

Farmington Observer



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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

COUNTY NEWS

Out for revenge: Bilked brides — and their parents — say last week's court ruling against the owners of six bridal shops doesn't go far enough. /11A

Face to face: Oakland County executive candidates hold two debates this week before civic groups in Royal Oak and Southfield. /12A

OPINION

Same issues: The dates may have changed, but the issues remain the same in the education field. /10A

STREET SCENE



Kitchens cooking: It bothers Julian Swales that some critics have labeled his band's latest effort as being too much of the same old thing. But Swales says Kitchens of Distinction has progressed musically. /4A

TASTE

Winner Dinner: Cindy Mecsey, the Kingswood campus nurse at Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield Hills, practices what she preaches about good nutrition. /1B

SPORTS

Grid action: Harrison and North Farmington played key division football games Saturday. Farmington tried for its first victory Friday. /1C

Hoop report: Undeclared Livonia Ladywood scored an easy victory over Mercy in the first Central Division basketball game for both teams. /1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Speaker's Row" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

INDEX

Classifieds . . . B-D On the agenda . . . 8A
Entertainment . . . 5-6A Opinion . . . 10A
Auto D Personal Scene . . . 5A
Index BB Police, fire calls . . . 9A
Real estate . . . B,C Sports . . . 1C
Employment . . . C,D Street Scene . . . 4A
Crossword puzzle . . . 6B Taste 1B
Obituaries . . . 4B Travel 7A

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Hills buys site to get control



BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

A bold move is how Farmington Hills officials describe their decision to buy nine acres on Orchard Lake Road south of I-696 for \$765,000 to control future development — particularly commercial — in the residential area.

"I do not believe it is in the best interest of the community to see this parcel of property develop as office," said Mayor Jonathan Grant. "In my mind, taxpayers were best served by buying the property."

Residents in the adjacent Springfield-LaMuena subdivision agree with Grant.

"We highly commend the city council for making this decision," said Janet Rose, homeowners association president. "We feel that allowing commercial development on this lot would begin a process of deterioration of the residential environment south of I-696."

To buy the land the city will make a \$150,000 downpayment. The \$600,000 balance, which city officials hope to borrow at 5 percent interest, will be financed over six years.

In this fiscal year, the city will pay the \$150,000 downpayment and \$15,000 in anticipated interest for the acreage, north of Springfield, east of Orchard Lake Road.

The council also made it clear the land would not be used for parks and recreation, but more likely a city-oriented use, such as a central fire station. The council also has the option of selling the land and could better control

See SITE, 8A



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seeing the park: Jack Smiley (left with arm extended) of the Audubon Society guides Canadian naturalists Lisa King (second from left) and Carol Tattersall through Heritage Park. Orin Gelderloos (far right) of the University of Michigan is also on the scene.

Tourists look at wetlands

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Learning from the mistakes — and successes — of others is why members of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority of London, Ontario, visit places such as Farmington Hills.

"We find tours useful for collecting ideas and conservation practices," said Craig Merkley, a rural water quality specialist with the authority.

Merkley and about 11 others from Ontario left their homes at the crack of dawn Monday, Sept. 21, to meet a few members of the Friends of the Rouge River at Heritage Park for a tour of what grassroots efforts can do to protect the environment.

See WETLANDS, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Quite a story: North Farmington students Danielle Schiff (right) and Daniela Jardon listen to Eric Worley at the Community Center Thursday.

Ex-user describes depth of drug habit

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

High school was an endless stream of alcohol and drugs for Eric Worley, a West Bloomfield High School graduate and senior at Michigan State.

His life was saved by friends who intervened by alerting a school counselor.

In just three years, Worley went from taking his first drink in the eighth grade to daily marijuana use and, finally, to a seven-day-a-week cocaine habit as a junior in high school. The crisis led him to a seven-week rehabilitation program.

He now abstains from all drugs and alcohol, but Worley said he's one of the lucky ones. About one-third of people in rehab programs go back to using drugs, another third die, and another third are alive and sober, he said.

"If I had gone one or two more weeks, I would have been dead," Worley told a group of Farmington-area high school students at an antidrug breakfast in Farmington Hills last Thursday.

"I have a lot of things now I wouldn't have — I have my life," he added. "I have control of my life. I make the decisions. I make the calls."

'Gateway drugs'

Worley's comments were made to about 50 students from the three high schools in the Farmington school district Thursday as part of a student breakfast to kick off October Drug Awareness Month in the area. Susanne Drees of the Farmington Area Advisory

See DRUGS, 2A

'I know to the average citizen, we're just getting a new city manager. Frankly, I'm disturbed about what could happen. These are big shoes to fill.'

James Pogue
plan commission chairman

Selection process upsets panel chief

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

The chairman of Farmington's planning commission said last week he was "disturbed" about the city council's approach to hiring a new city manager.

James Pogue, a Farmington resident

who heads the city council-appointed commission, voiced his concern about the council's decision to advertise first inside of city hall without doing a professional search.

"I know to the average citizen, we're just getting a new city manager," he

said. "Frankly, I'm disturbed about what could happen. These are big shoes to fill."

The planning commission works closely with the current longtime city manager, Robert Deadman, who an-

See SELECTION, 8A

Oktoberfest

German food and music, dancing and plenty of beer will highlight the inaugural Mulwood Square Oktoberfest Friday-Saturday, Oct. 9-10, at the shopping center, Grand River and Drake, Farmington Hills.

Hours will be 5 p.m. to midnight Friday and noon to midnight Saturday.

Music will be provided by the Internationals both nights, and a celebrity guest will sign autographs from 2-4 p.m. Saturday. The event, billed as a family affair, will also have kiddie rides, a craft show and a pumpkin painting contest.

There will be no charge for admission. For more information, call 471-6618.

A Evening of Chance

The Community Center of Farmington/Farming-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

ton Hills will hold the third-annual dance and raffle — "An Evening of Chance II" — beginning at 7 p.m. Sweetest Day, Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Novi Hilton.

This year's theme is "This could be the Sweetest Day of your life!" grand prize in the raffle is \$5,000. Other cash and merchandise prizes are to be awarded.

The bar opens at 7 p.m., dinner starts at 7:30 p.m. and the raffle takes place at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets at \$150 per couple include dinner, live entertainment and the raffle. Only 200 tickets are to be sold with proceeds to benefit the Community Center.

For information on ticket sales, call the Community Center at 477-8404.

Memory Lane

From the Oct. 2, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

● The Bond and Middlebelt elementary schools were closed four days because of lack of heat.
● Seven minors were picked up by city and township police during the past week for having liquor in their cars, said Joseph DeVriendt, Farmington police chief. A new state law made possession of liquor by minors an offense.

● Evans Staley ran back a punt for a touchdown to highlight Farmington High's 24-0 football victory over Southfield. Fullback Larry Pink ran for another touchdown.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.