

Thursday
October 23, 1997
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Farmington Observer

HonkTown
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

Putting You In Touch With Your World™

VOLUME 111 NUMBER 8

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 108 PAGES • <http://observer-eccentric.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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FALL BACK

Don't forget to turn your clock BACK one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26 (or before you go to bed on Saturday, Oct. 25).



IN THE PAPER TODAY

No breaks: The Farmington Hills City Council rejected plans to give a tax break for an "affordable" senior housing project. /A3

OPINION

Matter of trust: Renewing the Farmington Hills parks and recreation tax on Nov. 4 is key to the town's quality of life. /A20

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Hills man guilty of sexual assault on teenage boy

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills businessman has been found guilty in the sexual assault of a teenage boy.

Don Bosco, 56, former owner of Bosco's Party Store on Orchard Lake and 12 Mile, was convicted of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct Tuesday in a bench trial before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Deborah Tyner.

Fourth-degree CSC involves sexual contact by force or coercion and is a high misdemeanor punishable by up to two years in jail. Sentencing is set for Nov. 20.

The assaults took place during a 4 1/2-year period when the victim worked at the party store between 1990-94. The victim, who was 14 at the time, came in contact with Bosco after helping clean up after a fire at the Roman Terrace restaurant in 1990, Farmington Hills police said.

The victim, now 21, came forward with the allegations earlier this year after reading about former Detroit Red Wings player Sheldon Kennedy, who was sexually assaulted by his junior hockey coach.

"Because Don Bosco was a surrogate father and the victim's employer, the court felt that constituted coercion," said Daniel Lemisch, Oakland County assistant prosecutor.

The 21-year-old college student testified in trial and taped phone conversation were heard between the victim and the defendant discussing the incidents, the prosecuting attorney said.

Bosco was described as a father figure to the boy, whose own father had died, Lemisch said.

"It was a wonderful thing to prove what (Bosco) was and is all about... a pedophile," Lemisch said.

Bosco could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Challenger: Protect what's left



Farmington Hills council candidates debated issues at a forum last week. Challenger Massie Kurzeja wants residents protected, including a temporary ban on new development; incumbents worry that such an action isn't legal.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills is 95 percent developed, but city council candidates spent more than 5 percent of their time discussing what to do with what's left dur-

ing a candidates' forum last week.

Three incumbents, Jon Grant, Cheryl Oliverio and Jerry Ellis, and challenger Massie Kurzeja delved into development issues as well as dabbled in cellular towers, roads and oil drilling.

They're vying for three four-year council terms. The election is Nov. 4.

The four faced off in a debate sponsored by Farmington Hills' Council of Homeowners Associations at Farmington Hills City Hall Oct. 15. The forum is the only where all four plan to attend.

Kurzeja, who's campaigning on development and rezoning issues, put some acreage between herself and the three council seat-holders.

"What little we have, we have to pro-

test," said Kurzeja, who filled an unexpired six-month council term last year but lost to Jerry Ellis in a special election.

"Everyone talks about the builders' right to develop, but what about the rights of those in an area where they've always lived quietly?"

She questioned spending \$2 million for an aquatic center in the park and recreation millage renewal, suggesting that money could be spent buying

Please see DEBATE, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER

Bells were ringing: North Farmington High School cheerleaders Alyssa Hillman (left) and Carly Kaufman ring out the Raiders' score for all to hear during the big game Saturday. While the score wasn't close, the fan intensity was still strong.

U-M/MSU? Town rivals clash for north/south brag rights

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Under a perfect blue sky, two of Farmington's three public high schools Saturday afternoon went head to head on the football field, with more at stake than a mere victory.

It's called bragging rights. The annual contest between Farmington's Falcons and North Farmington's Raiders, held this year at Farmington High, indeed is an occasion for students, teachers and yes, even parents, to hang their helmets on as the leaves accumulate.

"We always like to win the cross-town rivalry," said Farmington High School freshman Scott Cave, whose comments were echoed by classmate James Bush.

Farmington High cheerleader Cheryl Cunningham, a senior, noted that the game with North was more of a meeting between friends, and not a hateful rivalry. "But,

Please see RIVALRY, A5

Power pact

Council, neighbors clash over pending agreement for 27-house development

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Council members let a homeowners group know they have feelings, too.

And they felt those sensitivities were trampled upon by a couple of Power Road residents who complained Monday about a lack of information from the city on an impending consent judgment affecting their neighborhood.

The tentative agreement between the city and developer over the 27-house development was going to be discussed at Monday's council meeting.

However, City Manager Daniel Hobbs took the matter off the agenda - at the risk of letting the precarious pact "go down the drain" - in order to adequately inform the homeowners group.

News of a possible council vote on the agreement made some homeowners nervous, if not accusatory. Council members said they hadn't seen the full agreement yet.

"That to me seems very dangerous," said Maureen Thiering, president of the North Power Road Homeowners Association.

That upset council members and city administrators, who feel they've gone above and

Please see POWER ROAD, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Pet visits worth every smile

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

One look at Chewy's smile and eager-to-please demeanor and it's easy to see why "pet therapy" is said to be a successful way to cheer up sick people or those stuck in nursing homes for the rest of their lives.

Chewy, a golden retriever owned by Dan and Donna Willert of Walled Lake, was among the four-legged creatures visiting patients Thursday at Courtyard Manor Assisted Living on Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. The animals visit every week, as part of

Pet therapy: George Manoleas, who was visiting his wife of 55 years Alyce, gives a treat to Chewy, a Golden Retriever, owned by Donna Willert, right, and her husband Dan. They bring Chewy to Courtyard Manor Assisted Living center in Farmington Hills each month to visit the residents as part of the metro area Pet-a-Pet program.

the Pet-a-Pet program. But just in case anybody got about that, Chewy and some of the other "volunteers" wore red Pet-a-Pet bandannas around their collars as they visited.

According to George Manoleas, husband of Courtyard Manor resident Alyce Manoleas, he can no longer communicate with his wife. But Chewy seemed to.

"She perked up" when the dog visited Alyce, Manoleas said. "I really can't communicate with her, but she seems to relax more with the dog here. It (the

Please see PET-A-PET, A5

Raider Rake time

Once again, North Farmington High School students will be "raking" a difference, at Saturday's annual Raider Rake. The community service project, to help do fall yard cleanup chores for targeted senior citizens and shut-ins, is held in conjunction with the national Make a Difference Day.

Over two dozen residents in several subdivisions have been earmarked for the work, slated to take place from 8 a.m. to noon.

Students volunteering for Raider Rake should bring their rakes, work gloves and permission slips to the North cafeteria.

... And, at Kenbrook

Meanwhile, there's a Make a Difference Day project Saturday over at Kenbrook Elementary School. Actually 12 of them, with beautification jobs to

FARMINGTON FOCUS

begin at 8:30 a.m. at the school, 32130 Bonnet Hill.

Joining together will be members of the Kenbrook PTA, Kenbrook Student Council, Kendallwood Farms Homeowners Association, Westbrook Manor Homeowners Association, plus Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies from area troops.

But with so many people and so many projects, work supplies and equipment are sorely needed at Kenbrook Saturday morning. Those include rakes, shovels, a hedge trimmer, clippers, an edger, paint brushes, drop clothes, a wheelbarrow, lawn recycling paper bags, ladders, masking tape, garbage bags and a chain saw. Call (248) 469-3711 if you can help.

Also making a difference

Speaking of making a difference... the local Precious Moments Club will plant the seeds of change - actually in bulb form. Members will plant 150 red tulip bulbs this weekend at the Farmington Museum in honor of Make a Difference Day.

First homecoming parade

Clarenceville High School will host its first annual homecoming parade at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, starting and ending at the school.

Look for floats, the CHS band, school board members, Brownie troops and more on the route from the school on Middlebelt, east on Breton, north on Parkville and west on Morlock before heading back into the Clarenceville Middle School lot. There will be no parking along the route. Game time is 7:30 p.m.