

Counselor talks about
grieving, 1B



Girls hoop
results, 1D

Computer column
starts today, 6C

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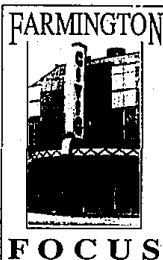
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Farmington, Michigan

92 Pages

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Parents oppose more school aid cuts

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

They aren't going to sit back and take it. And they plan to do what they can to make sure it doesn't happen again.

"I think all three of us are mellow-type people. But when someone starts messing with our children's education, we're going to stand up and fight," said Farmington Hills resident Kerry Kelly.

Kelly, Debbie Lukasak and Jan Bennett — parents of Gill Elementary students — are cir-

culating petitions urging the state legislators to oppose further cuts to out-of-formula school districts, such as Farmington, to improve financing in poorer districts.

"We are very concerned about the quality of education in the lower property tax districts. We couldn't agree more that their quality of education should be brought up," Lukasak said.

The Gill parents are opposed to the way the state Legislature in July decided abruptly to improve financing in poorer school districts by reducing \$50 million in categorical aid to 40

districts. The Farmington Public Schools lost \$5.8 million at once.

"WE WANT to prevent the legislature from taking another major funding cut from the school district and we want them to find a more equitable way to raise education in poor districts," Lukasak said.

Lukasak, Bennett and Kelly have the blessing of Farmington school district officials.

"I think certainly when the public gets informed and involved there's a better chance (of success with the state government) than

when they lay down and play dead," said Pam O'Malley, assistant to the Farmington district superintendent.

"It's to our advantage when it comes from the community. They are taking a lot of initiative."

The women aren't alone in their petitioning efforts. Taxpayers in other districts — Commerce, West Bloomfield and Livonia, for example — are circulating their own petitions with the same demands requested by Kelly,

Please turn to Page 4



Wide-eyed David Bodzin, 8, of Farmington Hills, checks out the interior of a Medflight helicopter that stopped by the Farmington Hills Fire Department open house Sunday.

Open house Firefighters make safety lessons fun

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Four-year-old Kevan Ventura of Farmington Hills insisted he wasn't in love with the powerful fire hose. But the truth finally poured out.

"He likes putting out the fire. It's his third time today," Kevan's mother said.

Benjamin Peven, 8 months, loved the balloons, while Matthew Bills, 4, got a chance to dress up in real fire-fighting gear.

An overcast sky Sunday afternoon didn't daunt an estimated 5,000 visitors to the Farmington Hills Fire Department's 15th Annual Fire Prevention open house, the kickoff to national Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13.

"We're glad to do this. Just looking at the smiles of all the kids is enough," fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.

Please turn to Page 3

Senate candidate wants less government

Libertarian sees dismay with politics as usual

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Steve Silver admits he doesn't really want the job. What he does want is a resurgence of some old-fashioned, patriotic values in our governmental process.

"I feel government has strayed far from what our founding fathers wanted it to be," said Silver, a 34-year-old Huntington Woods resident and the Libertarian candidate for the 15th District state Senate seat.

"The government is there to protect our rights, which means police and courts — nothing else," he said.

"I feel people should run the country, not some tin god in Washington." Self-employed as co-owner of a Southfield-based company called

ELECTION



STATE SENATE

The Oil Dispatch, Silver touts the traditional Libertarian party line. He advocates maintaining personal freedoms, reducing the size of gov-

ernment and lowering taxes. As do other Libertarians, Silver advocates "radical reductions" in taxes and believes public education to be a bureaucracy that "chews up money," and that citizens should be given a choice in education and in other public spending issues.

BECAUSE of his views, Silver clearly stands apart from the candidates on the Democratic and Republican tickets.

For example, he is against pollution (as are most politicians), but he views the issue differently. With laws and regulations, government actually harasses small businesses and supports large businesses that

Please turn to Page 4



Steve Silver, co-owner of The Oil Dispatch Inc., takes a Libertarian stance in his quest for the 15th District state Senate seat.

what's inside

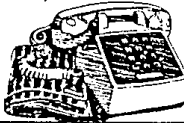
Building scene . . . Sec. H
Business . . . Sec. C
Cable connection . . . 17A
Classifieds . . . Sec. C, E, H
Index 6G
Auto Sec. C, H
Real estate . . . Sec. E, F, G
Employment . . . Sec. G
Creative living . . . Sec. E
Crossword puzzle . . . 11E
Entertainment . . . 7C
Opinion 18A
Police/fire calls . . . 4A
Sports Sec. D
Suburban life . . . Sec. B
Travel 7B

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Police: Powder found at school was not controlled substance

For police and fire calls, see Page 4A

A powder found in a clear plastic bag in a ceiling tile at Warner Middle School, 30303 14 Mile, Sept. 25, tested negative for heroin by the Michigan State Police, said Lt. Gordon Ross of the Farmington Hills Police Department's detective bureau.

"It was not any kind of illegal or controlled substance," said Sgt. Chuck Nebus, also of the detective bureau.

Publication of a report in the Oct. 8 Farmington Observer about the discovery of the powder, which Farmington Hills police initially tested as heroin, angered parents of Warner Middle School students.

"People are up in arms in the Warner community. I don't blame them if they think there's heroin where their kids are going to school," said Warner principal Walter Scobie.

THOUGH SCOBIE said he was told the powder was baking soda, Farmington Hills police Lt. Gordon Ross said he was uncertain of that determination.

"It's still being investigated. We're still trying to determine what it is," Ross said.

The plastic bag was found when a school employee noticed powder, which had leaked from the bag, on the floor's carpeting of the locker commons hallway.

A corner of the bag was also sticking out from a ceiling tile, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

NORTH FARMINGTON High School's band and orchestra boosters kick off their annual fruit and nut sale today. The sale benefits the school's music programs. Students will take orders for the next two weeks. Delivery is expected Nov. 15. Call 489-0067 for information about the sale.

MICHELE Jakacki, co-owner of the Focal Point Studios in downtown Farmington, was appointed Oct. 1 to fill a vacancy on the Farmington Downtown Development Authority. The seat fell open after DDA member Frank Clappison resigned.

MEMORY LANE — From the Oct. 12, 1950 Farmington Enterprise: Frederick W. Bagnell, 62, a former member of the Farmington City Commission, died in Hart, Mich. Bagnell, an Illinois native, worked for Detroit Edison for 34 years. He was on the commission 12 years, resigning in August 1946. He served as the commission's budget and finance adviser, as well as mayor pro-tem.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21598 Farmington Road, Farmington 48838, or dropped off at the newspaper office.