

Farmington Observer

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VOLUME 112 NUMBER 6 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48336 PAGES 1-10 http://observercentral.com SEVEN FIVE CENTS © 1998 HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Candidates: Tim Richard, state and regional reporter, takes a look at candidates for Wayne State University. /A11

Utilities: Farmington Hills residents tell their thoughts to the public utilities commission. /A12

COMMUNITY LIFE

Looking back: Vintage Farmington includes a peek into the history of the Cook Building on Grand River in downtown Farmington. Built in the late 1800s, the restored building holds lots of history. /B1

SPORTS

Advantage: Farmington High did what a good football team is supposed to do Friday and took advantage of the opponent's mistakes. The Falcons trounced Livonia Stevenson 19-3. /C1

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Woman charged in robberies

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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A Southfield woman charged in an armed robbery of a Farmington Hills shoe store had rent to pay, which police believe inspired a crime spree that has included several area holdups.

Shavonne Sharie Davis, 25, is in jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bond in connection with the armed robbery at Parade of Shoes on Orchard Lake Saturday night.

Around 9 p.m., a woman brandishing a handgun entered the store. She stole money, a purse and several pairs of shoes before fleeing. No one was injured.

A not guilty plea was entered for Davis during an arraignment Sunday by 47th District Court Magistrate Dennis Phency on one count of armed robbery, which carries a penalty of up to life in prison. Davis' preliminary exam is Friday in 47th District Court.

Please see ROBBERIES, A6



Demo: Battalion Chief Corey Bartsch narrates to the crowd of cub scouts and regular folks about the procedures of response to a heart attack victim. Gill Elementary Cub Scout leader Mike Thomas performs CPR while 15-year-old Blake Belsky resuscitates the dummy.

Learning Open house draws crowds

Houdini would have had a hoot of time, but the real great escape artists may turn out to be those who attended the annual Farmington Hills Fire Department's open house Sunday.

An estimated 4,000-5,000 people showed up for the event that features sirens, clowns, skits and, most importantly, a fire prevention message. This year's theme in keeping with fire prevention safety month was "The Great Escape."

For that, children and parents heard how they should replace smoke detectors that are 10 years or older and the importance of changing their batteries regularly.

Fire officials recommend people change batteries on smoke detectors when they switch back their clocks Oct. 25. Those who attended experience the practical ins and outs of getting out of a burning

Please see FIRE, A7



Learning: Danny Vigi, 5 of Farmington Hills tries on gear with the help of probationary firefighter Theresa Schultes. Children were encouraged to "Stop, drop and roll" on a floor mat.

Residents respond favorably to council

BY KATHIE O'DONOHUE
SPECIAL WRITER

Tak Kambé, a Tokyo native whose family transferred here in January 1996, says that although the move represents "a big change," he "feels very secure; Farmington Hills is a safe city."

Members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council were pleased to hear Kambé's remarks, a testimony to the effectiveness of the council's goals.

According to its mission statement, the group strives "to assure that all residents of our community enjoy a harmonious, healthy environment and that they feel welcome and comfortable in their cities, schools and neighborhoods. The MCMR Council is dedicated to promoting awareness and acceptance of diversity in our community."

The group's most recent meeting Oct. 8 at the Farmington Training Center, was moderated by Roger Weber, WDIV Channel 4 reporter and nine-year Hills resident, who related that we all "need a feeling of being connected to the community."

In existence since 1990, the council holds meetings and workshops throughout the year to encourage active discussion of issues related to the diverse mix of cultures in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

Is it working? Do those from other

Please see MULTICULTURAL, A10

Commission meetings leave Gesund wondering

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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If Mister Smith can go to Washington, Ryan Gesund figures Pontiac can't be too much of a longshot.

From a political science graduate's perspective, Gesund is a bit bewildered by what he's seen while attending Oakland County Commission meetings in recent months. Sessions are about as organized as a Jerry Springer episode on polygamy among pignies, he contends.

"Whenever you get a unit of government that has more than six or 10 members, it gets very confusing," said Gesund, who works in his family's car wash business. "Everyone is talking at once. There are about 50 discussions going on. They're being interviewed by the press while the meeting is going on. They'll hear their name called and they'll say 'yes,' but they don't know what they're saying yes to."

Gesund knew what he was saying



Ryan Gesund



yes to when he decided to run for the 18th District seat. The district includes northern Farmington Hills and has 14-year incumbent David Moffitt occupying the seat.

The Democrat wants to unseat the Republican county commissioner in the Nov. 3 election.

"I see things that I could do better that are not being done," Gesund said. "I go to these meetings and I want to speak up, but I can't speak up because I'm not a county commissioner."

Gesund believes he has an "inkling" of what's going on at the county level. Aside from attending meetings, he's kept abreast on issues through the Democratic caucus.

If elected, he'd like to be one of the four county commissioners on the mental health authority board.

"I've studied the issue so much. I think I can do some good there," he said.

He also knows about the urgent need to enhance the outmoded 9-1-1 emergency equipment countywide. He just winces at the proposed solution, which means a 67-cent surcharge on phone

Please see GESUND, A8