

Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Pair arraigned: Two men charged with robbing a Farmington Hills motel made different pleas in Oakland County Circuit Court./11A

COUNTY NEWS

Mr. Rogers: The new county director of community and economic development has enlarged his neighborhood to all of Oakland./5A

STREET SCENE



Pure sound: The name may be appropos. Canadian alternative rock band Pure may have a blasting musical style, but its thought-provoking lyrics may be the reason the band is enjoying a growing popularity./6A

SPORTS

Volleyball tourney: Farmington Hills Mercy was in the running Saturday for a Class A regional championship./1C

District basketball: Farmington High played host West Bloomfield for a district championship Friday./1C

TASTE



Irish cooking: First cousins, both chefs at area country clubs, demonstrate how tasty and satisfying Irish cooking really is./1B

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Parents share school concerns



It could be called a meeting of the minds. Members of Citizens Against Violence in the Schools got together with people from the Parents Advisory Forum of Farmington High.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Citizens Against Violence in the Schools came with a mission statement, issues and questions. Members also wanted to answer any concerns about the group's intentions. They met with the Parents Advi-

sory Forum of Farmington High Wednesday, the first of several organizers say they hope to have with parents groups and school officials. "Also it cleared up some things in case some people had the wrong ideas of what we're about," said Joanne LaFleur, a founding member of the

Citizens Against Violence in the Schools.

Citizens Against Violence in the Schools formed in the wake of several reported fighting incidents. LaFleur's son was seriously injured in one incident in December at Farmington High.

The group sponsored a meeting in February, in which Allen Martin of SOSAD (Save Our Sons and Daughters) spoke at the Farmington Public Library. Members want to take things a step further.

Terry Fobbs, whose daughter was

assaulted while a student at North Farmington last year, outlined the group's objectives.

"We want every student to have a rewarding educational experience," Fobbs said. "The school should be a second home to them."

"We want to be able to establish a violence free zone in the school districts."

Parents listened. Though some have been upset at what they see as Farmington High being singled out in

See PARENTS, 4A

Reed brothers have tight family ties



SHARON LEMIERRE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Prime Timers: The Reed brothers, Adam (left), Eric and Aaron, have found that kinship counts in business and in life.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Prime Time Sports bears the symbols of boyhood kinship.

Old-time baseball caps, "Original Six" hockey jerseys and college sweat shirts on the shelves kindle nostalgia and fraternity. The owners know only too well about both.

Brotherhood guides Adam, Eric and Aaron Reed in their entrepreneurial endeavor and beyond.

"I think of these people, and their families are so screwed up," said Adam Reed, 28, the oldest brother and a graduate of North Farmington High. "They don't realize the inner strength you gain from your blood relatives."

Nearly three years ago, the Reeds had to find out how.

In a span of two months, the family lost their mother suddenly to an aneurysm and watched the youngest brother, Aaron, cling to life.

Aaron was returning with the Orchard Lake St. Mary's rowing team when the van he was riding in smashed into a trailer carrying row boats. A boat went through the windshield, killing a passenger and seriously injuring Aaron.

Aaron was originally pronounced dead on arrival. He nearly died once in intensive care.

See REEDS, 2A

Hills flooded with assessment appeals

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

You wouldn't know that Farmington Hills property owners took the smallest bit of any community in Oakland County by the number of calls and appointments with the boards of review to appeal assessments.

City property owners were assessed an average of 6 percent higher than two years ago, after a freeze on last year's rates.

But city assessor Dean Babb said the change in the state's method of

determining assessments has meant neighbors have sometimes had much different rates. That has resulted in the largest number of appeals in Babb's eight-plus years as city assessor.

"There have been more than I've ever had, more than I thought I'd have," Babb said. "The phone was ringing off the hook for nine days following the assessments went out. We had people three and four deep at the counter."

In Farmington, by contrast, there has been only a slight increase in the

number of appeals, although the final tally isn't complete.

"We were finished Thursday night," said Carl Sandler, assessing clerk. "It went really smooth."

Sandler said it will be three or four weeks before people who appealed assessments in Farmington find out the result.

"I think we had more people complaining this year about market value, that their assessments were too high," she said.

In most years, Farmington Hills

has had one, three-member board of review to hear appeals. This year there are two boards and they will be working through March 23. They began their work on March 8.

In many cases, if the property owner can show where an assessment is out of line with similar property values, where the property was bought within a year for less than twice the assessment or where the property owner can show hardship, the assessment is lowered.

See APPEALS, 2A

Beechwood students shifted

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Some Beechwood Elementary pupils will be on the move next year in order to reduce overcrowding at the school.

The Farmington School Board approved the relocation at Tuesday's meeting. The district projects by 1996-97 there will be 211 new students.

Beechwood, located at 26850 Westmeath south of I-696 between 11 and 12 mile roads, is already 93 students over capacity. The student-to-

teacher ratio is 26-to-1 there, compared to 23-to-1 in other schools.

"We have been wrestling with this for some time to try and make it a better educational experience for the students there," said Don Cowan, director of Building and Student Services.

Some 120 students will be affected. Those include:

- Children living north of 11 Mile between Inker and Middlebelt, which is Section 13, will be moved to Wood Creek Elementary.
- Kindergarten pupils will be relo-

cated to the Alameda Early Childhood Center.

■ First-graders from Beechview, Larkshire and Longacre may attend Alameda or remain at their school.

■ Fifth-graders in Section 13 have the option of either going to Wood Creek or remaining at Beechview.

The solution is seen as short-term. Several parents told the board it will have to look at more concrete plans down the road.

School officials agree, but hasten to

See BEECHWOOD, 4A



Don Cowan

A Musicales concert

Operatic arias and Rodgers and Hart favorites will highlight the Farmington Musicales's upcoming concert to benefit its scholarship fund. The concert will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, March 26, at North Congregational Church, 26275 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

Sharon Sweet, a mezzo-soprano from Farmington Hills, will perform the arias. Soprano May D. Arvo will offer Rodgers and Hart songs. Both performers will be accompanied by Marie Walick of Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Musicales Chorus, directed by Joyce Bigelow, also will perform. The finale will be "Rhapsody in Blue" performed by West Bloomfield Yuki and Tomoko Mack. The Mackes are beginning their professional careers. Master of ceremonies Harry M. Langford will

FARMINGTON FOCUS

play the organ at the beginning and end of the program. The concert will be followed by a meet-the-artists "afterglow."

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for students through grade 12. Call 951-5526 for ticket information. For additional information about the Farmington Musicales, call Sharon Cardecia at 688-2766.

'Anything Goes' at Mercy

Tunes from the 1930s will be featured at the Cole Porter comedy spoof "Anything Goes" Friday-Sunday, March 26-28, at Mercy High School.

11 Mile and Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

Roberta Campton, a Southfield resident and Mercy graduate, will direct and choreograph the show, her 10th at Mercy. Larry Teevens, music chair at Mercy for 32 years, will direct the vocalists as they croon such classics as "You're The Top," "Delovely," "Friendship," and "I Get A Kick Out Of You."

Tickets for reserved seating at \$9 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and students may be purchased by calling 476-3270. Tickets may be bought at the door an hour before curtain times.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.