



Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33202 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Please include a daytime telephone number.

NORTH Farmington High School Junior Sanjay Ghosh took part in a two-week summer institute for the arts and sciences at Northern Michigan University, Marquette. He participated in the mathematics workshop. The Michigan State Board of Education sponsored the institute and selected participants. Candidates were nominated by their high schools and intermediate school districts. A highlight for the 57 math students was a lecture by Glenn Seaborg, Nobel Prize winner and former Atomic Energy Commission chairman, who discussed his discoveries in chemistry.

THERE'S a new face from across the border at Farmington Harrison High School. Tenth-grader Jose Juan Zapeda Garcia of Hermosillo, Mexico, will spend the 1985-86 school year with the William Boger family of Farmington Hills.

SIX students from the Farmington area earned degrees during August at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. Listed with their majors, bachelor's degree winners were Ronald Fredericks (marketing), Beth Golich (fashion merchandising and design), Susan Guzz (biology) and Michael Metreyson (marketing). Receiving master's degrees were Gary Reinko (general administration) and Michael Sanders (health care administration).

SUMMER bachelor's degree winners from Harding University, Searcy, Ark., included Jeffrey Moon of Farmington Hills. He majored in business administration.

AMONG those named to the dean's list at Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, was Rosemary Langer of Farmington Hills. She's a senior psychology major.

MICHIGAN Department of Public Health is considering an application for a certificate of need to convert six nursing care beds to six hospice beds at Oakhill Care Center in Farmington Hills. There would be no cost in the conversion, according to the application, filed July 24 with MDPH's Division of Health Facility Planning and Construction.

FOOTNOTES: By 1977, Farmington Township had 10 school districts. In District 5 (Farmington village), there were two departments, a higher and a lower, with a man and a woman in charge, respectively. The school term totaled 40 weeks per year. The annual salary of the male teacher was \$14,000; that of the female teacher, \$900. The other districts employed male teachers only in winter. The summer term were taught by women. The pay of the men was \$26 to \$60 per month. The women were paid \$2.50 to \$2.50 per week.

Group home site's option has expired

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer
A lawsuit to prevent construction of a proposed group home for the mentally retarded in a Farmington Hills subdivision has been dismissed. Oakland County Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert dismissed the suit Monday after Briar Hill subdivision residents withdrew their complaints against proponents of a proposed group home on Old Bedford. The neighbors filed suit on Aug. 9 to prevent construction of the home in

their subdivision, north of 13 Mile Road, west of Farmington Road. The neighbors withdrew the case when the builder of the proposed house lost a 120-day option on the proposed site — a vacant lot on Old Bedford in Briar Hill, said James Clark, a development specialist for the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (MORC). The lot was purchased by another undisclosed buyer who made cash for the property, Clark added. Thomas Hunter, the neighbors' attorney, said the suit has been dropped "unless something completely unexpected happens. And I can't imagine what that would be."

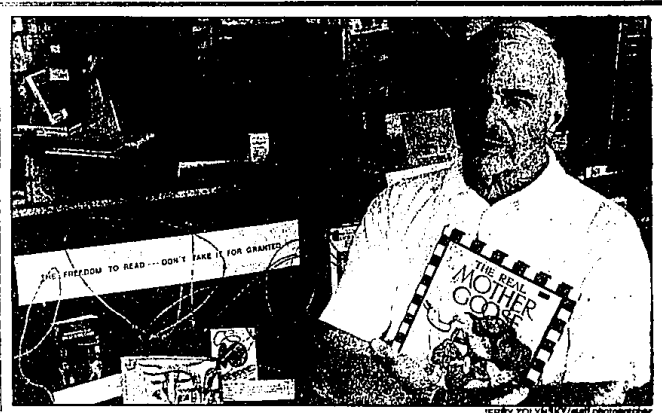
County tax bid backed

By Bob Sklar staff writer
Farmington Public Schools trustees urge voter support for a three-quarter-mill increase in Oakland County's special education millage. The last millage increase was 20 years ago. Without the tax boost, Farmington would have to tap its general fund for roughly \$1.7 million to meet its special education obligation from 1982-83 to 1985-86, said Michael Flanagan, the school district's assistant superintendent for finance and services. That would necessitate reductions in both general and special education programs, he added. Voters will consider the proposed millage increase in a special election Monday, Oct. 7. Nearly 2,000 students — from the trainable mentally impaired to the severely mentally impaired — are enrolled in Oakland Schools' special education center programs. Center programs — offering classroom and vocational settings — help reduce special education costs by eliminating duplicate services and facilities.

EVEN THOUGH the seller of the vacant lot made a verbal commitment to William Sak of Northville-based Associated Builders Inc., which was expected to build the house, someone came along with a better offer, Clark said. "There have three or four other situations where the sites have been purchased from under us," Clark said. MORC, a Clinton Township-based agency of the state Department of Mental Health (DMH), sponsors and monitors group homes. Despite the recent turn of events, MORC intends to continue its search for a new group home site in Farmington Hills. "We'll certainly start looking," Clark said. "I would love to find a replacement site next week. Nothing is going to stop us." Nine Briar Hill residents had filed suit against the Department of Social Services, the state Department of Mental Health, Associated Builders, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, which would provide financing for the home's construction, and Ferndale-based Holistic Living Opportunities, which was to handle the home's day-to-day operations. Neighbors voiced concern about the operation of group homes, the training of staff, safety, possible traffic congestion and the chance that property values would drop in their 25-year-old subdivision. "WE ARE for the group home concept," said Lois Gerber, a Briar Hill resident who was involved in the suit. "But with the state group homes, we feel it is commercial." Topping the list of neighbors' concerns is that group homes do not have any live-in supervisory staff, Gerber

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Farmington bookseller Arthur Underwood, with a copy of "The Real Mother Goose," a book that has made many "banned books" lists.

Banned books Week spotlights free speech

"There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all."
Oscar Wilde
By Lisa Simon staff writer

"It is only when all speech is protected for all citizens that everyone's rights are guaranteed."
— American Library Association

name to vain. J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye" has a long history of being censored. In Middleville, it was removed from the school system's required reading list because of vulgar language, sexual scenes, moral issues, violence and use of the occult.

Banned Books Week, a national week-long celebration of free speech in America, began Saturday. Co-sponsored nationally by libraries, booksellers, publishers, authors and journalists, Banned Books Week is designed to support freedom of opinion — even if an opinion is unconventional or unpopular. "It is only when all speech is protected for all citizens that everyone's rights are guaranteed," wrote the American Library Association in reference to Banned Books Week 1985. Arthur Underwood, owner of Little Professor Book Store on Grand River in Farmington, has celebrated Banned Book Week since its inception four years ago. The Birmingham resident has owned Little Professor for six years. He previously worked in advertising sales. This year, a storefront display hosts a sampling of books banned by various groups through the years.

The books range from recently banned to historically banned literature in Michigan and Ohio. INDEX CARDS in Underwood's store explain the controversy over selected titles. The cards list the location and date of the banning. Curious strands of barbed wire within the display depict imprisonment or lack of freedom. The provocative display was created by store employees Margaret Brugel and Carmen Enriquez. "It isn't all sex, pornography and filth that is banned," Underwood said. "The narrowness of the reasons for banning books" is Underwood's main concern. For instance, John Steinbeck's novel "Of Mice and Men" was banned in 1979 in Grand Blanc because of profanity and using God's

OTHER AMERICAN classics that have been banned at different times include "Dane With the Wind," by Margaret Mitchell; "Mother Goose: Old Nursery Rhymes," illustrated by Arthur Rackham; "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "Tom Sawyer," by Mark Twain; "Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Harriet Beecher Stowe; and "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair. "Buck Finn" was originally challenged for mocking conventional morality and for bad grammar. Recently, civil rights groups have fought the book because of its negative portrayal of blacks. "Both criticisms miss the value of the novel," wrote the American Library Association. "We have lots of banned books in the store," Underwood said. "Some of the ones (books banned by various groups) seemed most unjustly to be banned." Please turn to Page 8

Hello, Farmington! Observer's new editor wants your input

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers detail management changes: 2A, 14A.
Hi. I'm new in town. But I'd like to stress that I plan to stay for a while. I'm the new editor of the Farmington Observer. And I intend to not only maintain the 97-year-old newspaper's storied tradition, but also add some bright new elements to your hometown newspaper. I invite you to stop by the Observer office at 33203 Grand River in downtown Farmington. You don't need a particular reason. I'd enjoy just meeting you and chatting for a moment about your news needs. To make sure I'm in, call 477-8450.



"If you're not sure whether your idea is newsworthy, send us a note, anyway. We're pretty good about sizing up ideas and measuring newsworthiness."
— Bob Sklar, Observer editor

PLEASE JOT down our address and keep it handy. That's where you should send all news releases, letters to the editor, coverage requests and complaints. Try to limit call-in items to breaking news or events organized on short notice. Putting your news in writing helps assure that we'll get it straight in the newspaper. Don't forget to include your name and a telephone number where you can be reached during the day. If we have any questions, we won't hesitate to call for clarification. My professional background in news-

papers goes back more than 12 years. That's when I first joined the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. I covered sports for The Eccentric in Birmingham for 1 1/2 years before transferring to the Rochester Eccentric, where I've been the past 10 1/2 years. I reported general news in Rochester for 1 1/2 years before settling into the editor's boots.

SO I know the meaning of community journalism and the value of local news. Make no mistake: I appreciate the importance of seemingly minor events that carry a special meaning to a large segment of the community. This is your newspaper and news is, to a large extent, what you think it is — a city council meeting, a school board vote, a civic event, a community fair, a reelection bid, a new business, a scholarship award, an engagement announcement, a shabby street corner, an interesting personality, local sports. If you're not sure whether your idea is newsworthy, send us a note, anyway. We're pretty good about sizing up ideas

and measuring newsworthiness. Remember: Don't be discouraged if your first idea is rejected. The next one might be a winner. I'D APPRECIATE it if you'd take an extra minute to study our newspaper. You'll notice some changes. Then, send me a short note about your impressions — what you like best, what you like least, what can be improved. That way, we can be sure we're providing the kinds of news and information you care about and want to read about. Change is constant in the newspaper business, just as news never ceases. Don't fret about speaking your mind. That's exactly what we want you to do. We won't take constructive criticism personally. We'd welcome it, knowing you cared enough about the quality of our newspaper to take the time to write us. My wife, Beth, and I have two children, Josh, 8, and Elyse, 16 months. And we're big fans of community events of all kinds. We enjoy the mingling. We enjoy the camaraderie. And we welcome new friendships. We also take great pride in knowing there are lots of others out there who share our new-found affection for the Farmington area — both its proud heritage and delightful people! — Bob Sklar

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Observer & Eccentric Fall HOME IMPROVEMENT Guide
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