

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 typewritten note to our downtown office at 3203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

A NEW hospice is in the works. Oak Hill Care Center in Farmington Hills has won Michigan Department of Public Health approval to dedicate six of its beds for a hospice program.

IF YOU falsely identify yourself to a Farmington public safety officer, beware.

A city code amendment introduced Monday makes it a misdemeanor for a person legally detained or charged with an offense to furnish false, forged, fictional or misleading identification.

HELP save a life: give blood. American Red Cross Blood Services Southeastern Michigan Region will host a bloodmobile from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the St. Clare of Assisi Church, 29200 N. Mile, Farmington Hills.

TEENS will be dancing Friday night to raise cash for custom-made playground equipment on the Cloverdale Training Center grounds, Farmington.

FOOTNOTES: Perhaps the Farmington area's most complete history book is "Farmington, A Pictorial History," written by Lee S. Peck and published by Texas-based Taylor Publishing Co. in 1971.

The 345-page, hardbound book is filled with rare photographs depicting life in Farmington Township and the Village of Farmington during their early years.

Way corny in Mideast's footnotes, it was mentioned that Farmington Road used to be called Divorced Street. It actually was called Division Street.

Area cities agree: no to county plan

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington will not participate in Oakland County's solid waste disposal plan mainly because of cost factors. "It's not that the county hasn't done a good job," Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said. "It's the project is just a very expensive decision."

Farmington City Council concurred Monday with a similar Farmington Hills decision made last week. The city will continue a five-year contract with Holloway Sand and Gravel Co., now in its third year, using a Salem Township, Washtenaw County landfill. The city has used this state-approved landfill for the past 20 years.

Language program approved

By Casey Hans staff writer

In what dissenting trustee R. Jack Inch called "the biggest change in middle school curriculum we've ever made," a controversial middle school foreign language program was approved 4-2 by the Farmington school board Monday.

It may also be "the most expensive program we've implemented since I've been on the board," Inch said. Cost estimates from \$130,000 to \$500,000 were projected by trustees, but true costs will not be determined until enrollment numbers are known in the spring, according to Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent for instruction. He expects the program costs to be "substantially lower" than board estimates.

THE MEASURE was discussed last February by the board's curriculum committee, which tabled a recommendation pending further study. The new, revised curriculum plan was recommended.

Deadman expects Southfield and other communities in a six-mile strip across southern Oakland County to continue using the Holloway landfill. (Southfield City Council opted out of the county's solid waste disposal plan Monday night). Unless county costs are substantially reduced, or landfill access changes, the city's decision will be permanent, he said.

Non-participation in the plan by Farmington and Farmington Hills is "disappointing" to George Schutte, supervisor for the county's solid waste unit.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES would become "close partners" in the program's inception, becoming involved in the initial bid-taking process of building a "modest-sized" solid waste incinerator and a sanitary landfill, Schutte said.

The incinerator would burn about half the waste collected, generating steam and electricity, which would be sold to industrial users, he said. The balance of the waste would be placed in a landfill.

If local communities approve the plan at this time, they have the option of "backing out at the financing stage," Schutte said. Deadman told the council "it's only fair to let the county know" of the city's position.

If cities choose not to participate, they will still owe a pro-rata share of costs incurred by the county from July 1 of this year through the time a plan of financing is prepared, according to Deadman.

County estimates show Farmington will pay 1.1 percent totalling \$7,700, and Farmington Hills 6.4 percent totalling \$44,411. Farmington Hills carries the third largest share of the county's project's planning phase behind Southfield and Troy.

Projected timetables for the county incinerator facility target construction in 1987, with operation beginning in 1990. Landfill operations are expected to begin in 1987.

IN MAKING decisions, both Farmington and Farmington Hills looked at projected plan costs, expected to be more than three times the present expense for sanitary landfill use, according to reports from city administrators. The cities currently pay \$4.75 per

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John Anhut, seated in the dining room of his historic Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills.

In touch Innkeeper's a civic sparkplug

By Casey Hans staff writer

Whether laughing, crying or speaking about Michigan's business economy, John Anhut's voice rings with a quiet authority.

This community leader has a soft side as well. A self-proclaimed "hard-nosed businessman," his eyes tear when Taps is played, remembering an 18-year-old brother's death and a "love of Americana" that molds his life.

Anhut's community involvement, local and statewide, lends a modern business viewpoint for running his historic Inn in Farmington Hills, the Botsford. The man and his dream are entwined.

"I like to do things myself," he says of the inn's management, supervising a staff of 60. "And I like to hire people that appreciate the place."

ANHUT HAS seen it all, from the Pacific Islands in World War II, to the executive director's seat in the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, to enjoying his Saturday af-

people

ternoon football, win or lose, with his alma mater — the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. He sees the inn as a 24-hour responsibility, which he takes seriously.

Business trends show rewards to service-oriented companies, according to Anhut, newly elected president of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce. Keeping a good attitude is crucial to self-esteem and good customer service.

"It all depends on how you start your day. Sure, there are days I could go in the corner and cry. Do a good deed each day, and look at the issue positively," he said.

Low-tech is where the jobs are, Anhut believes. This belief flows through day-to-day operations. "Everything's high-tech today. Things are getting so sophisticated, people don't want to wait on others anymore," Anhut said.

A philosophy of customer service helps keep the inn alive and busy, he said.

THE INN'S surrounding neighborhood is not the best, Anhut notes, but he doesn't view this as a problem. "As long as people are spending money — fresh money — in the area, we'll beat down the problems."

His work is his hobby or, he prefers, his "labor of love." He spends between 60 and 80 hours each week handling everyday problems and joys of the hotel business. He has held this management post since 1951, when he purchased the inn from the auto-pioneering Ford family.

Anhut told his corporate board of directors he thought of "easing out" of the business this year. "But I feel great, and don't feel I will pull out for at least five years," he said.

Much of this attitude relates to his strong attachment, and making sure new inn management is in place before he steps aside. During the past

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Beating the blues

Cable show to provide psychological boost

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

It's that time of year. Malls are packed with shoppers, homes are brightly decorated for the season, and out-of-town family and friends return home to share the holidays.

But for some, the holidays aren't so wonderful. "There is a great deal of warmth and togetherness — sharing," said Keith Levick, a psychologist at the Jensen Counseling Center, Farmington Hills.

"But what happens to people who have just experienced death, or a divorce? This is not going to be a warm, wonderful time for these people. They'll be anxious, depressed."

The depression and loneliness — "holiday blues" — experienced by some during the season can be overcome. And doing just that is the topic of Levick's first episode of a new cable television show, "Ask the Counselor."

Levick's show will debut at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18 on the Southwest Oakland Cable Community (SWOCC) public access outlet, Channel 12. The hour-long show, to be carried every month, is an outgrowth of SWOCC's public-service talk show, "Community Update."



'People are afraid of depression. They want to run from it. People still view life as a test — and if they ask for help, they're not strong. That's not true. It's OK to ask for help.'

— Keith Levick, psychologist

THE LIVE show will cover mental health and social issues — divorce, family, marriage and sexual problems, for example. The format will include a lecture followed by an audience call-in period. "Then the community can call in and ask questions about mental issues, social issues," Levick said. Future plans for the show include guests, such as a Wayne State Universi-

ty professor, who will discuss family problems, and a stress expert. The "holiday blues" show will provide the audience with information about loneliness and depression often accompanying the holidays, and what can be done so people are not carried away with the feelings, Levick said. "Part of my message to people is to allow the feelings," he said. "People

are afraid of depression. They want to run from it. People still view life as a test — and if they ask for help, they're not strong. That's not true. It's OK to ask for help."

Dispelling the myths behind seeking psychological help is a topic Levick plans to discuss heavily in each episode. "Hopefully, the way I come across, the comfortable human approach, people will think it's OK. Most people have adjustment problems. It's rare if I see someone with a mental illness."

Nonetheless, many people still shy away from seeking help. "It's still very much correlated with mental illness," Levick said.

LEVICK HOPES the show will encourage community members to call in and write. "Hopefully, they will learn something about themselves. I can assure people that they are not alone in this world. They don't have to bury their feelings. We're letting the community know there is help available," Levick said.

The idea for "Ask the Counselor" began shortly after Levick hosted an epi-

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