

today's hot line

Volume 84 Number 88 • Five News Sections

what's inside

C'ville Activates

Clarencville School District is starting to come alive for the fall semester - announcing school dates and times, junior high registrations, and the slim possibility of a property tax cut.

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College Time

All three area colleges - Lawrence Tech, Madonna and Schoolcraft - are announcing fall registration dates and times. (Other college stories of general interest are scattered throughout today's jam-packed edition of your home town newspaper.)

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Working Women

A Redford Township lady has some suggestions to help women gain their full rights. She's today's Woman on the Go, and her story is in Observing Life.

Page 2C

Scouts Ahoy!

An active troop of senior girl scouts has a sailing tradition and has just completed this year's chapter. For a word and picture report, see today's Observing Life.

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State Fair Time

The end of summer calls for some old fashioned fun at the annual State Fair. To see what there is to enjoy at this year's event turn to the entertainment section.

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Plan Commission Protests Council Is Ignoring Advice

By DAN MCCOSH

Farmington Hills councilmen have reversed several planning commission recommendations since they began voting on zoning matters. The practice brought a strong protest Monday from Planning Chairman Douglas Mann over the council's decision to rezone for a restaurant on 12 Mile east of Orchard Lake Road.

"For the first time, I must protest," Mann said in a letter to the council. "This will have a lasting, detrimental effect on the development of the city."

He predicted it would "open the door" to business strips on both sides of 12 Mile between Orchard Lake and Middle Belt.

Shortly after the letter was read, still another petition for zoning in the area was received, and the council referred it to the planning commission for consideration. It was an 11-acre parcel which developer Richard Wickham wants rezoned for apartments.

Developers have literally been waiting in line before the newly elected city council, some with identical zoning proposals to ones previously turned down by the former township board.

In recent months, the council:

- Reversed both the planning commission and the former township board by rezoning for the "Family Buggy" restaurant, to be restored from an old farm-

house located east of Harrison High.

- Reversed the planners and the former board in approving an office zoning across from the new city hall, at Orchard Lake and 11 Mile Road.

Monday, they appeared ready to reverse the planners again on apartment zoning on the parcel next to the "Family Buggy," which was given final approval only after a last minute hand-wring Monday.

The business zoning for the restaurant was cited as one reason for the reconsideration.

The 12 Mile Road strip between Orchard Lake and Middle Belt is currently planned for apartments on the north side and is being

considered for offices on the south.

The restaurant zoning was granted after a cheering crowd of supporters of the project appeared before the council.

Although only the "second reading" of the zoning was up for consideration Monday, it took half an hour before it was approved.

In the discussion, Acting Mayor Frederick Lichtman even suggested the possibility of rezoning, letting the restaurant be built, then un-zoning, creating a non-conforming use. "We've done a lot of things before," Lichtman said, admitting the idea was "far out."

"Yes, but not that," was the legal opinion from attorney Joseph Brennan.



A MAKESHIFT DOOR guards their clubhouse and gives the Klueger children privacy for their meetings. Peeking out the door are Debbie, club president, Tracy and David (below). (Evert photos)



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Summertime Fun Found Under Basement Stairs

By KATHY MORAN

One of the first signs of summer is a sheet thrown over a swing set for an "instant tent" and a playhouse for vacationing youngsters.

But soon the tent gets stuffy, the contentment cracks, and the tent gives way to a "house" made of an old, durable refrigerator box with windows carved from crooked strokes and flowers drawn in crayon on the outside.

And naturally, because it's summer and mothers expect

their children to enjoy the outdoors, the tent and house give way to a clubhouse in the basement engineered by throwing a blanket over a card table.

The Sklar and Klueger children in Farmington passed by a spacious backyard and a recreation room in favor of a much more ideal spot for a clubhouse - under the basement stairs.

Because the Sklars are lucky enough to have stairs which turn halfway up, the children have an extra bonus of a second story loft.

"Things just started disappearing," Mrs. Donna Sklar said, echoing a familiar mothers' lament.

She found her missing bathroom rug, kitchen chairs, paper towels, first aid book, portable television and broom under the basement stairway.

"We moved into this big, beautiful house where each of the three kids has his own bedroom. We have a big yard and just refinished the basement and the place they found to play in is a niche under the stairs."

That's where her daughter Valerie, 9, and neighbor Debbie Klueger, 11, have spent the muggy summer days - under the stairs in the cool basement holding club meetings and redecorating their clubhouse everytime the clock strikes 12.

There's enough room for Valerie to sleep in the loft and Debbie to sleep on the main floor - and enough cookies to make it through a night.

And they keep enough lemonade around for their younger sisters, Karen Sklar, 7, and Tracey Klueger, 3.

Boys aren't allowed - except for six-year-old David who isn't old enough yet to be a pest.

As in every clubhouse, there are officers. Debbie's president "because I have all the ideas" and Valerie is vice president.

Chances are the clubhouse will give way to another novel idea before school starts, but in the meantime, Mrs. Sklar can go about her housework knowing the neighborhood is quietly meeting under the stairway, eating cookies and sweeping the crumbs out with her broom.

City Council Deadline Nears

William Hartscock, 22040 Manning is the only new face as of Monday for the fall election for the Farmington City Council. Filing deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17.

Up for re-election are John Richardson; Richard Tupper, now serving out an appointed one-year term; and Frederick Seibert. All are anticipated to file for the race.

Library Head Is Retiring

Mrs. Mary Allison, guiding light for 20 years and head of the Farmington Area Library Board, announced her retirement from the post to the Farmington Hills council Monday.

"No one has done more for the library than Mrs. Allison," Councilman Margaret Schaeffer said, as the council accepted the resignation.



THERE'S JUST ENOUGH room for one in the loft of Valerie Sklar's clubhouse under her basement stairs. She made curtains from a scrap of material. (Evert photo)

Does Your Group Want Publicity?

So you're the new publicity chairman for your club, group or organization and a bit leery of what's ahead during your year in office.

How do you get material about your club to the Observer Newspapers? When do you have to get it to the editors? What is the deadline for getting stories to the newspapers? What do you do about presenting pictures? Will the Observers accept material in advance about some major promotion you are planning?

Now's the time to ease your worries. The Observer Newspapers are planning their first annual publicity-press relations seminar in September, and all of the questions will be answered.

For several years, Observer Newspaper editors have wanted to hold a seminar in early fall for the benefit of new publicity chairmen. Up to this year, it wasn't possible due to lack of facilities.

Now the facilities are available in the new Observer Newspapers plant at 3051 Schoolcraft in Livonia at the intersection of Levan.

"We have been planning such a seminar as a public service offering to our readers," explained Publisher Philip H. Power. "We want the news from the organizations in our circulation area. We want to tell the publicity chairman how to contact our editors, how to make arrangements for pictures, what our deadlines are and

what we can do to make the job easier for all."

"That's why we are making arrangements for two seminar sessions on Sept. 12 and 19 in our new plant."

The seminar sessions are slated to start at 8 p.m. each of the two evenings.

You can register for either of the sessions on Wednesday, Sept. 12 or Wednesday, Sept. 19.

Each will take up to 80 registrations, and the sessions will be divided into three segments of 30 minutes each.

Registrants for each evening will attend all three classes. Remember plans are to limit registration for each night to no more than 80.

FIRST ANNUAL observer newspapers PUBLICITY-PRESS RELATIONS SEMINAR*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 and 19 - 8 P.M.
In Observer Newspaper Plant, 3051 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150
Phone 261-8600.

Register for one of the sessions:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____
REPRESENTING: _____

CIRCLE PREFERRED DATE: SEPT. 12, SEPT. 19

*Stress will be on
LIVONIA,
PLYMOUTH,
GARDEN CITY
WESTLAND
for September 12 meeting
and on
REDFORD,
SOUTHFIELD,
FARMINGTON
on September 19



(However, You May Register For Either Date
PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION BY SEPTEMBER 7

Bicycle SALE



There's one going on every week in the Classified Section of your hometown Newspaper! Bikes are big this year, and if you're ready to join the fun, you'll find the best buys in today's Classified Ads.

And if you want to be a part of the big sale, place your ad today by calling

522-0900

OBSERVER WANT ADS
DO IT EVERY TIME!

HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8-5:30 - SAT. 9-12