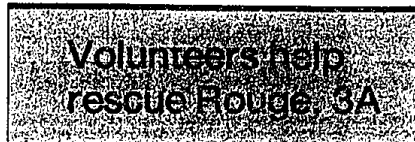


Mail-order business comes of age, 1B



# Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 70

Monday, June 5, 1989

Farmington, Michigan

48 Pages

Fifty Cents

© 1989 Tribune Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

**H**E'S an achiever. James Agnew, a Ford Motor Co. plant manager, was one of 37 minority men and women honored at the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit's 10th annual Minority Achievers Award ceremony May 24 in Detroit.

He was recognized for outstanding contributions to his work place and the community. Agnew chairs the Farmington Area's Cultural Awareness Committee.

**EXPANDING skills.** Three area firefighters graduated from the 20th state-certified fire inspectors school May 25. Walter Kurzeja and John Wells of the Farmington Hills Fire Department and Joseph Schornack of the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

**SUMMER vacation.** The last day of class is Thursday for Farmington Public Schools, Friday for Walled Lake Consolidated schools and Monday, June 12, for Farmington Public Schools.

**Memory lane**

25 years ago:

- Nearly 500 students will graduate from Farmington's two high schools next week.
- Farmington High's 75th graduating class and North Farmington's first graduating class each have 348 members.
- Farmington Public Schools voters will go to the polls June 8 to fill two school board seats from among two incumbents and three challengers. They also will consider a three-part proposal to establish an Oakland County Schools Community College District.

— Farmington Enterprise, June 4, 1964

## what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 4B  
Classifieds . . . Sec. C, E, F  
Index . . . 1F  
Auto . . . Sec. C, F  
Real estate . . . Sec. E  
Employment . . . Sec. F  
Creative living . . . Sec. E  
Crossword puzzle . . . 2E  
Entertainment . . . 5D  
Obituaries . . . 6A  
Police/fire calls . . . 8C  
Sports . . . Sec. C  
Street scene . . . Sec. D  
Taste . . . Sec. B

**We make it EASY**

So easy to place an ad—just pick up the phone. We'll do the rest!

**591-0900**

Use Your MasterCard or Visa

## Hills loan co-signing under fire

Restaurant to open in golf course clubhouse, 6A

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Some Farmington Hills officials are unhappy the city is co-signing golf pro Al Marmion's loan to renovate the clubhouse and add a restaurant at the city-owned San Marino Golf Course.

"I don't believe the city is in the business of co-signing for anybody," said councilman Paul Sowerby, out-

of-town when the council voted May 22 to co-sign.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi is equally annoyed. "If he defaults, we are liable for what he owes."

In a 4-2 vote, council members approved a 20-year tri-party agreement between the city, San Marino golf pro Al Marmion and Farmington Hills-based Michigan National Bank. Council members Aldo Vagnozzi and Jean Fox voted against the agreement.

"I didn't have enough collateral to cover the building. The bank said,

"Why not see if the city will co-sign?" Marmion said.

Aware of some council members' opposition to the agreement, Marmion said, "They have a right to express their views. But I'm sure when they see the place, they'll change their minds. I'm not building this to walk out. I've been the pro here for 15 years. The community knows me."

**THE AGREEMENT** calls for the city to take over, or pay off, the balance of the \$250,000 loan from Mich-

igan National if the golf pro dies, becomes disabled or in any way defaults. Under any of these circumstances, the contract would be terminated and the city would be required to reimburse the golf pro or his family for the cost of the renovation and expansion.

"Why should we make him whole if he defaults? Where does Al give us something back. I don't like the deal. I am vehemently opposed," Sowerby said.

City attorney Paul Bibeau said the tri-party agreement was entered be-

cause the bank cannot place a lien on public property.

"We do have a contractual agreement. If you want to call that a lien . . . A default of the loan is default of the agreement. That means we can kick him out," Bibeau said.

Under the agreement, the city owns the building while Marmion owns the inventory. In the first two years, Marmion will receive all the profits from the clubhouse and restaurant; in following years, the city receives a share, Bibeau said.

Please turn to Page 6

## Terminate C'ville group maps plans

By Kevin Brown staff writer

Backers of a movement to dissolve the Clarenceville School District, who have collected more than 1,000 petition signatures, will present their plan at a public meeting Wednesday.

Susan Gonzales of Farmington Hills, an organizer of the group, Community to Dissolve Clarenceville, said it hopes to schedule a representative for Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, and tax officials from both Livonia and Farmington Hills.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. in St. Alexander Catholic Church, 27835 Shawwassee. "There will be petitions available for whoever wants to sign them," Gonzales said. "We're hoping to get it on the ballot as soon as possible."

Clarenceville includes northeast Livonia, southeast Farmington Hills and northwest Redford Township.

GONZALES SAID that after moving to the

district and comparing Clarenceville schools to those in neighboring districts, she enrolled her two children in William Grace school in Farmington Hills.

The Clarenceville district can't raise as much money per pupil to offer the level of programs that its neighbors do, she said.

"It's an issue for the retired people," she said.

The millage rate — higher in Clarenceville than in the Livonia Public Schools and Farmington Public Schools — has forced some retirees to cut back on necessities, she said.

Board members and Superintendent Michael Subler defend the district's program and cite improvements in recent years, including the guaranteed diploma. (With the guaranteed diploma, the district promises to take the student back for classes if the graduate fails certain basic skills on a job.)

Some Clarenceville residents who oppose consolidation defended the district at the May 25 board meeting.

Please turn to Page 6

## Hills seeks views on Haggerty route

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

City officials would like Farmington Hills homeowners to stand up and be counted on their preference of alternatives for improving congested Haggerty Road.

Approximately 400 letters were mailed to homeowners north of 12 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road, asking them to support an alternative at a public hearing in Novi next week.

The letter also tells homeowners which alternative the city administration and council prefer and why, assistant city manager David Call said.

"We're not telling them which one they should support. But that they should support one of them," Call said.

A public hearing is scheduled for 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, in the Novi High School auditorium lobby, 24082 Taft.

Hosted by the Michigan Department of Transportation, the hearing is on an environmental impact study for the proposed Haggerty Road project. A court reporter will be on hand to record public comments.

EVEN IF residents write letters or send peti-

**"We're not telling them which one (option) they should support. But that they should support one of them."**

— David Call assistant manager

tions favoring an alternative, they should still attend the hearing.

"They (MDOT) officials are going to listen to people who verbalize their feelings," Call said.

MDOT officials will choose the final alternative.

The proposed Haggerty project would improve the flow of traffic in the five-mile stretch of Haggerty from I-96 on the Novi/Farmington Hills border north to Pontiac Trail

Please turn to Page 6



Clarenceville student Tiffany Gabel, 8, gets an escort around the training center's playground from Gill second graders Bill Hodges (left), Maria Vuile, Scott Kneller and Shawn Oncaza.

## A new bond Gill students visit Cloverdale

By Casey Hans staff writer

A new bond formed between a group of young elementary students and special education students at Cloverdale Developmental Training Center culminated in a special get-together recently.

First and second graders from Gill Elementary visited the center on Freedom Road, which educates severely mentally impaired students from preschool through age 25 in a year-long school program.

Students hall from various parts of Oakland County, including the school districts of Farmington, Southfield, Novi, Walled Lake, South Lyon, Clarenceville and Huron Valley.

Staff from both schools said they wanted to stress how many similarities all children

have, despite any handicaps.

"We work on puzzles, play on scooters, we have music, art, it's just a little bit different," occupational therapist Anne Hillie told one group of visiting students from Gill. "We have special swings so they can sit up and swing. They like to do the same things you guys do."

**FOUR CLASSROOMS** from Gill visited Cloverdale May 25 to tour the school and playground and meet students. Their visit followed lessons in which they viewed videotapes of "Kids R Kids," a program produced by Cloverdale staffers to acclimate the rest of the schools in the Farmington district to their programs.

Please turn to Page 2

## A channel for views

By Susan Buck staff writer

The Farmington Student Round Table is a barometer of the times.

Since 1973, students have tackled issues like smoking, lounge, student rights and academic letters.

One by one for more than a decade, Student Round Table members have appeared before school officials and board members, delineating their concerns.

"It's basically to reflect on what students think of their education in order for the board and the administration to have another



North Farmington Junior Carrie Bree Rice has been responsible for much of the success of the Student Round Table this school year.

Please turn to Page 4

## Student leader tries to unify high schools

By Susan Buck staff writer

Unity not rivalry.

That's what Carrie Bree Rice decided to strive for when she became president of the Farmington Student Round Table last year.

Her diligent efforts paid off April 29, with the first tri-school dance, held for students from North Farmington, Farmington and Farmington senior highs at Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus. It drew 130 students.

The Round Table is a vehicle by which senior high student representatives can discuss ideas with school board members and administrators.

Rice, 16, a junior, was recently elected president of the North Farmington Student Council for the next school year.

## people

Rice is well-known to school officials. Like her predecessors, her monthly reports are regular school board agenda items. Originally placed at the end of the agenda, often at 11:30 p.m., Rice asked to speak earlier, at 8:30 p.m. "I think school board members are more awake then, too," she said.

**LIKEWISE, SCHOOL** officials are visible at monthly Round Table meetings. Many board

Please turn to Page 4