

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Pace setter walk

The 1993 Solway Pace Setter Walk for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis will take place 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, at Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills. Participants will have an option of walking 2½ to 5 miles through the OCC campus and will be eligible to win prizes.

The walk helps raise money to find a cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, which are chronic and painful diseases that affect more than two million Americans.

Matthew Wright, 15, will serve as youth ambassador for the walk. Wright was diagnosed with Crohn's disease at age 12. Some 200,000 children nationwide are affected by Crohn's or colitis.

People interested in making a pledge or participating in the walk can call the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation at 737-0900.

Promotion

Vernon Patterson of Farmington Hills has been promoted to first vice president of Michigan National Corporation. Patterson previously served as vice president.

Patterson is director of Investor Relations and the company's spokesperson for the investment community and rating agencies. Since joining Michigan National in 1993, Patterson has held the positions of credit analyst and commercial loan officer.

Star bank

Metrobank of Farmington Hills has been awarded its eighth consecutive five-star rating by the Bauer Financial Reports, Inc., a bank research and rating firm in Coral Gables, Fla. The annual award is recognition for safety, strength and performance.

A five-star rating, the highest on a scale from 0-5 stars, indicates that Metrobank's tangible capital exceeds 9 percent of tangible assets, its risk-based capital ratio exceeds 10.5 percent, delinquencies and repossessed assets are manageable, the institution is soundly invested and it earned a profit for the quarter ended March 31.

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

Name notes group's dual home



Musical note: Karen Nixon conducts the rehearsal of the new Farmington Area Philharmonic, which was formerly known as Group Du Jour. The group gave a performance Sunday at Farmington High auditorium.

■ After three years of looking for a permanent home and a permanent name, a group of professional musicians now proudly call themselves The Farmington Area Philharmonic.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

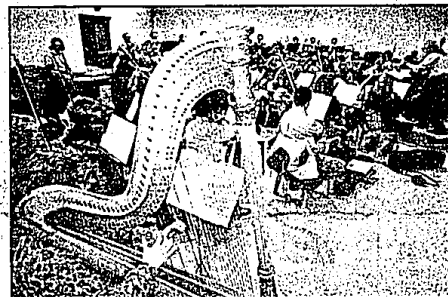


After wandering through a musical wilderness, the Group Du Jour has finally found a home.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates announced before the group's opening concert Sunday that from now on it will be known as The Farmington Area Philharmonic. And an audience of about 400 in the Farmington High School auditorium showed its appreciation with loud applause before the performance of Portraits from Russia, which included "Schehere-

■ 'This is a big step in the right direction. We hope to get financial backing in the future. This is a good start. . . . We want to make this a bi-city orchestra. We have people that only go to concerts at one location.'

Karen Nixon
musical director and conductor
Group Du Jour



Strung up: Jennifer Beil is the harpist for the Farmington Area Philharmonic.



Tuned up: Cellist John Stokes keeps his focus during rehearsals.

zade," "Naughty Limericks" and "Pictures at an Exhibition."

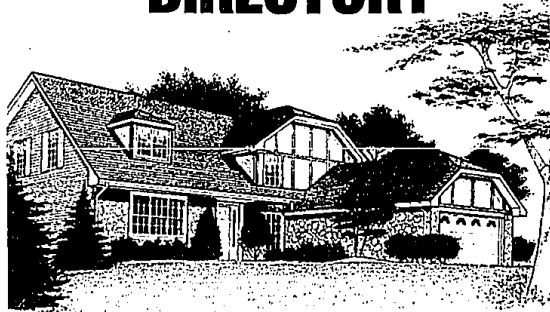
"This is another jewel in the crown of Farmington Hills and Farmington," Bates said. "Group Du Jour finally has a home."

Bates said one of the reasons for the group's original name was that it was not officially recognized as a particular community's orchestra.

See GROUP, 15A

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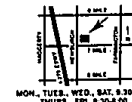
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