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B6

FARMINGTON Observer

Our Towns

Downtown merchants band together

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Downtown Farmington merchants often chat among themselves, on the street and in their stores. Recently a group met at Anna's Cafe & Baskets on Farmington Road to more formally discuss common concerns. The first meeting of the recently-named

Farmington Merchants Association was a brainstorming session. "We'll start today and see how it goes," said Jeff Pavlik, who with wife, Becky Burns, co-owns Farmington Bakery on Grand River. "What this group gets accomplished is up to us." The couple is spearheading rejuvenation of the Downtown Farmington Business Association, a defunct group.

Merchants talked about ways to bring in more business and are considering staying open later the first Friday of the month, until 8 p.m., to attract customers. Talking to the Farmington Downtown Development Authority about holding some of their meetings later in the day or in the evening was another idea. "At 8 a.m. people are either already at work or

going to work," Pavlik said. Diane Cassidy of the Village Clippers on Grand River thought the terms DA board members serve are too long. Pavlik and Burns propose approaching the DDA to change the hours of the annual Halloween event trick-or-treating in downtown Farmington from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. to later in the day. They

PLEASE SEE MERCHANTS, A8

Watch for buses

Farmington Public Schools Transportation Department is preparing for the beginning of the school year by reminding motorists and families about the importance of bus safety. Students should be at the

bus stop 10 minutes early and waiting for the bus when it arrives, to create the most safe environment for children boarding. As the driver approaches the stop, he or she checks mirrors for traffic then turns on the alternating yellow lights to signal the stop. When the driver arrives at the stop, the red flashing lights are turned on to warn motorists that traffic must stop. After checking mirrors before and after loading, the driver closes and door and proceeds carefully into traffic. By law, the driver cannot stop again until the bus has traveled at least 200 feet. So if a student is late, the driver cannot open the bus door. Transportation officials discourage parents from keeping students in their vehicles until the bus arrives. The run to catch the bus could result in a slip and fall or be hurt by running out in front of a car. The District requires students be at their designated stop 10 minutes before pick up, because a driver may arrive early if a route needs assistance. "The driver is not being discriminatory or mean-spirited or in a hurry when they ask for you to follow the rules of safety for your child," officials said in a prepared statement. "Their 'job one' is your child's safety."

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Art exhibited

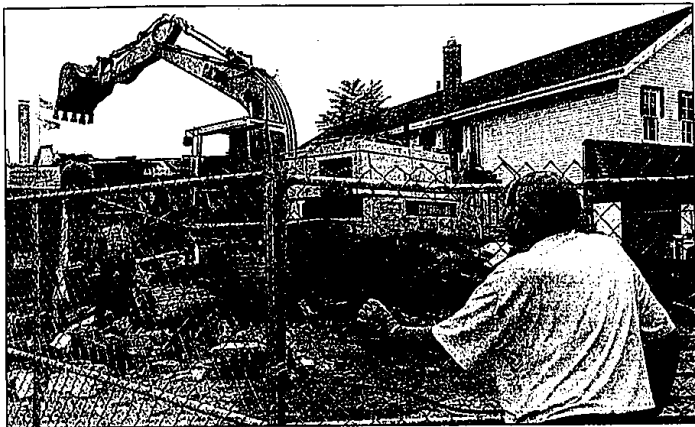
A Commerce Township artist's unusual painting style will be on display at the Farmington Community Library during the month of September.

Girija Viswanath has pursued art professionally since 1991. Among her favorite techniques is the unique practice of painting on sand paper. She has also developed an innovative collage technique that uses a unique photocopy transfer painting technique.

Viswanath's work replaces that of Marjorie Chelstorp, who was artist of the month in August. A more detailed story about Viswanath's techniques and professional career will appear in Thursday's Observer.



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Cowley's renovation begins

Long-time owner John Cowley looked on with a bit of sadness as wrecking crews demolished the pub his family has owned and operated on Grand River. Work started Friday and launches a long-awaited renovation.

BILL BREISLER / OBSERVER

FPS school year starts Monday

Students will have half-day of classes

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public School employees ushered in the new school year Thursday with their annual back-to-school picnic at Shiawassee Park in Farmington.

Through intermittent drizzle and misting, all employee groups, central office administration, some board members and parents greeted each other with enthusiasm and renewed friendships.

"This is at least equal to our best turnout," said School Board Member Frank Reid, noting the weather didn't keep people away. "There's sprinkling here and there, nothing dramatic."

PLEASE SEE TEACHERS, A5

Organization hopes to spread news

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Area Jaycees wants you to know something.

"We're the best kept secret in Farmington/Farmington Hills," said Mike Buatti, vice president of membership.

And the group hopes to change that. The 75-member organization wants to make its presence more visible and is encouraging people

to join the group as a guest or even a member to find out the benefits of being a Jaycee. The only requirement is that people be ages 21-39. And you don't even have to be a Farmington or Farmington Hills resident.

What do the Jaycees do? They're a nonprofit group that helps the community, holds individual and professional development seminars and

PLEASE SEE JAYCEES, A7

Jaycees plan 9-11 remembrance

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Remembrance and a new beginning will come together Sept. 11 as the Farmington Area Jaycees host a Candlelight Vigil at the Farmington High School football field, 32000 Shiawassee in Farmington.

The 7:30-8:30 p.m. event is expected to draw 1,000 people. There is no charge to

attend but donations are welcome. In case of rain, the ceremony may be moved inside.

"It will be short and meaningful with a candlelight vigil," said Lisa Blasola, event chair person. "We are going to get as many different clergy from as many different faiths."

Blasola, the Jaycees secretary, found a poem on the Internet, which Farmington

Mayor Jim Mitchell and Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates will read. The Oak Park resident first heard the piece during Rosh Hashanah services.

"It's very touching," Blasola said. "It starts off, 'One candle for New York, one candle for Washington D.C., one candle for Tower One, one candle for Tower Two.' She decided in December the remem-

PLEASE SEE VIGIL, A8

Salon raises funds to combat diabetes

BY JOHN HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

To look at them, you would think Nancy Cook and Renee Clark had been friends for years.

The two women don't really know each other all that well. It just so happens Cook owns Salon Nouveau, in which Renee Clark contracts her hair styling services.

"We all just get along really well," said Nancy, a para-professional who recently retired along with her husband, who taught at Farmington High School. She had gotten her hair done at the same salon, which is located on Grand River in downtown Farmington, for 20 years. When she learned the building was up for sale, her first reaction was, "Where am I going to get my hair done?"



BILL BREISLER / OBSERVER

Nancy Cook, Renee Clark and Elaine Guy are raising money for diabetes at Salon Nouveau.

PLEASE SEE SALON, A7

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LOOKING AHEAD
Girls of summer
These women savor softball. See Thursday's Observer.

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