

# Farmington Observer

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VOLUME 12 NUMBER 56 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48306 PAGES 2-11 FAX 248-674-7200 SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS © 1999 HomeTown Communications System, Inc.

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Getting warmer:** There's plenty to do around here on a warm and sunny day. /A9

## OPINION

**On the move:** Let Compuware go. Its building will be attractive to another company, and it represents just 1 percent of the city's total SEV./A14

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Remember when:** Councilman Jon Grant reminisces about growing up in Farmington Hills in the 1950s, when the area was quite different than it is today. /B1

**Artsy:** Local artists deserve community support, and the upcoming Festival of the Arts is one way to show it. See Chat Room. /B1

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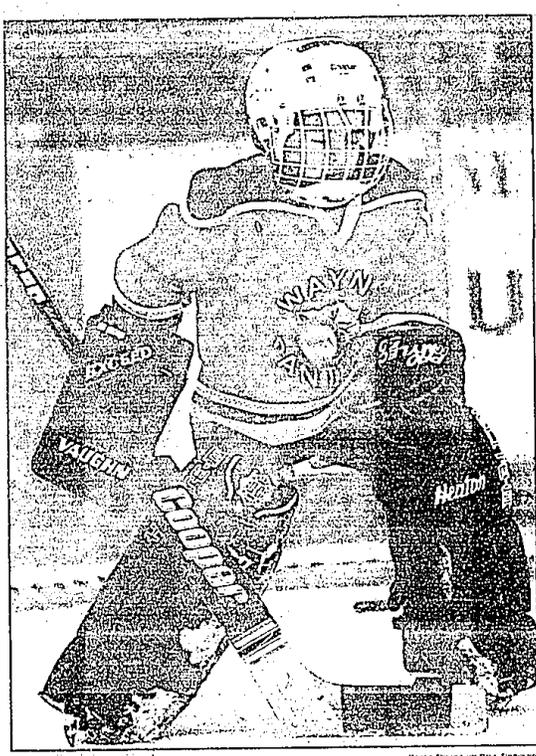


PHOTO BY BILL BRADSHAW

**Defense:** Steven Ledesma takes his turn defending the net and does a great job as the coach fires pucks at him during a recent goaltending clinic at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

## He saves The puck stops here

By TIM SMITH  
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There were many reasons why 20 goalies dragged their parents and equipment bags to the goaltending clinic held recently at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

Some are just beginning to learn the demanding position, such as 27-year-old Tim Griffith of Farmington or Michael Shinabarger, 12, of Livonia.

"I just want to get better," Griffith said. "I've always wanted to do it."

On hand were "veterans" of drop-in and senior recreation leagues, some in their

30s and 40s, who liked the idea of spending two afternoons stacking the pads, perfecting the butterfly technique and just talking about the position. That's a treat compared to most hockey camps, where goalies are usually just mere targets that forwards and defensemen shoot at.

And youngsters on spring break from school had a chance to learn, have fun and show up the old-timers. After all, they move a lot more quickly.

The price also was right. It was just

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## 3 seek school board seats



It's that time again when voters will go to the polls to select who they want to lead their school district. Three candidates have thrown their hats into the ring.

By HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Unless one of them changes their mind today, three people will vie for two open seats in the June 14 Farmington school board election.

Filing as candidates by the April 12 deadline were Linda Enberg of Farmington, Melody Jaske of Farmington and Gary D. Sharp of Farmington Hills.

Incumbent board member Enberg is running unopposed for the four-year term and Jaske and incumbent member Sharp are vying for a one-year seat. Former school board member Joe Svoke resigned in August and Sharp was appointed to fill the vacancy until 1999.

All candidates have until 5 p.m. today to withdraw their names as candidates.

Sharp, 41, a lawyer with a

Bloomfield Hills law firm and California native, said he is keeping a promise he initially made to the school board.

"I let (the school board) know at the time I intended to seek the position," Sharp said, referring to his appointment in August 1998.

He described himself as a "fanatic" about kids and kids' issues.

"I thought that was a good opportunity to serve," he said of his appointment. Two issues close to his heart are the tuition tax credits and school vouchers, both of which he opposes.

He is married to Terrie and has two sons, ages 7 and 10, who attend Highmadow Elementary.

Jaske, 40, is no newcomer to

Please see SCHOOLS, A5

## Compuware space considered prime real estate in city

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Compuware's exit from Farmington Hills won't be marked by a tombstone of a corporation gone to the big city.

The computer software company's current headquarters on Northwestern Highway is considered prime real estate, not to mention a state of the art facility with an in-house health club and day care facility.

The building will not likely go vacant despite Compuware's announcement that it's reached an agreement - in principle - to move its headquarters to Detroit.

The company has experienced phenomenal growth, which has led to the firm leasing space in other buildings.

"If they do move their headquarters to Detroit, I'm sure the door hasn't been closed for them to have a presence in Farmington Hills," City Manager Steve Brock said.

Compuware also owns a dis-

tribution center on the north side of 14 Mile in West Bloomfield and leases space in other buildings throughout Farmington Hills.

A Compuware spokeswoman didn't rule out a sale of the company's current headquarters. Another company staff member was quoted saying Compuware has been approached about the availability of its 225,000-square-foot Northwestern Highway facility.

"I don't think we'd have any problems filling it," Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said. "It's a very nice facility."

The company leases space at the Brookfield One, Republic Bank and Tristoria buildings in Farmington Hills. Company officials haven't decided if or how long they will remain in those facilities. One possibility, though, is simply letting leases expire.

"Until the deal is finalized, there is nothing written in stone," said Compuware's Cyn-

Please see SPACE, A6

## Police ready to present findings

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Farmington Hills police will present their findings to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office on the death of a 28-year-old French woman.

Authorities have completed their investigation, which focused on what led Julie Ysaa to take over-the-counter sleeping medication and walk into a wooded area off Nine Mile Road where she died. Her body was found March 3.

Police Chief Bill Dwyer declined to reveal what the investigators found but said "there's enough substance" to lead to possible charges against the Farmington Hills man, 24, she met over the Internet.

Ysaa traveled to the U.S. to meet the man, whose name has not been released by police. The pair had sex at the man's apartment before he broke off the relationship.

The sleeping pills and exposure were contributing factors in her death, according to the medical examiner. Police later tested for the presence of date rape drugs, but none were found.

Police retraced her path, which included her being anguaged over the Detroit-Windsor border after she flew into Toronto. U.S. Customs twice denied her entry previously.

## Arts showcased at annual April festival

By HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Nearly everyone has an inner artist - maybe it reveals itself through poetry, music or even through a green thumb that helped create a beautiful garden the envy of all the neighbors.

Artists of all types will be showcased at the upcoming Festival of the Arts presented by the Farmington Community Arts Council - April 25 through May 2 at the William Costick Activities Center.

There, painters will display their visions on canvas, musicians will perform, garden clubs will display their plants in creative ways and embroiderers will show off their creations.

Again this year, a black-tie optional gala will begin the festivities. This year's gala will feature an auction and music by the Matt Michaels Trio. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. This year's theme is "Starry Night," named for the Vincent Van Gogh painting.

At the gala, a variety of items ranging from dinners, overnight stays in hotels and bed and breakfasts, to getaways at locales such as Lake Charlevoix in northern Michigan. A majority of the



than \$50, he said. Proceeds from the festival go toward future festivals.

Some featured events include demonstrations by artists and embroiderers for elementary school students, a senior day rounded out by a dance with music from Harrison High School's dance/jazz band.

"Every single day there's something special going on," Barber said.

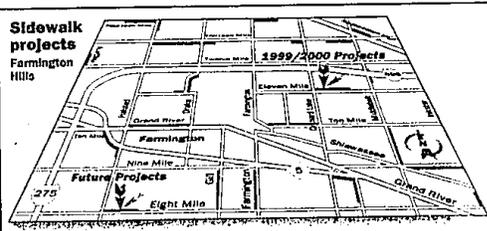
An art show featuring juried and non-juried art will be featured in eight exhibits. Robert Pippenberg is the 1999 Artist in Residence of the Farmington Artists Club. Past artists-in-residence will be honored during the festival.

This year's event is expected to draw more people than ever, thanks to increased publicity, signs distributed throughout the community and word-

auction items were donated.

"These are really nice, upscale kinds of things," said Paul Barber, FCAC committee member and festival spokesman. No item is worth less than \$50.

Please see ARTS, A7



## New sidewalk welcomed on portion of Gill Road

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
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To some residents in a southwest Farmington Hills neighborhood, a sidewalk is as good as a yellow brick road.

Farmington Hills city planners have a sidewalk planned for Gill Road from Eight Mile to Colfax as part of the six-year Capital Improvements Program. The \$56,000 project, along with others recommended for 1999/2000, still have to be approved by city council in the fiscal year budget.

The possibility of few new slabs of concrete is welcome news to those who

live there.

Residents have tried in the past to get a sidewalk to go from Eight to Nine Mile on Gill, but not all homeowners are in favor. Some are worried about how a new sidewalk would affect their landscaping. Others don't want people walking in front of their houses.

So, those asking for a sidewalk settled for one to Colfax.

"There's no place to walk," said Karen Antansovich, who lives on Fond. "You're walking along the road with people going 35 miles an hour who are

Please see GILL, A6