

FARMINGTON Observer

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What makes
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Group begins weaving support web

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

It's possible the tiara was a little much, but new Call to Action Coalition chairperson Betty Nicolay didn't really seem to mind.

Crowned by CTA executive director Estralee Michaelson, Nicolay is the former head of Farmington Families in Action and a long-time advocate for children and

families in Farmington and Farmington Hills. The two women met in 1985, shortly after FFIA was established.

"I knew immediately you were a woman of action and a woman I needed to get to know," Michaelson said.

Although they seem to have different approaches - Nicolay appears a little more low-key, while Michaelson nearly bursts with boundless energy and enthusiasm - both are pioneering advocates for a com-

munity-wide effort designed to empower parents and give kids the tools they need to build healthy lives.

Together with a broad range of community representatives, they issued a formal "Call to Action" in 1998. Over the past four years, they and others have worked to bring together representatives from all community sectors - from law enforcement and city government to civic groups and the media.

Everyone stands under one umbrella, unifying efforts to provide families with resources and education and to get everyone in the community on the same page when it comes to setting standards. "This is not about prohibition," Michaelson said. "It is about communication and setting consistent boundaries." The importance of that effort was high-

PLEASE SEE SUPPORT, A5

Fundraiser

A benefit will be held to raise funds for the Farmington Community Pavilion 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16 at Marco's Dining and Cocktails, 32758 Grand River in Farmington. Marco's will provide a variety of appetizers with a cash bar available.

Tickets are \$10 and available at the following locations: Farmington City Hall, Anna's Cafe and Baskets, Farmington DDA, Farmington Bakery, Big Apple Bagel, Farmington Insurance Agency and Great Harvest Bread Company.

For more information, contact the Farmington Pavilion Committee at (248) 473-7276.

Award winner

Farmington Observer reporter Sue Buck received a 2nd place award for Enterprise Reporting and sports editor Dan O'Meara received a 4th place award

for his column writing in the recent Michigan Press Association competition.

Buck was honored for a series of stories that followed students in Farmington Public Schools who come from foreign countries and speak little or no English.

Judges from the Georgia Press Association commented the story was a "good cultural piece, intertwined with educational structure."

The awards are being announced in conjunction with National Newspaper Week, Oct. 6-12.

The 3,600 entries from 147 daily and weekly newspapers in nine circulation classifications were judged by members of the Georgia Press Association.

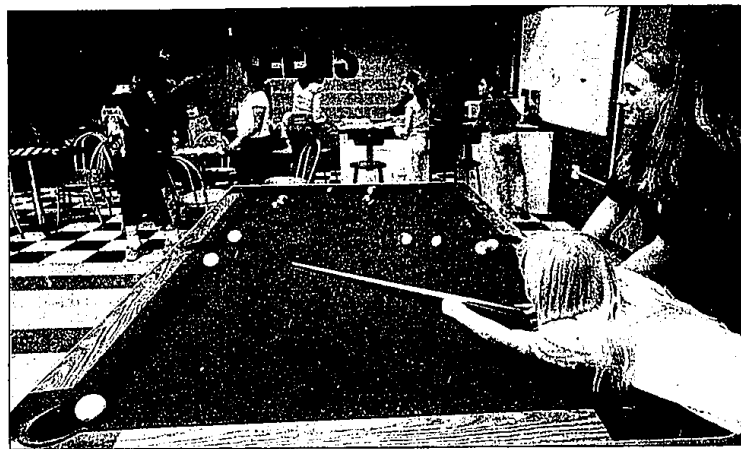
"We are pleased to receive this recognition from the Michigan Press Association," said Hugh Gallagher, Observer managing editor. "We're proud of the work done by our staff, who are dedicated to putting out excellent community newspapers."

"The MPA awards are an inspiration to continue striving to do our best."

The Observer & Centric Newspapers won 42 awards, including 10 first-place awards.

Clarification

In a brief article about former Farmington resident Julie Allen, who is a new faculty member at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Neb., it was incorrectly reported that Allen is married to Dr. Lawrence Rubens, a physician in Norfolk. The two are not yet married.



Steffen Heather Main watches Kassandra Hendricks play some 8-ball.

Y offers center designed by teens

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Giving teens a say is what it's all about for the new Teen Center room at the Farmington Area YMCA.

"It's going to be their space," said Farmington YMCA Director Rick DuRoi this week as teens were seen enjoying the new space they designed at the facility on Farmington Road, just north of 12 Mile.

There are also ideas in the works to get teens active in a Youth Leadership Club and service projects.

"We'd like to take them to rallies, give them a chance to socialize and

PLEASE SEE YMCA, A4

Youth Assistance needs tutors

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

With just 90 minutes of help once a week, kids who are going through tough times can make great strides.

That's why the Farmington Youth Assistance program is looking to expand its tutoring program, which serves kids in Farmington and Clarenceville Public Schools.

"We've seen tremendous improvement with school and with progress reports," said caseworker Susan Hoffman. "We're always looking for volunteers to tutor more kids."

Over the past three years, 80 children have been tutored by adults willing to give up a little time to work with them at the Masonic Temple in downtown Farmington. One volunteer is assigned to each child.

"Tutoring is among the expanded services Youth Assistance has offered over the past three years," Hoffman said. Sponsored by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, FYA provides counseling and a variety of programs and services for young people ages 3 to 17.

Hoffman and part-time caseworker Elizabeth Saltzman and program coor-

PLEASE SEE TUTORS, A7

ZBA, school haggle over sign

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Farmington City Manager Steve Brock expects that the Harrison High School Message Board which was dedicated Saturday on school grounds will be allowed to remain.

Brock said Thursday he received notice

from Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield April 10 that the district intended to go ahead with installation of the sign. He forwarded a copy to the Farmington Hills City Council but not to the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals, which had been in negotiations on the topic for four years.

"They are not the defining body," Brock

said of the ZBA. "The city doesn't have jurisdiction. Legally, there was no place to go with it. They already had the sign."

When the sign issue first came before the ZBA years ago, a Northville case wasn't decided yet, Brock said. The decision came in 2001.

PLEASE SEE SIGN, A8

Parkinson's group honors couple

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Walter Goulet calls his wife Noreen his first sergeant.

"I'd be lost without her," he said. Since being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1990, Walter has been dealing with life in a whole new way. What's important to note, he says, is that Parkinson's is a disease that doesn't change just his life, but also the lives of those around him.

"It affects everyone in the family," he said.

Fortunately, there is a local support group for Parkinson's sufferers and their families, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Parkinson's Support Group.

The Goulets became members after Walter's diagnosis and the two recently found out some unexpected good news. Through their outstanding effort in

the program, the couple received the Michigan Parkinson Foundation's Raymond Bauer, M.D. Humanitarian Award.

Parkinson's is a slowly progressive neurological disorder characterized by slow movement, involuntary tremors, rigidity, problems with walking and balance. The cause is unknown. Although there is no known cure, there is effective medical treatment for most patients, according to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation.

Because of the progression of the disease, complications and side effects from the many medications he takes, Walter had a deep brain stimulator surgery in January.

He said he's happy with the results that took him from having to crawl at times to now being able to walk and drive, his wife said.

PLEASE SEE PARKINSON'S, A5



Noreen and Walter Goulet won awards for their Parkinson's support group volunteer work.

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