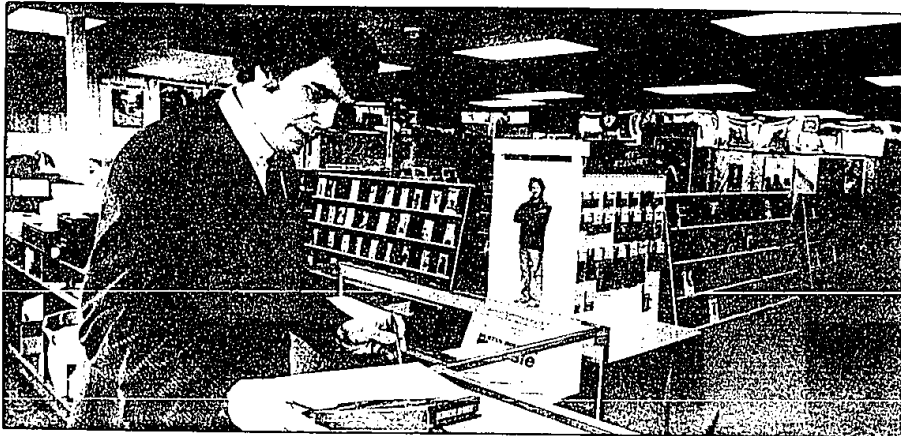




Farmington Observer

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RANDY GORST/Staff photographer

Alfred Dinverno checks the stock at Discount Video Movies, formerly the Fun Factory, on Grand River in Farmington Hills.

Video rage moves to living room; game center readjusts its sights

By Tom Baer staff writer

That's the thinking behind a business move made by Alfred Dinverno, owner of Discount Video Movies, formerly The Fun Factory, on Grand River in Farmington Hills.

In its boom days, The Fun Factory was usually jammed with youngsters testing their skills on Dinverno's 70-odd coin-operated video games. The Fun Factory was what's known as a video arcade, a delight to most young people who frequented it, but a pain to some city officials who tried to regulate it

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Hamlin's yesterdays remembered

By Tom Baer staff writer

Farmington was "a little, village-type town" in the words of Delos Hamlin, who was a fugitive from the chores on the family farm near Clare, Mich., when he first came to town in 1923.

"I'd had enough of farm work," Hamlin remembered. "I was supposed to be down for a short visit with my cousin, but I knew I wasn't going back."

Hamlin, in fact, never milked another cow. Instead, he stayed on in Farmington to make a name for himself in business and politics.

As Farmington mayor (1942-51), Oakland County supervisor (1942-72) and longtime merchant, Hamlin witnessed the transformation of the Farmington community from farming village to bedroom suburb.

Now retired and living in Venice, Fla., on the Gulf Coast, the 79-year-old Hamlin called up a few memories of his beginnings in Farmington in a recent telephone interview.



Delos Hamlin and his 5-month-old son Fred posed for this 1928 photo on the lawn of their Farmington home.

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How to protect yourself during tornado season

When you hear a blasting siren at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, relax. It's only a test.

As part of Michigan Tornado Safety Week, March 25-31, local and county officials will be testing tornado warning sirens in the Farmington area and all of Oakland County.

With tornado season approaching (April, May, June and July), police and fire officials are reminding residents to learn the difference between a tornado watch and warning.

A tornado watch is issued when conditions exist for the development of a tornado. Watches lasting two to six hours, give residents time to plan and prepare for a tornado.

A tornado warning — a steady three-minute tone — means take cover immediately because a tornado has actually been sighted or is strongly indicated by radar. Warnings cover three or four counties and are usually no longer than an hour and a half.

A basement offers the greatest safety for persons seeking shelter during a warning. In houses without basements, you should take cover in the center of the house on the lowest floor in a small room.

DURING A tornado watch, residents should take the time to place small objects, such as garbage cans and bicycles, inside the house or garage. Children should be kept under close supervision during a watch.

In the event of a tornado warning, residents should seek shelter and listen to radio or television for further information. Residents are asked to avoid calling police and fire departments or the news media.

A basement offers the greatest safety for persons seeking shelter during a

warning. In homes without basements, you should take cover in the center of the house on the lowest floor in a small room, such as a closet or bathroom.

You should not remain in a mobile home or vehicle during a warning. Instead, the safest choice is to lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine or culvert with your hands shielding your head.

If you are in open country during a tornado warning, you should get into a sturdy building, if possible. If not, lie flat in a ditch or depression and hold onto something on the ground.

Candidates grilled for Clarenceville post

By Teri Danas staff writer

Interviews with seven candidates for the job of superintendent of Clarenceville Public Schools will end tonight.

Trustees have been interviewing candidates throughout the weekend. They are seeking a replacement for the retiring David McDowell.

Trustees said Saturday they could be ready to name two or three finalists as early as tonight. A discussion of the candidates may take place at the close of interviews tonight.

The candidates, all Michigan men, were selected from a field of 92 initial applicants. What follows is a brief educational and employment summary of their backgrounds. Clarenceville officials identified them for the first time this week.

The district includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township.

Two of the eight candidates have had experience as school superintendents elsewhere in the state. They now work as professional consultants. The other candidates are high-ranking school administrators and one is a retiring state legislator.

The candidates hail from a mixed bag of urban and rural school districts, ranging in size from 1,600 students to 8,800 students. Clarenceville's student population is about 3,000.

Four of the candidates have earned their doctorates in the fields of education and administration.

One is currently writing his doctoral thesis and three candidates have specializations degrees, the minimum educational requirement for the Clarenceville job.

According to school board president Michael Manore, trustees could select the finalists as early as tonight, following the last candidate interview. It's also likely that the board will call a special meeting this week to further discuss the process. A sense of urgency has emerged in the interview process. So far, one of the original eight semifinalists has dropped out of the race while two others have told the board of other job prospects they are considering along with the Clarenceville post.

The candidates are:

• Robert Hagerty, 47, director of student services, evaluation, research and special education for the Hazel Park Community School District. Hag-

erty, a Hazel Park resident, has worked for Hazel Park schools for 25 years as a district administrator, building principal, student counselor and science teacher.

He has held his current post for 10 years. He also has worked for 12 years as a graduate school lecturer at Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University in educational administration and leadership. He co-authored a book, "How to Make Federal Aid to Education Work for You."

He worked for the state Department of Education as an evaluator, visiting more than 80 state school districts.

He has a bachelor's degree from Wayne State in guidance counseling and a doctorate from Wayne State in educational leadership.

• James Drus, 51, deputy superintendent for instruction for the Berkley School District. Drus, a Rochester resident, has held his current post for four years.

Previously, he was principal at Millford High School and at Huron Valley School District. He has been a junior high

school assistant principal, and a biology, math and science teacher. He has worked as an educational consultant on the side.

Drus has a bachelor of science degree in secondary education from Eastern Michigan University, a master's degree in secondary education from Wayne State and a doctorate in general administration and business management.

• Robert Nakoneczny, 38, administrative assistant in charge of general administration/personnel for the Pinkney School District. Nakoneczny, a Brighton resident, has held that job for the past seven years.

Previously, he was the district's high school assistant and building principal. He also worked as a high school principal in the Howell School District and as an assistant accounting professor at Adrian College. He taught math in the Detroit Public Schools and taught and ran a Horizons Upward Bound program at Cranbrook Academy.

He has a bachelor's degree in accounting/business administration from Michigan State University, a master's degree in math and a doctorate in education, both from Wayne State. He's a

native of Redford Township and a Thurston High graduate.

• Gary Davis, 44, a management consultant with the William J. Banach

Management Consulting firm of Macomb County since July 1983.

Previously, Davis, a Ulica resident,

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