

THE WEEK AHEAD

Bowling centers ready for new season

PREP FOOTBALL
 Friday, Sept. 24
 Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Brighton at Farmington, 7 p.m.
 Saline at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Woodhaven, 7 p.m.
 Garden City at Wyandotte, 7 p.m.
 Taylor at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Gibbs, Carlton at Thurston, 7:30 p.m.
 City at Hamtramck, 7:30 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Churchill, 7:30 p.m.
 Franklin at Southgate, 7:30 p.m.
 Marion at Canton, 7:30 p.m.
 N. Farmington at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Sept. 25
 Luth. Wkend at Hamtramck, 1 p.m.
 Redford CC vs. Del. DePores at McCabe Field, 1 p.m.
 St. Agnes vs. Cardinal Mooney at RU's Kraft Field, 7 p.m.
 Sunday, Sept. 23
 PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
 Thursday, Sept. 23
 Redford Union at Cville, 0:30 p.m.
 Redford CC at N.D. Prep, 7 p.m.
 R.R. Richard at Livonia, 7 p.m.
 Saline at Southgate, 7 p.m.
 N. Farmington at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
 Churchill at Farmington, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Monday, Sept. 24
 Franklin at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 Garden City at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 Thurston at Ankeny, 7 p.m.
 N. Farm at Lakeland, 7 p.m.
 Harrison at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Canton at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
 Friday, Sept. 25
 Huron Valley at Flint Valley, 5:30 p.m.
 Tip-Off Classic at Cville, 7 p.m.
 N. Farmington at R.R. Kibbitt, 7 p.m.
 PREP BOYS SOCCER
 Thursday, Sept. 25
 Luth. Wkend at Cville, 1 p.m.
 Friday, Sept. 26
 Redford CC vs. Del. DePores at Mies Field (Livonia), 4 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Truman at Garden City, 4 p.m.
 Greenhills at Cville, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Wkend at Cranbrook, 4:30 p.m.
 Redford CC vs. Stevenson, 4:30 p.m.
 Redford Union at Harrison, 4:30 p.m.
 N. Farm. at Waterford Mott, 6 p.m.
 Saturday, Sept. 27
 Stevenson at Harrison, 1 p.m.
 BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
 Thursday, Sept. 27
 Farmington vs. W.L. Central at Richardson Center, 7:30 p.m.

Stevenson vs. N. Farmington at Casa Benton Park, 4 p.m.
 Brighton vs. W.L. Central, 4:30 p.m.
 Harrison, North Farmington at New Boston Huron Invitational, 9:30 a.m. at Willow Metropark.
 Farmington at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Girls Tennis
 Thursday, Sept. 27
 Farmington vs. Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Harrison, North Farmington at New Boston Huron Invitational, 9:30 a.m. at Willow Metropark.

TEN-PIN ALLEY

AL HARRISON

I have visited 93 bowling centers in and around the greater Detroit area in the past four weeks and spoken with proprietors, managers and people who work the counter. They tell me the bowling is in great shape as we enter a brand new season.

Most places have upgraded facilities. Some have new ownership or management. Many have invested in new surfaces, going from the synthetics.

A little paint or clean carpeting can go a long ways toward making a place look spiffy.

The newest area bowling center is also the furthest away — the new Premier Lanes in Chesterfield Township managed by an old friend from Troy Lanes, Bonnie Hethcote.

The center has 34 bowling lanes, three movie theaters, a video room and the Foxchase restaurant. They are planning a similar center on our side of town.

Plaza Lanes in Plymouth has new owners in All-Star Steve Klein and Gerald Johnson at the helm. They bring some youth and energy into the picture, so watch them go at it with gusto.

Anyone wanting a personal

Bel Aire Lanes in Farmington has new ideas in place under the guidance of Mike Winkel, who is expanding his leagues and getting more young bowlers.

In nearby Romulus, the old Romulus Rec is going to be the new Romulus Rec with a new owner, George Forsey, who also brings youth and energy to the scene.

He has upgraded the restaurant with good food that attracts a nice lunch crowd from outside bowling.

Ford Lanes in Dearborn Heights has installed new synthetic lanes but left the approaches in with the original wood. We'll see how that works out.

Greg Sicilia's Vision Lanes in Westland has a new pro shop with Mike Norris in charge. It is slated to open Sept. 14.

Colonial Lanes in Ann Arbor was visited on a Michigan football Saturday. No, so curiously, the parking lot was full.

Manager Frank Pepp says they charge seven dollars per car on that day for stadium parking, only a few blocks from the Big House. For those home dates, the parking lot may make more money than the bowling lanes.

Mark and Diane Voight of Farmington Hills have bought Woodhaven Lanes on 1-76 and transformed it into a first-class operation.

score card to keep a record of your scores can find one on the counters of all local bowling centers, courtesy of your Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

* Tom and Kathie Parks moved away from Livonia several years ago after having bowled in the Men's and Ladies All-Stars for years.

Now they are moving to Canton and will resume local competition at the All-Star level.

They also have increased the size of their family with the birth of identical twin girls on July 20, 2001. The girls, Adrianna Mae and Kayleigh Suzanne, have the good genes to become great bowlers.

* With the new season upon us, who will be the first to bowl a 300 game?

At the moment, there are two perfectos reported by Westland Bowl on Tuesday Sept. 4. Both came in the Tuesday Men's League by Sam Fullerton and by Rob Lauden.

On the same night, Town 'n Country Lanes, also as Westland, had one in its Tuesday Junior Classic League, by James Pierce.

There likely are more 300s by the time this goes to press, but these are the first ones we have been told about.

* The Pioneer Women's Club of Detroit announces its 53rd Annual Tournament to be held at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3, at Thunderbird Lanes on Alien

Road. Membership is open to women who have bowled 20 years or more.

To enter the bowling portion, you must be a DWBA sanctioned bowler and show your card.

Entry fee of \$11 is payable with the annual dues (\$2) and \$10 more for the dinner social. No entries accepted postmarked after closing date, Oct. 27, 2001. Entry forms available at most bowling centers.

* Mike Norris of Westland was winner of the August Michigan Majors championship at Galaxy Lanes in Grand Blanc. He was second-high qualifier so he had only one final match, in which he beat D. J. Hochstetler for top honors.

* D. J. did have a slight advantage — he's the owner of Galaxy Lanes.

For the match, Mike averaged 224.8 and took home a winning check of \$1,000. Not a bad two day's work.

As Norris will soon be opening the pro shop at Vision Lanes, he will have several innovative programs for all bowlers including a kids plan and his "Strike Club," a chance for people to get extra values in their purchases.

Every customer will get to bowl one game for evaluation before drilling, then another after drilling to make sure everything is just right.

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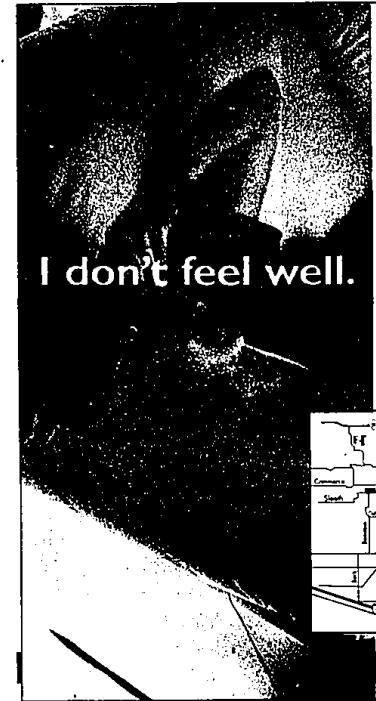
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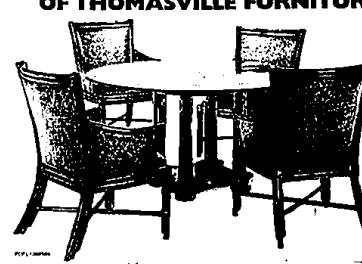
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