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FARMINGTON Observer

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Our Towns

New pastor

Pastor Timothy Nilsen will be ordained as the new pastor at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 29 with the Bishop Robert Rimbo presiding.

Ordained in 1988, Nilsen graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio and came from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dearborn. He is the son of a minister and has been exposed to a wide variety of approaches, people, styles and settings of ministry which he feels he's able to draw upon for strength and guidance.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at 35300 W. Eight Mile Road.

RCI Promotion

RCI Electric Company in Farmington Hills has appointed Paulette Sager to the position of Purchasing Director.

In her new position, Sager is responsible for ordering materials and supplies for job sites and staying up-to-date with outside sales representatives.

Sager has also played a key role in the development of new systems and procedures that have put RCI far ahead of its competition.

West Nile meeting

State Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, is sponsoring a local health summit to address questions about the West Nile virus at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Costco Activities Center, located on Eleven Mile between Inkster and Middlebelt.

The panel of experts includes: Dr. Lamar Hansbrouck of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control; Dr. James Meegan of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and representatives from the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Community Health.

Broe choir

The Broe Tabernacle Therapeutic Choir of Farmington Hills will perform from 12:00-1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, in the atrium of the State Capitol Building in Lansing, Michigan. The concert, scheduled on the first day of Brain Injury Awareness Month, is free and open to the public.

Council considers free speech issue

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Mix kids' sports and politics and what do you get?

On Monday night, it was confusion over who should get to use city-owned buildings in Farmington Hills. Council's Barry Brickner and Vicki Barnett argued during their regular meeting that the city's policy for groups requesting to use city owned buildings

needs an overhaul.

"The policy has contradictions," Brickner said.

"This has been bothering me as a taxpayer for a long time," said Barnett.

"There's no definition of what political speech is."

She said if a political group wants to use the city-owned facilities, members have to tell the city what they will be talking about before they're allowed to use the site.

But what happens when a soccer club decides to support a certain candidate during the election season and that group uses a rented room?

"The soccer club is not asked what their agenda is," said Barnett.

"When baseball teams take a political stand I believe they've crossed the line and become political," she said.

Councilman Jon Grant said he was part of the council that adopted the policy several years ago.

He said the intent of the policy is to not allow groups the general public would find offensive.

City attorney Steven Joppich said the policy does not violate free speech guarantees as the issue of who can use government-owned buildings has been the subject of a long battle in the U.S. Supreme Court.

As long as the policy treats all groups fairly, it is legal, he said.

PLEASE SEE SPEECH, A4



BILL BRESLER/OBSERVER

Team players

The Falcon Society is kicking off plans for "Team Farmington High - Our Town, Our Community, Our High School," the 2nd annual gala dinner dance and auction, 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 22 at the Grand Ballroom, 28125 Grand River in Farmington Hills. Proceeds will go towards Phase II of an outdoor facilities project. The Team Farmington concept represents total community involvement in the high school, including parents, faculty and students. For more information, call co-chairs Sue Boskey (248) 471-4228, Barbara Kahnrold (248) 478-3846 or Karen Matthys (248) 478-6137. For ticket information, call Denise Albrecht at (248) 478-3218.

Officials apologize for MEGA complaints

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Saying their anger was misdirected, an apologetic Farmington Hills City Council told an Akebono company official that the city only wants what's best for the corporation.

At a previous council meeting as company officials were seeking a tax abatement, council members let loose a barrage of displeasure with state officials. They believe the state puts pressure on cities to offer local tax breaks in order for companies to qualify for state tax credits.

At that meeting, council members also wondered why Akebono was seeking an abatement request from Farmington Hills when it failed to produce figures for what tax benefits the state would offer.

Mayor Nancy Bates, who was not at the Sept. 9 meeting to discuss the company's request, said Monday the automotive brake company is an excellent corporate citizen.

"Our thoughts were truly aimed at

PLEASE SEE AKEBONO, A7

Call to Action changes announced

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Betty Nicolay will become the official chairwoman of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Call to Action Coalition board at the annual Kickoff Breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1 at Vladimir's Restaurant on Grand River, west of Inkster.

The event kicks off a merger between Farmington Families in Action and the Call to Action. The theme, "The Journey Continues," will show that the group continues to design programs to educate the community on drug, alcohol and violence issues.

"The Call to Action Coalition has been committed to uniting all com-

PLEASE SEE ACTION, A7

Applefest offers tea with style

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

You might say Linda Pudlik is steeped in tea.

Over the past six years, she has filled virtually every space in her Farmington Hills home with tea cups and saucers, tea pots, serving utensils, books, paintings, tea towels, a variety of Victorian era antiques - and, of course, tea. But not in commercial tea bags.

Splitting open one of the paper vessels, Pudlik empties the contents into the palm of her hand and wrinkles her nose at the powdery contents.

"Your tea bag is the bottom of the pluckings," she says. "Dust, twigs, fannings...anything that has fallen into your harvest."

On the flip side is a small plastic bag of jasmine tea, priced at \$100 a pound. And of course, there's the whole world of tea in between.

Pudlik will give visitors at the Longacre House Applefest a glimpse into that world this Saturday and Sunday, from 1-4

p.m. both days. Working with others from the Quakertown Questers, she'll provide an enterprising look at a time when life moved just a little bit slower, a life she believes people would be better off living today.

"Everybody wants faster," she says, standing in her home office amid an array of foreign tea sets. "But is it better?"

Pudlik takes her time brewing a pot of tea, whether it's a flowery Lady Londonderry or a spicy chocolate tea. Stored in airtight containers, the loose buds don't resemble in any way the pourings from a commercial tea bag. Instead, the leaves are wound tightly; they expand by several times their size when hot water is poured over them.

Loose tea should never be placed in glass jars, Pudlik warns, and should never be stored in a humid place or near anything with odors that could be absorbed. The perfect cup of tea begins with the leaf, which is relatively fragile.

But water is equally impor-

PLEASE SEE TEA, A4



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Linda Pudlik serves fresh scones, which are a proper accompaniment to a good cup of tea.

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LOOKING AHEAD
Focus on Wine
Coming Sunday in the Taste section: Get prepared for the first chilly evening around the fireplace.



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