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Halloween



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEEGLER

Having fun: Katie McManus, Farmington Observer receptionist, will be on hand at the Observer office, 33411 Grand River, to greet trick or treaters 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday during the Halloween Fun Fest in downtown Farmington.

IN THE READER TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE

Spooky: A local historian, tells us about especially spooky and haunted spots around town, such as the old Botsford House - all in time for Halloween. /B1

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Hills vet faces charge

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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A Farmington Hills veterinarian could face a fine and jail time if convicted on a charge he operated without a license for 1 1/2 years. The vet's attorney contends the matter is an administrative oversight and his client is being hounded by a woman who holds him responsible for her dog's death. The Oakland County prosecutor doesn't agree. On Wednesday, Michael Scott Kahana appeared in 47th District Court for a pretrial conference on practicing without a veterinarian's license. A trial date is set for Feb. 22. If convicted, the misdemeanor carries a penalty of 90 days in jail and/or a \$600 fine. "The thing is he let it lapse for one

Please see VET, A6

Drug efforts boosted

■ The schools' plan to hire someone to coordinate substance abuse efforts meets with the blessings of at least one adviser.

BY TIM SMITH
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Despite the efforts of many agencies and organizations, drug and alcohol use among youths continues to be a problem all over society - including Farmington and Farmington Hills. "In the last three weeks, we've had seven or eight referrals from various schools for students caught drinking alcohol or smoking marijuana," said Gary Dymek of Farmington Area Counseling Centers Inc., a division of Oakland Family Services. "One kid was smoking marijuana in welding class. So, we've recently had an influx."

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Dymek added that "We see a number of young people from the high schools who have experimented with marijuana ... hallucinogens. It is a problem, it is an issue." That so many referrals are coming in the middle of "Sober October" indicates more needs to be done to combat the serious and growing problem. Dymek, therefore, sees no reason why anybody would criticize Farmington Public Schools - and some have - for deciding to pay a salary of about \$70,000 to hire an administrative coordinator for the many existing programs. Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield said the school board could hire the Safe and Drug Free Schools coordinator as soon as Tuesday's 7:30 p.m. meeting. The front-runner is Esterlee Michaelson, a 28-year district veteran whose duties would be similar to what she currently does. Maxfield, however, emphasized that Michaelson would join the administrative team and her current faculty position would be eliminated.

Federal grant
A \$50,000 federal Drug Free Schools grant will be used to pay for part of Michaelson's salary and run the program, Maxfield said. "We will not have duplicate positions," Maxfield explained. "The intent is to create an administrative position because we believe a person in that role allows us a different schedule and gives a person a certain status in dealing with community groups. The two positions are almost comparable." Maxfield said Michaelson, if she is the choice, would work a few months more than she does in her current position. Additional salary would reflect the longer work year. "The administra-

Please see DRUGS, A6

Running for hope

BY TIM SMITH
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One by one, participants in last weekend's Make a Difference 24-Hour Marathon of Hope ran through the registration tent in the Downtown Farmington Center parking lot. They grabbed some water, or strawberries, and carried on for another lap.

■ DOWNTOWN

As physically taxing as it was, there was a payoff for running endless 1-mile circuits through the streets of downtown Farmington from 5 p.m. Saturday until 5 p.m. Sunday. Participants, such as 1993 Farmington High School graduate Dave Clinard and Chip Bridges, coach of the Falcons cross country team, knew the one-day pounding their bodies were taking was for a great cause, to raise money for child amputees in Africa. It was esti-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEEGLER

At the top: Attorney Richard Wilmering holds the Mayor's Trophy, after he was awarded it during annual Farmington beautification awards ceremonies. Wilmering renovated the house that captured the attention of the city's beautification commission.

Beautification And the 1998 winners are ...

BY TIM SMITH
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Captured: The H.R. Krueger Machine Tool Co. captured the Chamber of Commerce beautification award.

Cleaning up in more ways than one are Farmington businesses, who dominated Tuesday's list of recipients during the City of Farmington Beautification Commission's 30th annual awards breakfast. Many individual merchants left Botsford Inn with certificates or plaques - as did churches, schools, shopping centers and area apartments and condominiums. Big winners were H.R. Krueger Machine Tool Co., capturing the Chamber of Commerce award, and attorney Richard P. Wilmering, who received the Mayor's Trophy. More than 100 awards were given for plantings, window displays, renovations and overall visual appearance.

"I was very surprised and very proud that the city thought enough of me and the building to give that kind of award," said Wilmering, who combined a \$50,000 grant from the Farmington Downtown Development Authority (through Metrobank) and \$15,000-\$20,000 of his own money to renovate the 130-year-old office building at 32716 Grand River. Several concurred that there is a

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connection between businesses being lean, mean ... and clean. "You can't produce a good product out of a building that's a dump," said Krueger Executive Vice President Scott L. Moore. "We take pride in all facets. Our attitude about our property carries through in everything we do." Please see BEAUTY, A7



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMLUX

On the run: Joining the Make a Difference effort were runners (left to right) John Conat, Dave Williams and Paul Templar.

ated that about \$20,000 was generated, via per-mile pledges and other business and corporate support. Despite mediocre attendance, organizers were generally happy with the results. "We want to do it again, here," said David Williams, a Farmington businessman who founded Make A Difference along with Zimbabwean amputee

Please see RUN, A11

Watchdogs take a bite out of fraud

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Farmington Hills' self-styled consumer watchdog organization is getting noticed for taking a bite out of fraud. So far, WJR-AM's Joe "The Appliance Doctor" Gagnon and WXYZ-TV's Call for Action have thrown their support behind the recently formed city committee comprised of volunteers. The biggest pat on the back may yet come from Farmington Hills City Council, which is going to consider extending the Consumer Protection Committee for another two years, if not permanently. The committee formed earlier this year and met for the first time in June. "It's a hard-working committee; I have a hard time keeping up with them," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi at Monday's council meeting. "They met

Please see FRAUD, A13

