

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1994

FARMINGTON  
NOTES

Take us on vacation

The Observer is collecting vacation photographs from readers for the newspaper's new Travel Page beginning Sept. 8. To be considered, take your hometown Farmington Observer on vacation and snap a photograph of your family holding the newspaper in a scenic spot. We'll print as many photos as space allows each week. We're also looking for recommendations for good places to go with families - overnight, for a weekend or week. Send photos and recommendations to Keely Wygonik, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. For more information, call 1-313-953-2105.

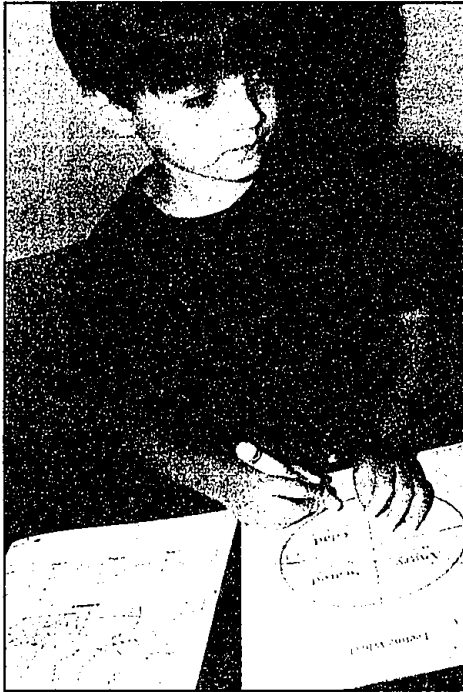
He serves as member

Ronald B. Rich of the Farmington Hills-based Ronald B. Rich Associates, was elected to serve as a member of the Foreriders & Receivers Committee of the Commercial Law League of America. A 1977 graduate of the University of Michigan, Rich received a juris doctor degree from Thomas M. Cooley School of Law in 1980. The Commercial Law League of America, founded in 1895, is one of North America's oldest creditors' rights organizations.

She completes course

Carol Kuenzel, a teacher at North Farmington High School, completed a week-long course in Spanish grammar at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., for teachers of gifted and academically talented students. More than 45 teachers from across the nation participated in the accredited program, called Acceleration '94, from June 19-24. "Acceleration offers effective teaching results for secondary teachers of college-bound, gifted and advanced-placement students," said Dee Ball, program coordinator.

Items for Farmington Notes may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.



A glad lad: Jacob Lial, a 4-year-old Farmington boy, colors his emotions on the "feeling wheel" that helps youngsters describe how they feel.

# Councils help area group that helps families

The local city councils must believe that the Farmington Area Advisory Council does good work. Both councils voted to add money to the organization, which helps teens, children and families in trouble.

By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Although Farmington and Farmington Hills are affluent communities, they aren't immune from the problems that trouble some children, teens and families.

And since 1970, families in the two cities have often turned to the Farmington Area Advisory Council.

The nonprofit council has counseling programs, classes on alcohol-related problems and parenting programs. The council's prowess is such that in a joint budget session, the two cities added money to the contribution the two cities make to the organization in an otherwise lean budget year.

That's because the council has gone from helping a handful of people in church basements to helping hundreds of families every year and working out of two buildings, one on Middlebelt and one on Orchard Lake.

"Some of it has to do with an increasing problem with alcohol and drug abuse," said Shelly Renco, client services director and staff member for 15 years. "But some of it

is positive. People have insurance that covers counseling. And the problems (alcohol-related) don't have as much shame attached to them as they once did."

But the problems are the same. Homes with single parents or teen working parents with alcohol or drug problems, gang activities and the increasing problem of children using inhalants have kept the council busy. "Every inch of space is used," said Betty Arnold, executive director.

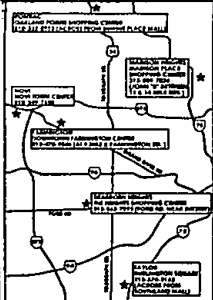
Farmington Hills City Councilwoman Nancy Bates has been a booster for family issues and was instrumental in getting an additional \$20,000 in funding for the agency from the two cities this year. That brought Farmington/Farmington Hills contribution to \$124,295, or 18 percent of the agency's total budget.

"If there is a need we have to address in our community, it's in this area," Bates said.

The council offers programs for specific age groups that aren't offered through other agencies. One

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