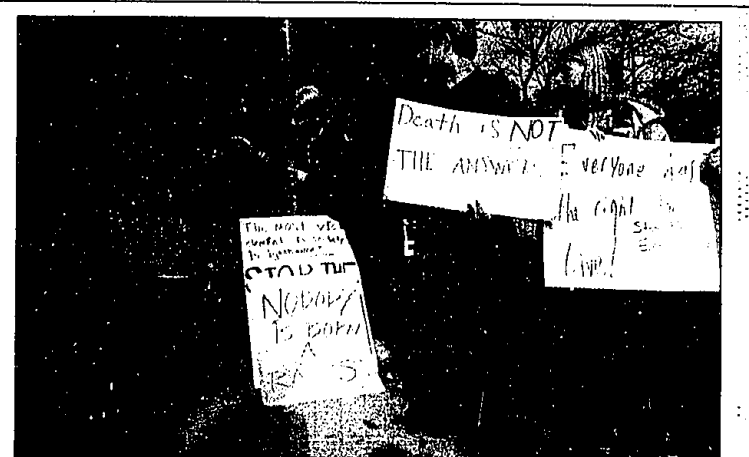
A handful of residents who live in the city's southeast corner asked questions, passed on their concerns and wished the outgoing mayor well.

"Thank you very much for all you've done, Alde," said Willow Lane resident

Please see MAYOR, A5



Aldo: Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi presided over his last quadrant meeting.



Protest: Beth Weingarden, Tara Link, Jessica Musinski, Adam Steinberg and Mary Wright read and listen to excerpts from a book by Mumia Abu-Jamal during a protest of the man's planned execution.

Students protest execution

BY TIM SMITH
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A group of about 20 Harrison High School students gathered peacefully around the flag pole Wednesday morning to protest the imminent execution of African-American journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Beginning at about 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, during their home room, students listened to readings

from Abu-Jamal's book "Life From Death Row" and other pamphlets. They also created and then carried placards with proclamations such as "The Most Violent Element In Society Is Ignorance," "Stop the Execution," "What If It Were You?" and "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal."

Junior Jessica Musinski said she and sophomore Tara Link organized the independent rally, held exactly one week after the Pennsylvania governor signed Abu-Jamal's death

warrant. He was convicted in 1982 of murdering a Pennsylvania police officer in what his supporters say was a rigged trial; his recent appeal to that state's supreme court was turned down.

"I'm anti-death penalty anyway, and then I heard about this," said Jessica, about what prompted her to put the protest together.

Sophomore Adam Steinberg said

Please see PROTEST, A6

Committee, Edison to talk power

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Detroit Edison and Farmington Hills city officials will meet — again.

As a follow-up to the Detroit Edison Citizens Committee forum in September, both sides will talk about what's at the root of

MONDAY, OCT. 25

numerous power outages in the city. The meeting is 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25, at Farmington Hills City Hall. The study session is open to the public.

"This is an opportunity to review with city council plans for special projects to improve reliability in areas of Farmington Hills where reliability may not meet our standards," said Lou Layton, Detroit Edison spokesman.

At the session, Edison officials will address special concerns brought up during the last meeting.

In the past, Edison officials blamed trees for power outages. Hills elected officials are stumped, complaining some residents have

Please see EDISON, A5



Say no to hypocrisy: Milton Creagh said adults need to clean up their act about drugs and alcohol before kids can follow suit.

Bates counts on legislative experience

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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If one wants to paint a broad stripe on Nancy Bates' public service, they might use the Nike swoosh.

"You look on the back of this," said Bates, referring to her brochure that lists all her committee involvement. "There's no member of council as active as I am in all these things."

"I don't toot my own horn a lot. I just do it."

Bates is running for Farmington Hills mayor in the Nov. 2 election. The mayor pro-tem is vying with George Sarkisian for the two-year term.

The 10-year city council member is involved in numerous organizations,

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including the National League of Cities and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

On Friday, Bates traveled to Lansing to testify on behalf of SEMCOG on Act 51 road funding as vice-chair of the regional planning council's Transportation Committee.

Her knowledge of state and national legislation was accumulated as former state Rep. Jan Delem's assistant. "Ten years on council you learn a thing or two," Bates added.

She expects her legislative background to be helpful, especially as more

Speaker asks why adults don't say no

BY TIM SMITH
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Too many American youths hear adults preaching the "Say No to Drugs" mantra. But then they see them drink a cocktail or smoke a marijuana joint.

The hypocrisy of it, said Milton Creagh of Atlanta, is prompting kids to close their ears and embrace various substances. In order for children to make right choices, they need to see that the adult "role models" in their life do the same thing, he emphasized with passion throughout the 11th annual Farmington Families in Action community breakfast at the William Costick

Activities Center.

It doesn't help that 74 percent of illegal drug users in America are "in the work force."

Creagh then asked those in attendance whether any of them were representatives from major businesses such as Compuware and Ford Motor Co. Nobody stood up or raised their hand.

"It's ludicrous, it's stupid," said Creagh about the lack of work-force representatives.

"At some point in this country we have to have the guts to say, 'It's bad for kids to get high and it's bad for

Please see SAY NO, A7



Nancy Bates

Please see BATES, A6



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