FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN - 80 PAGES INTO // Observer-eccentric com // Seventy-Five Cents

Halloween



Having fun: Katie McManus, Having tun: Natic 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.



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 STAFF WRITER loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

A Farmington Hills veterinariancould face a fine and jail time if convicted on a charge he aperated without a license for 1h years.

The vot's attorney contends the
matter is an administrative oversight
and his client is being hounded by a
woman who holds him responsible for
her dogs doath. The Oakland County
prosecutor doesn't agree.

On Wednesday, Michael Scott
Kahan appeared in 47th District
Caurt for a pretrial conference on
practicing without a veterinarian's
license. A trid date is set for Feb. 22.

If convicted, the misdemeanor carriess a penalty of 90 days in jail and/or
a \$500 fine.

The thing is he let it lapse for one

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Drug efforts $\mathbf{boosted}$

E The schools' plan to hire someone to coordinate sub-stance abuse efforts meets with the blessings of at least one adviser.

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER tsmith@oc.homecomm.net



Despite the efforts of

Despite the efforts of many agencies and organizations, drug and elected use among 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 Centera 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 marijua-na ... hallucinogens. It is a problem, it is an iegue".

na ... hallucinogens. It is a problem, it is an issue."

That so many referrals are coming in the middle of "Sober Octobey" indicates more needs to be done to combat the serious and growing problem. Dynac would criticize Farmington Public Schools – and some have – for deciding to pay a salary of about 570,000 to him to many existing programs.

Farmington schools Superintendent Bub Maxfield said the school band could hire the Safe and Drug Free Schools coordinator as soon as Tuesday's 7:30 p.m. meeting. The front-runer is Estelee 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 climinated.

Federal grant

tion would be eliminated.

Federal grant
A \$50,000 federal Drug Free Schools
grant will be used to pay for part of
Michnelson'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 cumparable."

Maxfield said Michnelson, 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-



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.

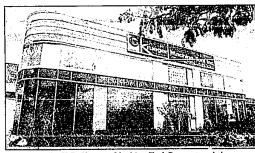
Beautification

And the 1998 winners are ...

Cleaning up in more ways than one are Parmington husinesses, who dominated Tuesday's list of recipient during the City of Farmington Beautification Commission's 30th annual awards breakfist.

Many individual merchants left Butsford Inn with certificates or plaques – as did churches, schools, shopping centers and annual mount of the commerce of the commerce award, and autorney Richard P. Wilmering, who received the Mayor's Trophy. More than 100 awards were given for plantings, window displays, recovations and overall visual appearance.

Another special navard was presented by Farmington Assistant City Manager Bill Richards to Rosemary Fitzpatrick, whom he introduced as 'Miss Farmington Beautification,' Fitzpatrick is retiring and moving to Florida, following a long, distinguished career on the commission.



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

"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 Develop-ment Authority (through Metroback) and \$15,000-\$20,000 of bis own moment proposity, the 130his 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

Running for hope

One by one, participants in last weekend's Make a Difference 24-Hour Mirathon of Hope ran through the reg-istration teat in the Downtown Farm-ington 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 6 p.m. Sunday.
Participants, such as 1993 Farmington High School graduate Dave Clinard and Chip Bridges, coach of the Falcons cross country team, know the one-day pounding their bodies were taking was for a great cause, to raise money for child amputees in Africa. It was estitated to the control of the control of



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

mated that about \$20,000 was generated, via per-mile pledges and other husiness and corporate support. Despite mediocra attendance, organizers were generally happy with the results.

"We want to do it again, here," said David Williams, a Farmington busi-nessman who founded Make A Differ-ence along with Zimbabwean amputee

Please see RUN, All

Watchdogs take a bite out of fraud

By LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER InconnorGoe.homecomm.net

FAFF WHTEH

Farmington Hills' self-styled consumer watchdog organization is getting noticed for taking a bite out of fraud.

So far, Will-AM's Joe "The Appliance Doctor" Gagnon and WYYZ-TU'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 consulter 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

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