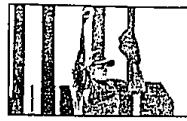


Mother, son merge talent for show, 5B



Hawks split, 1B

I-696 gets funding for completion, 10A

Farmington Observer

Volume 97 Number 58

Monday, April 28, 1986

Farmington, Michigan

36 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Schools' disrepair in spotlight

By Casey Hans
staff writer

'The first appearance is always the lasting one.'

— Clayton Graham
Harrison principal

Disrepair of Farmington school buildings was emphasized Tuesday, when those involved with recent North Central evaluations made a presentation to the school board.

"The first appearance is always the lasting one," Harrison High School principal Clayton Graham said during his report. Building prob-

lems were "significant things" in the North Central conclusions, he added.

Report results for Harrison and North Farmington high schools emphasized administrative recommendations for budgeting an estimated \$2.5 million for repairing buildings throughout the district.

An estimated \$10 million minimum is needed for building improvements throughout the district, according to recent figures given from

a districtwide survey of building principals and supervisors.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT Graham Lewis said the district was making the "correct response" to noted problems by "not trying to hide behind the positive side" of the North Central report.

This year's evaluation period for Harrison and North Farmington high schools proved to be a positive expe-

rience for teachers, chairmen for the schools' steering committees said.

"I think a positive frame of mind is important in anything we do," said Jerry Blaxwell, a North Farmington teacher who chaired the schools' steering committee.

"There has been somewhat of a lack of communication in the past between North Central committees

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item, feature story idea or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

DEVELOPING an identity.

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority has approved a graphic design to use as a logo on stationery, banners, advertising and handouts.

The logo was developed by Thompson Advertising Productions Inc. of Farmington Hills at a cost of about \$300.

SPEAKING of the DDA, six members were named to the consumer relations committee Tuesday night.

Joining committee chair Robert Christ are DDA president Larry Wingeter, Sanford Altshul, David Clappison, Elizabeth Keyshian, David Nitz and Kathleen Verstraete.

In other action, the DDA added John Donohue to the downtown services committee.

The DDA also authorized the city administration to initiate engineering and renovation studies for the parking lot behind the Civic Theatre, from Farmington Road to the Village Outlet, on the north side of Grand River. Beautification, plantings, lighting and resurfacing are among the areas to be studied. No funding sources to institute study findings have been identified yet.

NEW media center's nearing.

The Farmington Board of Education April 21 awarded bids totaling \$295,475 to two contractors for construction of a media center at Eagle Elementary.

Hickson-Costigan Inc. of Farmington received the majority of the bid for architectural work. Burton Brothers of Southfield will provide heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

The media center is expected to be opened by Jan. 1.

INVEST in youth.

The Farmington Area YMCA and the Farmington Flyers Run Club have received Farmington Hills City Council permission to hold their third annual Invest in Youth Run Saturday, May 3.

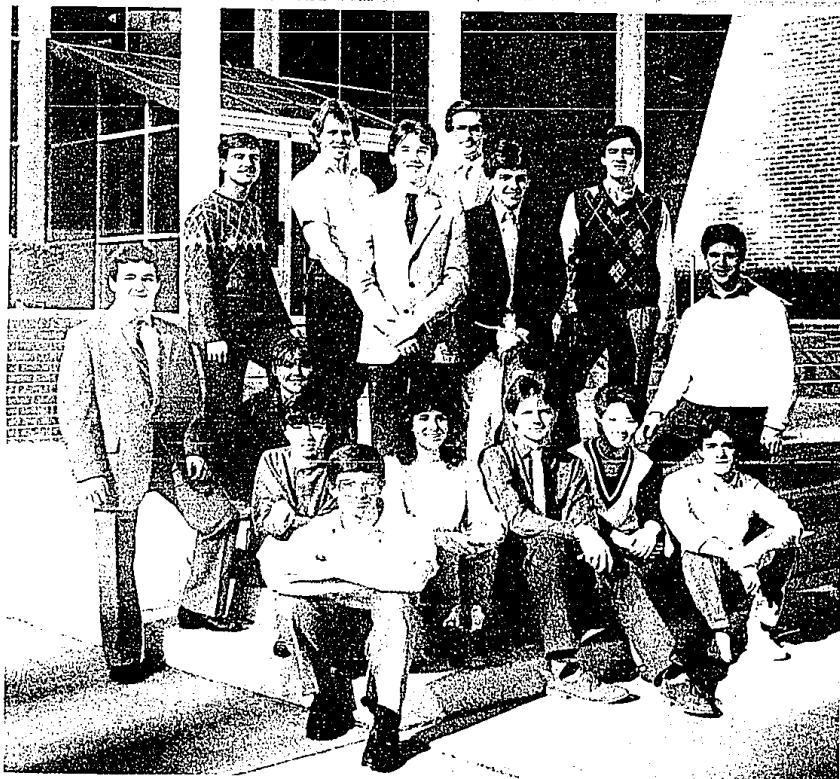
The race will begin at 9:25 a.m. in front of D. Dennison's Seafood Restaurant and wind through Kendallwood subdivision. The Insurance Co. of the State of Pennsylvania has provided an insurance certificate.

REMINDER: May 4-11 is Michigan Recycle Week.

"Recycling opportunities are present in discarded metal, newspapers, glass and plastic containers, and used oil," says Terry Black, state Energy Administration director. For recycling information, write the Michigan Recycling Coalition, P.O. Box 10240, Lansing 48901.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week —

Farmington school officials are proposing to reduce the tax rate levied in the district in 1985-86 by less than a mill. But the school district will make out better financially because of increases in the district's value.



Academic all-stars

Here they are — the 15 members of the Observer's 1986 Academic All-Star team.

They are bright, energetic and have their sights set high. Each student member will be profiled Thursday in the Suburban Life section. Selected to this year's all-star team are (seated from left) Christine Peller of Redford Union, Linda Rhee of Plymouth Salem, Kenneth Clark of Westland John Glenn, Jacqueline Aho of North Farmington, David Darmofai of Livonia Stevenson, Soo Jin Kwon of Plymouth Salem and Ian McCreery of Westland John Glenn. In the back row (from left) are Daniel Shakespear of Catholic Central, Bill Kellogg of Livonia Church Hill, Dennis Paige of Garden City, John Brinkman of Bishop Borgess, Peter Mueller of Bishop Borgess, Paul Krajewski of Livonia Stevenson, Mark Schlofky of Farmington Harrison and Daniel Weiner of Farmington Harrison. The scholars were nominated by their schools and selected using a formula which took into account their grades in academic subjects and scores on national tests such as the SAT and ACT.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Her roots extend well into the Hills



Kay Briggs, at home in her centennial house in southeast Farmington Hills.

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Kay Briggs received a special citation this spring — "awarded in appreciation for outstanding service to the community" — from the American Association for Retired Persons.

Service to the community and to others is part and parcel of the life of the woman who, after retirement, learned that the school system was short of teachers for the disabled so went back to teaching the homebound to help fill that gap.

Or the woman who has housed 25-30 foreign exchange students and still keeps in touch with most of them.

Or the woman who began a statewide collection of classic literature to be sent to teachers in China.

Or the woman who has been an officer in every group she's ever joined.

Or the woman who has been one of the moving forces behind the Farmington Hills Historical Commission since its inception.

Or the woman who looks at her calendar and contemplates how she is going to squeeze in attendance at two out of three invitations she's received for one night.

WHEN ASKED how she juggles the varied and full schedule of involvements, Briggs says, "I have the time, the energy, the enthusiasm and the interest. Everything is cutpa-

ing up to do. There are a lot of decisions, but a lot would depend on just what projects are pending at the moment."

What is pending at the moment is a poster contest she is involved in through affiliation with the Farmington Garden Club, and, in turn, the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan. Simultaneously, a cultural event is taking place in one of the

mentalized. I don't let any one thing interfere with any other one thing."

When asked what takes priority, Briggs said, "The historical commission, I guess. I'm chairman of that this year and we have a lot of catch-

ing up to do. There are a lot of decisions, but a lot would depend on just what projects are pending at the moment."

What is pending at the moment is a poster contest she is involved in through affiliation with the Farmington Garden Club, and, in turn, the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan. Simultaneously, a cultural event is taking place in one of the

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what's inside

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- Classifieds . . . Sections C, D
- Crossword puzzle . . . 1C
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- Police/fire calls . . . 4A
- Shopping cart . . . 3-4B
- Short takes . . . 3A
- Sports . . . 1-2B
- Suburban life . . . 5-7B
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- Sports line . . . 591-2300
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