

Academic All Stars
are showcased, 1B



Mercy
tied, 6D

Rezoning request
sparks debate, 8A

Farmington Observer

Volume 97 Number 59

Thursday, May 1, 1986

Farmington, Michigan

78 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

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 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

BUSINESS minded. Michael Flanagan, Farmington Public Schools assistant superintendent for business, was elected to the Michigan School Business Officials board of directors. The professional association is affiliated with the Association of School Business Officials International. The state group offers personal-growth opportunities in continuing education, research and development in energy management, financial management and computer/software applications.

HELPING hand. North Farmington High School students kept the volleyballs flying for 10 hours to net better than \$3,000 in pledges, which will be used to help build a custom-made playground on the grounds of Cloverdale Training Center, 33000 Freedom.

Credit for the volleyball marathon goes to Brad Char, North's student council president, and Ross Jacobs, North's honor society president.

PITCHING in. Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills conducted a charitable promotion for the downtrodden Saturday. WRIF listeners could eat all the pizza and salad they wanted for \$5. Proceeds went to the Michigan Food Banks.

TIME to plant. Downtown Farmington merchants are planning a celebration Friday and Saturday, May 16-17, to coincide with the Farmington Beautification Committee's annual flower sale.

The Downtown Farmington Merchants Association will erect a tent near the fountain in the main parking area to serve refreshments to visitors. Permission for the tent was recently granted by the city.

KEEP watch. Farmington Hills Police Department will host a Neighborhood Watch orientation meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, in the Farmington Hills City Council Chambers, 31555 11 Mile. The meeting is open to members of existing or new subdivision watch groups.

ACCENT'S on humanism. Howard Simon, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan's executive director, will receive the 1986 Leadership Award from the Friends of the Humanist Institute Tuesday, May 13, at the Birmingham Temple, Farmington Hills. Simon, executive director since 1974, will be honored for his continuing efforts to protect constitutional rights and civil liberties.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Parents of seniors at Farmington Harrison High School got the go-ahead to start making plans for an all-night graduation party. Parents of seniors at North Farmington set the tone eight years ago for a no alcohol-no drugs party for their graduates. Early this spring (1985), parents of seniors at Farmington High decided to hold such a party.

Housing rehab money boosted

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The Farmington Hills Housing Rehabilitation Program will receive \$136,000 in 1986-87 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money — \$20,000 more than expected.

The rehabilitation program's share of the city's total \$284,000 in federal money was increased because of a reduction in CDBG money

allocated specifically for capital improvements in low and moderate-income areas in the city.

In a 7-0 vote Monday, Farmington Hills City Council allocated \$136,000 for housing rehabilitation, \$110,000 for capital improvements and \$26,000 for administrative costs.

"This is a case where a half-loaf is better than none," said Housing Rehabilitation Loan Board member George Roberts, who has been waging a campaign to increase CDBG

funding of the housing program.

BEGUN FOUR YEARS ago, the housing program is designed to help homeowners — whose eligibility is determined by income — rehabilitate their houses with improvements such as new roofs, heating, plumbing and electrical installations.

Eligible residents receive low-interest loans to complete needed improvements.

"The recent discussion on your

adding the additional money to rehabilitation makes half of what I was going to say irrelevant," said Roberts, declining to make his planned presentation urging council to increase the housing program's share of CDBG money.

Originally, officials expected to use \$100,000 of the city's total estimated \$284,000 in federal money for improving three streets — Kirby,

'I don't think the federal government should be involved in buying shingles, hot water tanks or porch steps.'

— Councilman Donn Wolf

Please turn to Page 17

Alcohol affects families

By Casey Hone
staff writer

One Farmington Hills therapist calls alcohol and drug addiction a "no fault disease" affecting everyone it touches.

Many in today's society view it as a weakness — or a lack of control — for the chemically dependent person. But the effects of living with such a person also follows involved family members throughout their lives, according to Jeannine Eisenhauer, a therapist at Maple Grove, a West Bloomfield treatment center for chemical dependence.

"Life is difficult" is an understatement, if you have grown up in a home with alcoholism," she said Monday night to a group of about 100 at Harrison High School. They were attending one session of a five-part series on chemical dependency sponsored by Farmington Families in Action.

The therapist believes family members are "co-dependents" to the chemical problem, and said most families with alcohol- or drug-related problems are closed to communication of any kind.

"The only means of communications is either bickering or silence," she told the group of affected families and chemically dependent residents.

"There are strong 'no talk' rules in these families. We don't talk about dad's drinking. The message to children is 'don't rock the boat.'"

FAMILY MEMBERS protect the dependent person, sometimes at all personal cost, Eisenhauer added, calling it a type of "collusive effort" to ignore the problem. "There's a lot of hurt and pain in the family with chemical dependency — we do it to survive," she explained.

"It's self-neglect and self abuse — neglect of all personal needs. When I'm concentrating on someone else, how can I take care of myself?"

Each family member plays a different role in perpetuating the problem, depending on the member's placement, according to the movie, "The Family Track," narrated by Sharon Wegscheider and shown Monday night.

When the person "medicates their feelings" with alcohol or drugs, it affects other family members, especially children, she said.

The cycle of non-communication begins, causing physical sickness,

Please turn to Page 16



AT LEFT: The Novi Goldwing Roadriders Association was among the groups and individuals who volunteered their efforts to help operate checkpoints and rest areas along the 30-kilometer Walk America route through the Farmington area. The Roadriders were stationed at Farmington and 10 Mile roads.

Staff photos by Rick Smith

Benefit called a success

In near record temperatures Sunday, walkers in Oakland County generated a record amount of pledges for the March of Dimes' fight against birth defects.

The 1,580 walkers who stepped off for a 30-kilometer walk from Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills raised \$203,000 in pledges. The number of participants doubled that of last year. Walkers pledged to contribute money for each kilometer walked over the 18.6-mile course.

"It was one of our most successful walks," said Anne Marie Erickson of the March of Dimes' Southeast Michigan chapter in Southfield. "It was just terrific."

"K mart participated and brought about 1,000 employees. Electronic Data Systems was very supportive, too."

The Farmington Rockettes limbered up the crowd with pre-walk stretches. Temperatures



March of Dimes volunteer Ken Schrader at Waterford Township managed the checkpoint at Farmington and 12 Mile roads.

topping 80 degrees awaited. Walk finishers got "I Did It" pins.

AS A whole, the Southeast Michigan chapter's seven walkathon sites drew 10,000 walkers, who raised \$700,000 in pledges.

"That compares to \$532,000 last year," Erickson said.

The walk is the largest outdoor fund-raiser in the country. Last year, \$26.5 million was raised nationally for research into the prevention of birth defects. The program, WalkAmerica, began in 1971.



Phil Pringle (left) and Dan Plumley, both students at Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills, skateboarded their way through the March of Dimes fund-raiser.

Goal setting DDA develops strategy plan

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Farmington's Downtown Development Authority has adopted a strategic plan that states the DDA mission, lists goals, identifies obstacles and defines strategy.

"It deals with all aspects of downtown development, not just capital investment," said Robert Schultz, administrative aide to City Manager Robert Deadman.

He added: "A strategic plan is a fairly common technique to define a

mission and set strategies for not only achieving goals, but also measuring progress.

The DDA's mission statement is simple: to maintain a vigorous downtown district while retaining a small community atmosphere.

The plan's goals include:

- Retaining the small community atmosphere.
- Establishing a distinctive downtown image.
- Maintaining a retail and service mix.
- Increasing the number of

downtown residents.

- Encouraging other, compatible land uses downtown — office, recreation and public facilities.

"The plan is not meant to be chiseled in stone.

"For it to be meaningful requires not a paper existence, but a real consensus, a real understanding. And that's not achieved overnight. It can only grow with historical development. We (DDA members) don't have

Please turn to Page 12

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 2B
- Business . . . Section C
- Cable connection . . . 8B
- Club circuit 4B
- Creative Living. Section E
- Classifieds. Sections C, D, E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 8E
- Entertainment 4-7C
- Obituaries 8C
- Opinion 8A
- Police/tire calls 18A
- Readers' forum 19A
- Recreation news . . . 10C
- Sports 1-8D
- Suburban Life 1-5B
- Travel 8C

Homes
You'll
Love
at First
Sight

CREATIVE
LIVING REAL ESTATE
GUIDE

IN EVERY
THURSDAY EDITION