

Contrast are making marriage succeed, 1C



North football, 1B

WL Western gets its field of dreams, 1A



Farmington Observer

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FARMINGTON



FOCUS

PASS THE points said and throw on another slab of ribs... the Salvation Army of Farmington Hills is planning its annual barbecue and auction.

The fund-raiser will be held under a tent on Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Salvation Army headquarters, 27500 Shilawasse at Inxeter, Farmington Hills. The barbecue starts at 11 a.m. and the auction begins at noon.

Auction items will include gift certificates and furniture. A bargain table also will be available. Proceeds will be used to fund Salvation Army programs in the community.

Call 477-1163 for additional information.

HEAR YE! Hear ye! The public is invited to attend a meeting of the Council of Homeowner Associations (COHA) at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the 12 Mile branch of the Farmington Community Library.

William Costich, Farmington Hills city manager, will speak. COHA is an umbrella group for about 70 subdivision and condo groups in Farmington Hills, said Bill Bruckner, first vice president.

Another COHA meeting is planned for Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the 12 Mile library.

THE FARMINGTON/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce's annual golf tournament is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Glen Oaks Golf Course on 13 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

The golf package is \$65 per person. Call the chamber at 474-3440.

COME TAKE "A Taste of Farmington" that's the advice of the local chamber of commerce and the Farmington Community Center, which co-sponsor the annual event.

Billed as a "gastronomical treat featuring delicacies from local eateries," the event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

Cost is \$10 per person. Call 474-3440 or 477-8404 for more information.

FARMINGTON Families in Action will again sponsor its "Say Yes to Life - Say No to Drugs" program - complete with the traditional red ribbons - during October.

A kickoff breakfast will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, at the Glen Oaks Country Club on 13 Mile Road. For information on how homeowners groups can participate or receive red ribbons, call Debbie Dixon at 477-1111.

MEMORY LANE - From the Sept. 5, 1991, Farmington Enterprise:

• Around the Block Item: "A few didn't forget to fly the colors last Monday, Labor Day. People driving Grand River had an opportunity to see the Stars and Stripes flying from their porches, and as always it was an inspiring sight."

• After months of wrangling and debate, a traffic light was finally installed at Middlebelt Road and Eight Mile.



JOHN DISCHER/staff photographer

An emotional Marianne Weiss offered remarks to the school board Tuesday about school bus safety, showing a map of how buses could be routed through subdivisions. Her concerns were echoed by about 150 other parents, who have children in both public and parochial schools in Farmington. School officials pledged to look into the concerns.

Parents riled over changes in bus routes

By Casey Hana
staff writer

About 150 angry parents filled the Farmington School Board chambers Tuesday, upset over \$1 million in district transportation cuts and 6 percent average wage increases for unionized school employees, which many parents said were too high.

"I realize and understand why you have to make cuts," said an obviously distraught Marianne Weiss. "But I want to know why people got raises. You can cut everything you want. But if one child is injured, you will be sued."

"Are they being paid so much that one (bus) stop will cost a life?" Weiss was one of many parents from the area's parochial schools - including St. Fabian, Our Lady of Sorrows and Mercy High School - who were out in force Tuesday, concerned that their children were being offered lesser bus service by the public school district. Public school parents also were well represented.

The gist of the concerns was a lack of communication about the changes and safety issues surrounding the new bus stops.

MOST SECONDARY stops are now on main roads as are many stops for parochial elementary students. Stops for other elementary students have been consolidated, and some students who were previously bused now walk to school.

The changes were part of a package of cuts made because of a \$5.8 million loss of state aid and a defeated millage attempt last February. Most parents were advised of the transportation changes just days before school began.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan and other administrators pledged Tuesday to work quickly and to be fair in reviewing the concerns. "This was a major overhaul in the system that's been in place for 20 years," he explained. "Whether you believe it or not, we are genuinely concerned about the kids in this district."

Canterbury Commons resident

"If we're all in this together... everybody has to suffer the same."

— Becky Gaffly
Canterbury Commons resident

Becky Gaffly said she was glad the district worked hard not to cut academic programs. "But you're asking children and parents to take it on the chin," she said. "If we're all in this together... everybody has to suffer the same."

Richard Button cited a coordination problem. "Maybe some things just need to be re-evaluated to make it easier on everyone," he said.

Board president Jack Cotton told the group he was "saddened, somewhat, that you think we would not be conscious of the safety of your children."

Some parents saw the changes as punishment to the community for not supporting last February's millage request - something school officials strongly denied. "Ladies and gentlemen, there's no free lunch," Flanagan said. "We've lost that money - the people have spoken. We decided not to go back for another vote."

Flanagan also warned parents that "we have just begun to see the cuts in the Farmington Public Schools" and suggested they pay close attention to a proposed 30 percent property tax cut being proposed in Lansing, which would cost the district \$20-30 million.

A handful of parents at the meeting Tuesday were pleased that the district had not taken the \$1 million in transportation cuts from academic programs.

"I only wish we'd heard one third of your voices last summer when the state took the \$5.8 million," said Gill Elementary parent Deborah Lukasiak, one of several local

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Community center director resigns

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Dorothy Pfaff, executive director of the Farmington Community Center the past four years, will resign Sept. 15.

Pfaff's position was advertised

last weekend in the classified section of a daily newspaper, but no formal press release was issued.

Pfaff submitted her letter of resignation at last week's quarterly board meeting, according to Ben Marks, Community Center board president.

"She has another opportunity," Marks said. "I didn't ask what it was. It's none of my business. We're very sad to see her go. She's done a bang-up job in the four years she's been here."

Pfaff's resignation is effective Sept. 15, Marks said. The \$25,000-

30,000 position will be filled by Nov. 1, he said.

Pfaff cited "ongoing difficulties," as a reason for her leaving but would not disclose future plans indicating that those who wished to speak to

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Buckle up blitz

Hills project aims to harness 70-percent safety belt use

Editor's note: During the next couple of months, the Farmington Observer will participate in a campaign to increase safety belt usage for both adults and children.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

You're probably used to hearing that you ought to wear your safety belt. It's no joke. But try thinking about this mathematically.

Put yourself in the passenger seat. Put your baby on your lap with your shoulder harness around yourself and the baby. People are doing a lot of that lately, especially for those short trips.

Imagine you're traveling along at 45 mph. Suddenly another car driving the same speed crosses the



SHARON LEAMUEX/staff photographer

Farmington Hills traffic officer Gerald Lynch has helped train other officers for the stepped up safety belt enforcement program that begins this week. Patrol cars will feature enforcement markings. The goal of the Farmington Hills Buckle Up Committee is to achieve 70 percent safety belt compliance in the city.

centerline and plows head-on into your car. Mathematically speaking, you're now in a 90 mph impact. "The baby is going to be crushed. All the momentum

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Council goes for cat control

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Farmington City Council members have their claws out for owners of roaming cats.

Council Monday introduced the first draft of an ordinance revision that will address cat owners' responsibilities for licensing, immunization and cleanup.

But councilman Richard Tupper said the ordinance may be unenforceable. "It's too vague to find out if cats have been immunized or not," he said.

Council agreed that such an ordinance is needed.

"Regulation of cats is a recent phenomenon," said John Donohue, city attorney. "I don't think there is anything in here that is unenforceable."

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