



Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Dorm drinking: More and more students are signing up for rooms in Michigan's state colleges where drinking or drugs aren't wanted./5A

Family fun: Toy boats floated, lots of chicken was cooked and eaten, "old timers" played softball, square dancing partners were swung around, and even the cow did his thing at Farmington's Family Day in the Park./8A

OPINION

Recreation jewel: Heritage Park in Farmington Hills is too precious to trash or vandalize. Everyone should take care to protect the park./16A

SPORTS

Grid preview: North Farmington challenged for the league title and made the state football playoffs last year. The Raiders hope to do as well in 1992./1B

SPECIAL SECTIONS

Stylish moments: What's on the fall fashion marquee? See today's special fashion supplement, Showtime, for a preview.

ENTERTAINMENT



Eating out: Alexander the Great restaurant in Westland is known for their delicious barbecue ribs. The family-owned eatery is celebrating its 15th anniversary in September./5B

BUSINESS

Public or private: Securing capital is a life or death proposition for entrepreneurs struggling to get a product to market. For Troy-based Somanetics, manufacturer of computer-based medical diagnostic and monitoring equipment, the question was how to gaining more visibility for shareholders and would-be investors./8B

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Union alarm rings in first day



BY CARRY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Informational pickets walked at several sites in the Farmington School District Tuesday, the first day of school for students. Agreements between the district and three unions still had not been reached.

Three Farmington Public School District unions representing teachers and other support personnel started the school year Monday without a new contract, and it appears negotiations will stretch into this weekend. Meanwhile, union members manned informational picket lines at nine

school buildings Tuesday in a show of solidarity carrying signs with "let's bargain" messages.

Although both sides are set to go back to the table Friday with the aid of a state mediator, Zan Alley, negotiator for the three Michigan Education Association-affiliates, issued a statement which implied a serious weekend deadline.

"It is unfortunate that the board of education is not interested in reaching a tentative agreement on a new contract with the employees," Alley said. "I hope the board will approach (Friday's) session with realistic proposals and that we will be able to reach a tentative agreement."

"If not, our members will meet on Sunday afternoon to determine what action they will take."

Meeting Sunday

The general MEA membership meeting is scheduled for Sunday afternoon

at 4 p.m. Employees of all three unions are working under one-year agreements, or contract extensions which expire this Sunday.

School employee relations director Sue Zurvalet said the district is "going to work very hard this weekend to get a settlement. We're obviously still talking and we will talk until we get a contract."

She said negotiators will work on issues throughout the week in anticipation of Friday's session with full bargaining teams.

See PICKETS, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY DIANE L. MITCHELL

Nice night for concert

Thursday treat: The Farmington Community Chorus, including singer Bob Bowbeer and accompanist Susan Garr (above right), perform with the group selections from "Oklahoma," "West Side Story," and "Miss Saigon" in a recent concert at Heritage Park. It was part of the Thursday Night series. At left, Brenda and Crocy Freedman relax on the hill at Heritage as they listen to the music. The couple plans to move to Farmington Hills soon.



Some still teed about clubhouse

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

It seems a majority of Copper Creek residents want a clubhouse that serves liquor at the nine-hole golf course meandering through a portion of their neighborhood.

But Farmington Hills officials have some doubts.

"I think we have to come to grips

COOPER CREEK

with just how big of an operation we want here," said councilman Larry Lichtman.

Golf course owners Richard and Ken Cummins and attorney Clarence Charest had hoped to get approval for a clubhouse site plan Monday, as well as approval of a new Class C liquor license. But when the council heard that the top floor of the two-floor clubhouse was 4,000 square feet, discussion hit a bunker.

"I feel that 8,000 feet with a liquor license, banquet facilities . . . I feel it's too big of a building myself," said Mayor Jonathan Grant.

Councilman Ben Marks made it clear he wouldn't support it. "It's just not right. I think the impact would be injurious as time goes on. This is alien to everything the city has stood for," he said, referring to a liquor-licensed commercial operation in the heart of a neighborhood.

Copper Creek is a planned residential development on 12 Mile, east of Haggerty. The golf course is part of the open space, which allowed developers to build in greater density on smaller lots.

Decisions on the proposed site plan and liquor license were tabled pending arrangement of a meeting for neighbors, golf course owners and the council to determine what a clubhouse should be.

See CLUBHOUSE, 9A

Heavy metal crash: car slams steam roller

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The crashing sound was so great early Monday morning that it woke Bob Dabrowski and his family from a sound sleep.

The impact that woke the Dabrowskis was the sound of metal hitting metal — a car metal hitting steam roller metal, that is.

"The impact was so great — he was driving a Mustang GT — it actually shattered the transmission case," said Dabrowski, who lives at 13 Mile and

Chesterbrook, which is under construction.

"You should have seen the front end of the car. I don't know how he survived," added Dabrowski, who called 9-1-1.

The driver of the car — who was not seriously injured, but who had been drinking, according to police — hit a steam roller in the construction area on 13 Mile, near North Farmington High School, according to Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills police traffic section.

"The steam roller was behind the road closed barrier and he drove past the barriers and clipped the steam roller," Cranston said. The driver was ticketed for speed too fast for conditions.

Though the Mustang GT got the worst of the encounter, the steam roller received some pretty good dents in its front end, said Dabrowski, who praised the construction crew on 13 Mile.

"I can set my clock by them at 7 a.m. I've got no complaints against those construction people. No one is getting

gyped as far as their efforts," Dabrowski said.

The accident surprised police officers who have tracked fewer accidents as more construction improves roadways in Farmington Hills.

"As we're doing more and more construction, we find the engineering changes are helping. We are eliminating a much larger number of accidents in the overall picture," Cranston said.

See CRASH, 2A

Happy 50th, John!

What the heck is the JBFFRC? Why, it's the John Barrett Fifties Fifties Road Classic, and it was run Aug. 21 to honor Barrett, longtime girls cross country coach at Farmington High, who turned 50 last Tuesday.

The JBFFRC doubled as a surprise birthday party for Barrett. His wife Carla sent out more than 100 invitations for the three-mile run held in a Plymouth Township park near their home. Just about everyone showed up, she said.

Participating in the run were fellow teachers and coaches Jerry Young, Reggie Goshorn and Bruce Brown, as well as friends and neighbors and members of past and present FHHS cross country teams.

"We invited a lot of runners from John's past teams," Carla said. "It was kind of a reunion."

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Overall winner was Dave Clinard, who runs on the current Falcon cross country team. The top woman finisher was Kathleen Gerick, a '91 Mercy High graduate and now a student at St. Mary's College of Notre Dame.

The winner in Barrett's age group? Why Barrett himself, of course. And Carla gave him his award.

Barrett, the language arts coordinator for the Farmington Public Schools, helped start the girls cross country program at Farmington about 10 years ago. Carla works in the Harrison High media center.

The Barretts have something else to celebrate right about now — their 23rd wedding anniversary. They

met in 1968 when both were teachers at Farmington High.

Remembering Ryan

During the 27th annual Muscular Dystrophy Telethon Sunday-Monday, Sept. 6-7, on WJBK-TV (Channel 2), the late Ryan Young will be honored for his courage and his work supporting the Muscular Dystrophy Association during a special segment of the telethon.

Ryan, a Farmington Hills resident, was 15 years old when he died March 22 of complications having to do with congenital muscular dystrophy.

Ryan, the son of Don and Cindy Young, was considered the local ambassador for MDA and served as the state and local poster child.