

Healthy mind reflects  
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# Farmington Observer

Volume 103 Number 41

Thursday, February 20, 1992

Farmington, Michigan

64 Pages

Fifty Cents

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## FARMINGTON



### FOCUS

**WHAT'S BETTER** than a historic inn in this community? Why, a historic inn that rates three stars in the 1992 "Mobil Travel Guide."

The Rotaford Inn, a Farmington Hills landmark, was given three stars by the travel guide, which lists more than 20,000 dining and lodging establishments on a one-to-five-star rating system.

An establishment must meet exacting standards to merit a listing in the Mobil guide, said John Anhut, owner of The Rotaford Inn on Grand River just north of Eight Mile Road.

The historic inn, supposedly the oldest in Michigan still providing food and lodging, was built as a home in 1836 by Orrin Weston. Later, it became a tavern known as the Sixteen Mile House. It was a stagecoach stop on the Grand River plank road which followed an old Indian trail.

The Anhut family purchased the property in 1951 from the Henry Ford family. John Anhut got involved in the business to support himself while attending law school and has stayed with it. The inn has been for sale since 1980, Anhut has said the inn is listed at \$2.5 million, down from the \$3.5 million the family had been asking.

**RESIDENTIAL** politics is coming to the Farmington area thanks to the Farmington Democratic Club.

A forum featuring representatives of Democratic presidential candidates will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at the Farmington Hills City Hall, Orchard Lake and 11 Mile roads.

The forum will give Farmington-area voters an opportunity to find out where the Democratic candidates stand on the issues before the March 17 Michigan presidential primary.

Representatives of candidates Jerry Brown, Bill Clinton, Tom Harkin, Bob Kerrey and Paul Tsongas have been invited to participate in the forum, which is open to the public.

The representatives will be questioned by a panel consisting of Farmington Observer reporter Joanne Maliszewski, Observer Oakland County reporter Pat Murphy, and a high school government student.

It is expected that the forum will be broadcast live on cable Channel 18. Literature from the various campaigns will be available at the meeting.

**MEMORY LANE** — From the Feb. 11, 1992 Farmington Enterprise:

• Farmington churches were to mark World Day of Prayer on Feb. 29 with a community service at the Farmington Methodist Church.

• Farmington firefighters answered 16 calls during a five-day period and all two were for grass fires. Most of the blazes started from unwatched rubbish fires, said fire chief Leo Hendryx.

• William Burke was elected president of the Floral Park Civic Association during the group's annual meeting at the American Legion home, Farmington City Manager James Tennant was on hand to answer questions about the city's plans.

• Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21859 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48330, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## One happy daughter

Emily Halberg, a shy 9-year-old from Farmington Hills, didn't want to go on the dance floor during last week's Daddy/Daughter Dance at the Mercy Center. So her father,

Rick Halberg, sat her on his lap and danced with her anyway. The event was sponsored by the Farmington Hills Recreation Division.

## Rezoning request faces little challenge

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Change the letters in the alphabet soup and the size of the crowd diminishes.

That was developer Melvin Katan's amazed reaction to the few people who attended a public hearing Monday night on his request to rezone acreage immediately east of

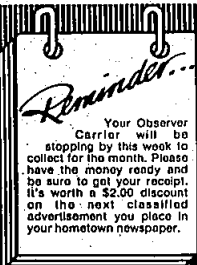
property he wanted rezoned to industrial-research-office (IRO), but got multiple-family (RC-2) in a recent consent agreement with the city of Farmington Hills.

"It's amazing how just a change in the letters from IRO to RC-2 . . . Katan said before the hearing as he scanned the council audience.

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## Lost landmark? Civic's owner says business is bad

By Tom Beer  
staff writer

The last picture show in down-

town Farmington could be playing soon if you believe Greg Hohler, owner of the landmark Civic Theatre.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Theater owner Greg Hohler sweeps popcorn and other debris from under the seats of the Civic. The financially strapped owner also runs the projection machines.

Business is bad, said Hohler, whose father Edward opened the movie house on Grand River 51 years ago, and it's due to get worse. "I've not seen it this critical since the start of TV back in the early 1950s," said Hohler, who purchased the theater from his father in 1973 and has worked there since he was a small boy. "We're on the verge of going out of business."

The video age — VCRs in millions of American living rooms, as well as multi-screen theaters in shopping malls — has not been kind to old-fashioned movie theaters with neon art deco marquees or their owners, Hohler said.

Of particular concern to Hohler is the Livonia Mall theaters where prices were recently dropped to \$1 per customer.

The Civic, which long ago changed from first-run to discount house, now will charge \$1.25 (down from \$2) in an attempt to compete, he added.

THERE HAS been a proliferation of discount "screens" in the area over the past few years — 11 in a seven-mile radius of Farmington, Hohler said.

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## Bus manager remembered affectionately

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Malen Andrew Terry's compassion and knowledge always ruled the day.

Whether it was helping a bus mechanic with a problem or just somebody who needed to talk, the Farmington Public Schools transportation maintenance supervisor was always there to help, give advice or just to listen, said those who remembered him.

Co-workers, family and friends were saddened this week to hear of Terry's untimely death at age 50, which occurred Saturday while he was vacationing at a family cottage near Cadillac. The longtime Farmington resident died at Reed City Hospital following a heart attack. He had been shoveling snow.

Considered a true family man by everyone, he was remembered this week with great respect and affection.

FIRST AND foremost, everyone considered him a friend. Farmington Superintendent Michael Flanagan said Terry was his

*'He taught us all. All of us will be better for having known him.'*

— Mike Flanagan  
school superintendent

"first friend" in the school district, and called him a big brother and father figure. "He always had his hand out to other people," Flanagan said. "When I became superintendent, he was more proud of it than anyone. I think he knew he was my teacher."

"He taught us all. All of us will be better for having known him."

Close friend and district personnel director Robert Coleman said Terry was the epitome of the biblical lesson of "do unto others."

"It may not have had a counseling or a teaching degree, but he was a tremendous influence on young people," he said. "I believe his job and his concern with the safety of the kids and drivers . . . was the

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## Gas spill fumes pose no threat

By Casey Hane and  
Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writers

Spillage of about 7,000 gallons of gasoline into the storm sewer system at a company on Eight Mile Road Monday created a potentially explosive situation for several hours, temporarily closed the major mile road, and spread fumes north into the storm sewer system in the city of Farmington.

Farmington public safety officials said there was never any danger to residents in the area and there were no evacuations, because the fumes were confined to the city's storm sewer system. But there was concern in the industrial park area at Eight Mile near Chesley until the

spill was brought under control, they said.

Eight Mile is the boundary line for Livonia and the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Farmington Public Safety Director Frank Lauthoff said the Monday night spill was "quite unusual" and that officials from the area cities waited until early morning until the danger was averted.

The incident was reported about 9 p.m. at McLaren Engines Inc., 32233 Eight Mile in Livonia. McLaren is on the south side of Eight Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake/Merriman roads.

"IT DIDN'T really have any effect on Farmington Hills because of the

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