

The Farmington Observer

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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.....734-953-2104
O&E Online* www.observereccentric.com.....248-901-4716
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The Farmington Observer

A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication
33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48336
(On the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Rd.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

CARRIER DELIVERY	MAIL DELIVERY
Six months.....\$23.70	One year.....\$35.00
One year.....\$47.40	One year (Sr. Citizen).....\$44.00
One year (Sr. Citizen).....\$38.00	One year (out of County).....\$45.00
Newsstand.....\$4 per copy	One year (out of State).....\$50.00

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Buckle up Police, city join forces with Colonial Car Wash

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
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FARMINGTON

Too often, the first contact people have with police officers is a negative one, with whirling lights and ear-splitting sirens — the backdrop for an uneasy exchange.

But the Farmington Public Safety Department is working with a local business to try and foster "positive" public relations while at the same time rewarding those who are heeding the recently enacted seat belt law.

One hundred "tickets" will be issued in the coming months to motorists who are safely belted, and who have their young chil-

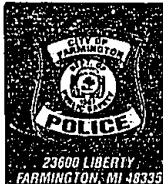
dren — if they have any — properly strapped into car seats. Those tickets can then be redeemed for a free car wash at Colonial Car Wash, 33500 Nine Mile Road in Farmington.

The freebies were donated by community-minded carwash owners Mark and Holly Owen, longtime Farmington residents who attended Monday's Farmington City Council meeting when the program was officially announced by Gary Goss, public safety director.

"We'll be looking for motorists complying with the law instead



33500 Nine Mile
(Just West Farmington Rd.)
(248) 477-6422



Teaming up: Farmington Mayor Bill Harisack, Mark and Holly Owen, owners of Colonial Car Wash, and Officer Terry Purves, of the public safety department, posed to promote a seat belt use program.

of violating the law," said Goss, who said initial response to the new seat belt law was good — with seat belt usage rising from 65-95 percent in the first week alone. "But we can expect compliance will go down as the newness (of the law) wears off."

"That makes this an excellent time to partner with our business community to support seat belt use."

Goss later said it is illegal to pull over motorists while they are driving to issue the "tickets." But, instead, officers will look for people to give the passes to after they park their vehicles in business parking lots. The department's bicycle cops will hand out the passes, as will officers in squad cars.

The idea was hatched by the Owsens after conversing with Farmington officers about the new seat belt law. Colonial Car Wash services the department's fleet.

"Holly and I thought it was a good idea to reward people for wearing seat belts," Mark Owen said, following the council meeting. "Most people see the police car and think they're in trouble. This will turn it around and make it a positive."

Holly Owen said the 21-year residents of Farmington simply wanted to give "support to the community and promote awareness of seat belts."

Until March 10, when the seat belt law took effect, officers could not issue violations to motorists who were not buckled in unless they committed a different violation.

Statistics overwhelmingly prove the benefit of seat belt usage. The number of fatal accidents in Oakland County dropped from more than 200 in 1989 to 91 in 1999, Goss reported.

Businesses to be honored

The Farmington Hills/Farmington Commission on Children, Youth and Families will honor "family-friendly" businesses at its annual volunteer night May 17.

CYF is accepting nominations of business owners, organizations or companies that support families through policies that may include flexible work hours, job sharing, help with day care, family events, business and school partnerships, mentoring or philanthropic assistance to youth organizations.

The commission has, for years, sponsored a recognition program for individual volunteers, and last year expanded the program to cite businesses that participate in and support volunteerism. This year's program will focus on volunteer efforts in sup-

port of family life.

Nominees will be honored at the annual awards dinner, "A Salute to Those Whose Efforts Support the Family," held May 17 at the William Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Guest speaker will be Virgil Carr, President and CEO of United Community Services.

Also, a "Volunteer of the Year" award will be given in honor of the late George Romney, former Michigan governor. The program also includes individual awards, a short video highlighting volunteers at work and citations from local officials.

For more information or a nomination form, call chairwoman Joan McGlinchey, 477-4688. The deadline for nominations is May 1.

Students perform

East Middle School students in the theatre arts program are performing "Annie Jr." 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday evenings on the school's new stage. "Annie Jr." is a condensed version of "Annie," prepared especially for middle school students.

Ticket prices are \$3 for students and senior citizens; \$3

for adults; \$8 for a family of up to four people including children and adults. Tickets are sold in advance only; there will be no sales at the door. Call 489-3601 to reserve tickets.

East Middle School is located at 25000 Middlebelt Road, between 10-11 Mile roads.

CAMPUS NEWS

Elizabeth L. Graham has been named an Albion College Fellow at Albion College for the fall 1999 semester.

To be designated a Fellow, a student must maintain a 3.7 grade point average for three consecutive on-campus semesters and successfully complete four units of credit during

each of those semesters.

Graham is a senior majoring in economics and management and is a member of the Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Institute in Professional Management.

She is the daughter of Douglas L. and Jeanine L. Graham of Farmington Hills and a graduate of Harrison High School.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D., RHEUMATOLOGY
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THE BODY RECOVERS

You may be dismayed at the ways the body can go wrong, but should also keep in mind with equal wonderment, how the body recovers. Physicians do not lose sight of this capability. It tempers our intent and enthusiasm for prescribing drugs.

In my practice, I have cared for individuals, who for instance, had pain and limitation of shoulder movement, and required frequent removal of shoulder joint fluid just to gain enough mobility to care for them. Several of these patients recovered over time, and now have little or no discomfort and unrestricted use of their arms. Patients with knee and neck pain can tell similar stories.

In the arena of joint and muscle conditions, the body seems to have substantial potential to make repairs and restore you to a state of reasonable function and minimal pain. Thus, doctors need to be careful not to prescribe medications that may help but definitely can cause side effects and considerable expense.

On the other hand, the physician must encourage you to undertake efforts to preserve the strength and stamina of your body. You need to be prepared to take advantage of the healing your body provides; otherwise, your state of poor conditioning will counter the gain of healing.

Daily exercise, regular rest, and a good outlook are as much a therapy as any medication and you should consider such a regimen as seriously as you would any prescription. This therapy does not cure but facilitates the healing process that your body undertakes.

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