

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Applause, please: Oakland County GOP chairman finds that orchestrating convention spontaneity is tiring./5A

In the fold: Local minority delegates have their own views of the convention./9A

Passable roads: The Farmington Hills city manager says major roads will be passable for the start of school, despite ongoing construction work./11A

OPINION

Afterthoughts: Michigan got more attention at the Republican than Democratic convention. For a comparison of the two, see Tim Richard's column on today's Points of View page./10A

TASTE



Summer delight: Whether eaten for a snack or baked in desserts, fresh juicy peaches are easy to love. Learn more about this popular fruit./1B

Winner Dinner: This week's menu features a tomato sauce that is quick and easy to make and bursting with the fresh flavor of sun-ripened tomatoes. It's served over pasta and accompanied by zucchini pancakes./1B

SPORTS

Hoop previews: The Harrison and North Farmington girls basketball teams are looking forward to the 1992 season with optimism./1C

Coleman outlook: Former Harrison all-state quarterback Mill Coleman will start at wide receiver for Michigan State University./1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Crisis in the Modern Family: Blind Parents" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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Police ask help at Flanders



Vandalism is a problem at Flanders Elementary School and the surrounding neighborhood. Police and school officials are hoping the public can help solve the problem.

By CAREY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Farmington police and school officials are seeking community help to decrease vandalism in the neighborhood around Flanders Elementary School. In light of recent property damage in the area.

Just last week, the exterior of the

back of the school building, playground equipment, garbage cans, and other school property was vandalized and spray-painted with obscenities, causing an unspecified amount of damage ranging into the thousands of dollars. In two separate incidents last week, seven Livonia teenagers were caught trespassing on the school roof and four Farm-

ington Hills teens were detained for shooting at a home on Meadowlark and breaking windows with pellet guns.

Police also have logged calls of suspicious circumstances, broken windows and other problems at the school and in the area, which includes the Farmington Meadows and Tall Pines subdivisions. Last week's spray painting was the third such incident in a month, officials said.

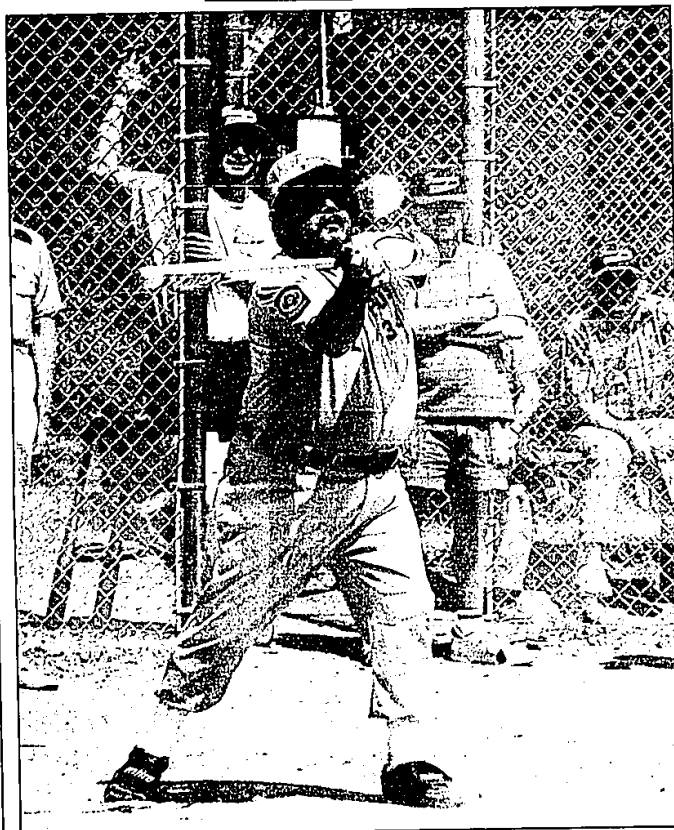
Police calls to the area are increasing because of community awareness, said Farmington public safety director Frank Lauhoff. But there needs to be

more involvement if the incidents are to stop.

Lauhoff said his department began working closely with the school and parents there one year ago, when patrols to the area were increased. Last week's activity is prompting police to step up enforcement even more. "We've received a lot of helpful information from people in the area, but I guess we're looking for more," he said. "We need parental involvement in this — people have to start talking to their

See FLANDERS, 2A

Celebration of Farmington



SHARON LEWICK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Taking his cuts: Wally Christensen, who has long been associated with the Farmington American Legion baseball program, played in the Old Timers softball game Saturday during Family Day in the Park at Shawwassee Park. There were activities for young and old alike at the event, which was part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the community's incorporation as a village. For more photos and a story, please see Thursday's Farmington Observer.

Watch repairman had big heart

By TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

It was just a little shop in downtown Farmington — only 12 by 14 feet, according to one reckoning — but the proprietor inside had a big, big heart.

He was Michael Vizin, owner of Farmington Watch & Clock Repair on Grand River next door to the Civic The-

ater. Mr. Vizin died Aug. 17 in Providence Hospital in Southfield. He was 67.

Mr. Vizin, an Allen Park resident, is fondly remembered by his neighbor, Greg Hohler, owner of the Civic.

"He was one of the kindest, most generous persons I've ever known," Hohler said. "There was nothing he wouldn't

do for you if he possibly could. Once you stopped in to have your watch repaired, you were his friend for life."

Born in Detroit in 1924, Mr. Vizin worked in the watch and clock repair business since age 12. His was a world of tiny parts and gears, requiring a steady hand and delicate touch.

See REPAIRMAN, 4A

A story to pedal

Sister Dianna Kietlen, a Roman Catholic nun, needed to get from there (Sioux City, Iowa) to here (Farmington Hills) for a meeting earlier this month. She did so without the aid of airplanes, trains or automobiles. The Sisters of Mercy nun simply climbed on her Schwinn World Sport 14-speed touring bicycle and pedaled the more than 600 miles in 11 days.

"I can honestly say that nothing hurt (on arrival here)," said the 37-year-old cycling enthusiast who was in Farmington Hills for the Sisters of Mercy annual meeting Aug. 8-10.

"If I had the time, I would have cycled back to Iowa," said Sister Dianna, who is in administrator at the Marian Health Center in Sioux City. She returned the easy way — in an automobile.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Sister Dianna, a native of Flint, arrived in Farmington Hills Aug. 7 with no serious mishaps to report — not even a flat tire.

She left Sioux City July 27 with fellow sister Jeanine Tiso, who drove a car ahead. Another friend cycled with Sister Dianna 400 miles across Iowa. But after that, she was on her own.

"My favorite part of the trip happened near Manitowish, Wis.," she said. "It was my first day of riding alone. I was emotionally and physically exhausted."

"When I came over this hill and saw Lake Michigan, I thought, 'Oh, there's home.' It gave me the burst of energy I needed to finish the journey." She rode the ferry across Lake Michigan.

Sister Dianna's lodging along the way consisted of convents, bed and breakfast places and motels. One night a sympathetic family opened its doors to the tired cyclist.

Did the sister have any advice for someone planning a bicycle trip of this length? "I would tell them to train," she said.

Any cans or bottles?

Save your returnable cans and bottles for the Farmington High School Music Patrons drive on Saturday, Aug. 29. Proceeds will hold with expenses for band camp.

Students will pick up returnables from porches, or residents may bring them to the parking lot behind the A&P store in downtown Farmington from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.