

INKWELL

MILITARY HONORS

Cadet Mark Cohen, a 12th grader at Howe Military School in Indiana, was named to the Headmaster's List for the third six weeks grading period of the school year. He is the son of Asha Cohen of Farmington Hills.

FARM HONORS

The following Farmington

Hills residents were named to the Honor Roll for the fourth marking period at St. Mary's Preparatory School in Orchard Lake:

Robert Aravalo, George Gopalan, Joseph Hitter, Juan Rojas, John Sterbling, Andrew Williams and Michael Zakaria.

Arthritis Today

Dr. J. M. W. M.D. RHEUMATOLOGIST
10000 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Phone: (248) 478-2900

MAINTENANCE

You should give yourself the same consideration you would give to your car. If your vehicle has over 50,000 miles on it, you expect to spend more time and money on maintenance.

1. Take care of your body. Time is more important than money. For your joints, the best way to exercise them is to use them. The exercise need not be strenuous, but it should be done at least 30 minutes a day, 5-6 days of the week. Walking is fine. If your arthritis is in the legs and arms, swimming, then swimming or exercise in a pool are excellent substitutes. Using a stationary bike or treadmill is appropriate if weather or other conditions make walking in your neighborhood impractical.

The second aspect of maintenance is diet. You need to make sure you include milk or cheese, that is, but your meals with meat, and increase the fish in your diet. Use fruits and vegetables with attention, and stop the habit of completing your meal with a slice of cake or pie.

You need not spend more time or money on food, but be thoughtful in what you select.

The third aspect of personal maintenance is rest. You may not need more than 8 hours a day, but it is possible that going to bed with the intent of arising 8 hours later is no longer appropriate. If your schedule permits, consider resting 9-7 hours at night, with additional time, from 20 minutes to an hour, later, as a nap during the day.

Remember, personal maintenance is both to repair wear and prevent it.

Time Warner wants Vagnozzi off panel

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER
jhubbard@ecce.com

While former Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi feels he can be objective in reviewing a contentious franchise agreement between Time Warner Cable and the communities it serves, Time Warner clearly disagrees.

The company filed a formal request Feb. 25 with the cable commission to have Vagnozzi removed from an administrative panel appointed to look at Time Warner's proposed franchise agreement, which has hung in limbo for more than two years.

Vagnozzi was mayor when the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, through the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission, denied the franchise proposal.

And at the time, he made no

bones about his feelings toward Time Warner. Those words are coming back to him now, as the company alleges his participation violates their right to an unbiased decision-maker.

In a June 1998 letter to the Observer, Vagnozzi wrote about Time Warner's profits in the wake of the company's successfully appealing a 65-cent rebate to customers.

"As far as the public is concerned, Time Warner's position is 'let the public be damned,' after all they're just getting by on a 37 percent profit margin."

Quoted in a 1997 news story about a \$1 increase in rates for a premium channel, Vagnozzi accused Time Warner of "sticking it to us again" though Time Warner manager Chuck McCann said the company had no choice, because of increasing costs.

Articles regarding Vagnozzi's

departure from SWOCC referred to him as a long-time, "hard-nosed" advocate on behalf of customers regarding cable rates.

Vagnozzi said as mayor and a member of the cable commission, he was acting in the best interests of community residents.

"As a member of the tribunal, I will approach all issues with fairness, based on facts," he said. "I have a proven record of fairness."

In a letter to SWOCC attorney John Donohue, Time Warner attorney Gardner Gillespie said the company doesn't have to prove Vagnozzi is biased in order to show the company's right to due process would be violated by his service on the panel.

"Due process is also violated where experience teaches that the probability of actual bias on the part of the judge or decision maker is too high to be constitutionally tolerable," he wrote.

Gillespie said the Michigan Supreme Court has indicated the risk of bias is that high when the decision-maker may have prejudged the case because of previous participation in other roles, including as an initial decision-maker.

"Mr. Vagnozzi sits in exactly such an unconstitutionally intolerable position," Gillespie said, because he first recommended Time Warner's proposal be denied, then actually voted against it. "...the surrounding circumstances indicate that the potential of prejudgment is real. Due process does not tolerate such a position."

Attorney Donohue will meet with the administrative panel to advise them as they review the complaint. No data has been set for that meeting.

Cable from page A1

and we'll have to start charging you," Gervais said. "I wasn't going to complain too much because that didn't sound like a lot of money."

The Farmington Training Center, part of Farmington Public Schools, received a form letter dated Feb. 3 stating it would no longer receive free service unless it could provide Time Warner proper documentation to justify free service.

At the quarterly meeting on March 7, SWOCC representatives confronted Vagnozzi's McCann, saying their acts were "unconscionable." McCann said the letter was sent to the training center erroneously, but he stood by the contract interpretation denying free access to parochial schools.

Nevertheless, McCann agreed to turn St. Fabian's cable back

on and continue providing free service to all SWOCC-represented parochial schools.

"The facts were not represented fully or accurately by SWOCC," McCann said. "They asked us to make some changes. Even though that's not part of the agreement, we agreed to turn it back on."

"They were given information from a copy of a page of our original franchise proposal. The page they were given fell under a subheading and the subheading was not there. So it was all out of context."

McCann said parochial schools were mentioned in the franchise agreement under a "public buildings" subheading. Since parochial schools are not housed in public buildings, he said, they should not be entitled to free service. McCann couldn't pro-

vide The Observer with a copy of this documentation.

SWOCC's attorney searched the contract for this subheading, as did The Observer, to no avail.

"I am at a complete loss to explain this," said SWOCC attorney John Donohue. "It's a public relations disaster. It's also a violation of the franchise. I have no idea what they think they're accomplishing."

As far as Donohue is concerned, the issue is over, as long as Time Warner continues to provide parochial schools free cable.

SWOCC and Time Warner have been negotiating a new contract for years. The original franchise agreement was intended to last 15 years. It's about three years overdue. There's no foreseeable end to the deliberations.

Gas from page A1

gas prices, even on Capitol Hill, has been virtually non-existent.

"We're a little concerned because the administration has been slow to respond," Wolday said last week. "Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson is just now making overtures to OPEC about increasing oil supplies."

The price at the pump is tied directly to the amount of oil available for refineries. There has been some talk about using

the country's strategic oil reserves but Wolday said that's not the source is easier said than done. It takes some time to gear up, and that could mean prices will continue to soar.

"If we hit two dollars a gallon, we won't be able to keep up with the correspondence," he predicted. "I don't know how people can ignore a hike of 20 percent. I think it's starting to take its

toll."

While traffic is way up at the Clark station, where customers are pumping full tanks to take advantage of the low cost, it's down at Northwest Oil Mobil station, on 12 Mile Road.

"Overall volume has been down," said station representative Kathy Roschacki. "I don't know if they're just out there going to find the cheaper places or what."

She said Northwest has tried to keep prices down as much as possible. Mobil Oil sets their costs, and the station has cut profits to try to keep prices low. On Friday, they ranged from \$1.63 for regular unleaded to \$1.79 for premium.

Though they don't pay nearly as much for gas as consumers, increasing prices has Farmington Hills city officials concerned. Department of Public Works Director Dan Rooney says gas for more than 280 city vehicles - everything from passenger cars to lawn mowers - is purchased through a consortium.

"We have a complex way of pricing fuel that is done on a formula basis," Rooney said. "We get rather attractive rates because of our government status."

Right now, that's around 86 cents a gallon. But the rate is still proportionately higher than what the city was paying earlier this year.

Buses from page A1

maintenance vehicles" for example, Cannon said.

Buses are re-fueled every two days or so, at the district's transportation garage, located at 32500 Shawwassee behind the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center.

Because the district must continue making sure its fleet is adequately fueled up, regardless of how expensive diesel fuel is, the district next month will likely present a budget revision, Cannon said.

"We're in the midst of doing a budget revision districtwide," she said, "and this (38 percent increase) will be reflected in that."

Other line-items could be adjusted to take care of the added, unexpected cost. Or, Cannon continued, the \$45,600 could be taken out of the fund balance, which essentially is an account reserved for emergencies and one-time-only expenses.

"That's one of the reasons it's important to have a fund balance," she said.

But, noted Cannon, the district also is seeing some savings in utilities such as electricity and telephones. Those savings might at least partially help offset the increased fuel expenses, she said.

DISCOVER EUROPE!

England • Ireland • Europe

TRAFALGAR TRAVEL NIGHT

March 15 at 6:30 p.m.

AAA Travel/Farmington Hills
RSVP 248-553-3337



AAA Travel/Farmington Hills

38751 W. Twelve Mile

248-553-3337

Weekdays 8:30 - 5:30

Saturdays 8:30 - 7:30



Someone you can count on.
www.aaaamich.com

HOW TO REACH US

Circulation Nightline.....734-953-2008
Classified Advertising.....734-591-0900
Display Advertising.....734-591-2300
Home Delivery.....734-591-0500
Newsroom FAX.....734-591-7279
Newsroom.....734-593-2104
E-Mail Online*www.observereccentric.com.....248-901-4716
Photo Reprints**.....734-591-0500
Reader Comment Line.....734-953-2040
Sports Nightline.....734-953-2104

Online - www.observereccentric.com - can be accessed with just about any communications software: PC or Macintosh. You are able to send and receive unlimited e-mail, access all features of the Internet, read electronic editions of The Farmington Observer and other Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and chat with users across town or across the country.

**Photo orders must be for pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers. Please provide publication date, page number and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past six months. Prints are \$20 for the first print, \$7.50 for each additional print. Payment is in advance (check or credit card).

The Farmington Observer

A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication
33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335
(On the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Rd.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

CARRIER DELIVERY	MAIL DELIVERY
One year.....\$47.40	One year.....\$58.00
One year (St. Clair).....\$28.00	One year (St. Clair).....\$44.00
One year (out of State).....\$75.00 per copy	One year (out of State).....\$90.00

Advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. Copies of which are available from the advertising department, The Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, Michigan 48335, (248) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric assumes no authority to bind this newspaper and only the terms of an advertisement and constitute that acceptance of the advertiser's order.

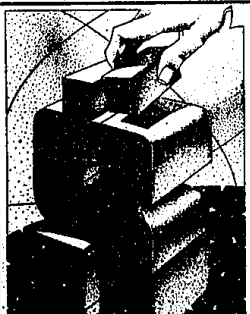


ESTATE PLANS THAT WORK

It's not about documents... It's about results

The Truth About Estate Planning™

An interactive educational workshop



YOU SHOULD ATTEND IF:

- ☐ You have someone you care about.
- ☐ You have an estate plan.
- ☐ You do not have an estate plan.
- ☐ You do not fully understand your estate plan.
- ☐ You are not sure that your estate plan will work.
- ☐ You have not reviewed your estate plan since 1997.
- ☐ You own your own business.
- ☐ You are a parent.
- ☐ You have a 529 or IRAs or other investment plan.
- ☐ You have been married 10 years and 100,000 miles.
- ☐ You have a new child or grandchild.
- ☐ You do not want to give your money to the IRS.

If you checked 2 or more boxes above, you should attend this workshop.

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION:

- What is estate plan.
- What makes a plan successful.
- Why most estate plans don't work.
- How to make an estate plan work for you.
- Wills vs. Trusts.
- To probate or not to probate.
- Can you trust your trust.
- Other myths about estate planning.
- Estate planning is more than documents.
- Counseling vs. word processing.
- What you should expect to pay for an estate plan.
- Full disclosure of fees.
- The importance of updating your plan.
- How to integrate retirement plans into your plan.
- How to protect those you care for.

Discussion led by:
Gregory C. Hamilton, Esq.
Matthew A. Wallace, CFP®
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
Members of National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys

Attend Our Workshop

Thursday, March 16, 2000

at the Holiday Inn - LIVONIA

6 Mile at I-75

2 Sessions: 12:00pm to 2:00pm and 6:00pm to 8:00pm