

# Farmington Observer

HomeTown  
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK  
Putting you in touch  
with your world

SEVENTY FIVE CENTS  
© 1999 HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

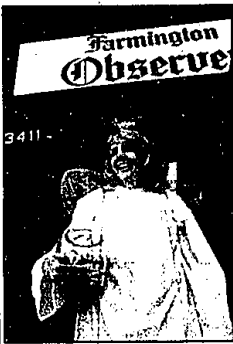
Thursday  
October 28, 1999

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 113 years

VOLUME 113 NUMBER 10

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 82 PAGES • <http://observer.cccentric.com>

## Trick-or-treat



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BARKER  
**Halloween:** The Observer's angelic receptionist, Katie McManus, will be passing out heavenly treats to little goblins attending Saturday's Downtown Farmington Halloween Fun Fest.

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

### OPINION

**Choices:** Get ready for the Nov. 2 election. Our choices for Farmington Hills mayor and city council, as well as ballot proposals. /A14

### INDEX

■ At Home	D
■ Classified Index	G5
■ Autos	J3
■ Home & Service	J3
■ Jobs	H4
■ Real Estate	G5
■ Rentals	H2
■ Community Life	B1
■ Crossword	H2
■ Entertainment	E1
■ Opinions	A14-15
■ Sports	C1

## Offices to boast a new look

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
[tsmith@oe.hometown.com](mailto:tsmith@oe.hometown.com)

A contemporary look is in store for the Lewis Schulman Administrative

### SCHOOLS

**Building:** The Farmington school board last week approved bids totaling an estimated \$180,000 for the project. When it is completed next spring and summer, the school district's central offices at 32500 Shawness will feature a brand new, canopied main entrance, sparkling windows and a new vestibule.

The facelift, said school board Treasurer Jack Inch, will give the Schulman building a central focus, an identity.

"This building was built (in the 1950s) to be all things," Inch said. "Therefore, it does nothing really well... This (project) centers it, adds

Please see SCHOOLS, A5

## Family group quizzes candidates



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
[lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com](mailto:lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com)

A self-described, pro-family group wants to know what candidates think about unrestricted Internet use in its

public libraries.

American Family Association of Michigan sent questionnaires to Farmington and Farmington Hills council and mayoral hopefuls.

AFA, which terms itself as pro-family, supports blocking Web sites on all

public libraries computers that include pornography or advocate violence against minorities.

AFA surveyed candidates in communities where elected officials appoint library board members. Candidates in Livonia, Rochester Hills and Saline also received surveys.

The Farmington Community Library Board is made up of eight members, which include four Farmington and four Hills residents appointed by

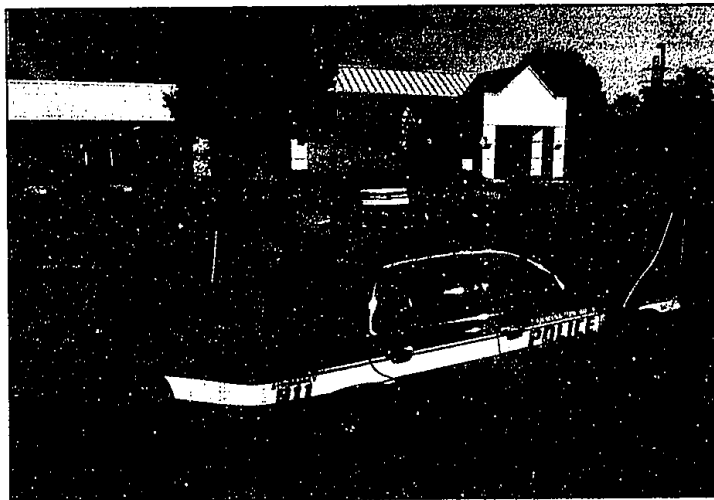
respective city councils.

Some candidates say they are reluctant or too busy to reply.

"I'm really shy about replying to surveys from organizations I don't know well," said Nancy Bates, who is running for Farmington Hills mayor. "I've done them before and I find that the information is sometimes misused."

Candidates are asked if they support local libraries using Internet filtering

Please see LIBRARY, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BARKER

**Investigate:** Farmington Hills Police wait for the FBI to examine the scene of a bank robbery at the Michigan National Bank branch located on Grand River west of Middlebelt.

## Police have photo of robber

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
[lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com](mailto:lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com)

All he forgot to do was smile and autograph the photo. Otherwise, Farmington Hills police and the FBI believe they have an excellent composite of the man who robbed the Michigan National Bank on 30000 Grand River Monday afternoon. A bank surveillance camera provided a photo of the robber.

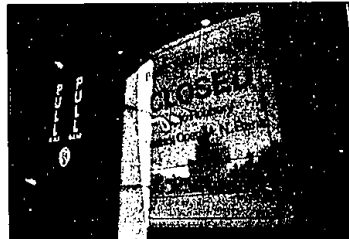
Around 1:35 p.m. a man wearing a Detroit Lions base-

### MICHIGAN NATIONAL BANK

ball cap and dark glasses strolled into the bank and put a gun down on the counter. He held up a sign telling the clerk to give him \$100s, \$50s and \$20s without a dip-

per. After the teller said the amount wasn't much, the robber

Please see HEIST, A5



**Closed:** At mid-afternoon, a sign was posted on the bank door informing patrons that the branch was closed.

## Hills mayor says arrivederci!

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
[lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com](mailto:lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com)

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi signed off with arrivederci, an Italian expression for good-bye with the hope of meeting again.

"Don't read anything political into that," said Vagnozzi, referring to recent reports he'll seek the 37th District state representative seat in 2000.

At Monday's Farmington Hills City Council meeting, many lauded the outgoing mayor - the city's first directly-elected one - for his gracefulness and kindness, and for involving residents in government during his four years. Due to term limits, he cannot seek a third two-year term.

Vagnozzi is credited with starting the city's Consumer Protection Committee, having a quadrilateral meeting and attending several community functions. He set a standard that will be difficult to achieve, many council colleagues said.

"I firmly believe no one else could have done that job better," Councilman Jon Grant said. Many also credited and thanked



Aldo Vagnozzi

Vagnozzi's wife of 50 years, Lois, who is battling cancer. Last week, city employees and elected officials gathered around the Vagnozzi home for a hug-in and individually passed on warm wishes to Lois who was watching through a window.

"Hang in there, Lois," her husband said. "I love you and the community loves you."

Vagnozzi thanked his colleagues for their support. He also praised residents for their involvement and for treating him as "an equal."

"Together, the residents and city government have truly built a great city on the hill," he said. "I ask only one favor of you: Please give the incoming

Please see ALDO, A4

## Friends, family mourn doctor

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER  
[jmaliszewski@oe.hometown.com](mailto:jmaliszewski@oe.hometown.com)

For as long as anyone can remember, going to Dr. Lee Halsted's was as much a social visit as a medical checkup.

"He was great. I was one of those kids who didn't like shots. He asked if I wanted a shot or pills, I took the pills. My mom would yell at him," said Craig Grace of Grace Insurance.

Grace, by the way, was the last baby Halsted helped ease into the world more than 40 years ago.

Friends and family are remembering the 91-year-old hometown physician who died Oct. 23 at Botsford Commons in Farmington Hills. He is survived by his wife, Helen, who also lives at Botsford Commons.

Please see HALSTED, A5

## Edison maps out strategies

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
[lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com](mailto:lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com)

Detroit Edison officials assure Farmington Hills customers they're doing preventive maintenance to stop storm-related outages like the one in July that shut off power to 8,000 homes. Hills officials greeted Edison's strategy with a mixture of crossed fingers and skepticism. They want a citywide survey of equipment.

During a study session Monday, a utility spokesman outlined projects in Farmington Hills' neighborhoods.

The latest meeting is a response to the Edison Citizen Committee forum Sept. 23, which included complaints from 20 residents.

Edison is installing Hendrix Spacer cable in subdivisions that experience tree-related outages.

These cables are designed to keep wires better separated, which means they're less likely to touch one another when hit by a branch. Edison is using such wiring in Grosse Ile and Trenton.

"We're getting a lot of use out of it and applying it in our heavily treed areas," said Gary Fauser, Edison spokesman.

Edison is sectionalizing circuits to reduce the number of residential outages when a wire goes down. The utility is also continuing with its pole-top

Please see EDISON, A5

## Sarkisian: 'Negatively inspired to run'

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
[lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com](mailto:lcoconnor@oe.hometown.com)

George Sarkisian knows he's branded as the bad guy, but he doesn't seek forgiveness.

Instead, he repeats his criticisms of Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, who he says has "a nice Santa Claus image."

Some also may say he's harsh in his assessment of opponent Nancy Bates,



Farmington Hills MAYORAL RACE

whom he has taken to task for disbanding the ethics committee.

Such are the risks in taking on the power structure, he surmises.

Sarkisian is running against the 10-year city council member for Hills mayor Nov. 2. The position is a two-

year term.

"When you get frustrated, you either accept it or do something about it," said Sarkisian, a warranty analyst for Ford Motor Co. "I've been negatively inspired to run."

Sarkisian's campaign approach is a far cry from when he once put his arm around his opponent at a community-wide breakfast and spoke glowingly of

Please see SARKISIAN, A6



George Sarkisian

