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Farmington Observer

Volume 97 Number 66

Monday, May 26, 1986

Farmington, Michigan

36 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

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.

IT'S a sign of the season. Farmington Youth Band will perform its graduation concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 1, at the Farmington Historical Museum Gazebo, 33895 Grand River, in the city's historic district. The band, under Fern Barber's direction, consists of 24 fifth through eighth graders. Bring a folding chair or blanket. Parking at the museum is limited so it's suggested you park at the city hall, Salem United Church of Christ or Christian Science First Church of Farmington. The museum will be open for tours 1-5 p.m. Admission is \$1. The concert will be the first since the gazebo's dedication last September. Suggestions for future concerts are encouraged, said Charles Carvell of the Farmington Historical Commission.

ELECTION'S nearing. On Monday, June 9, Farmington Public Schools voters will fill two board of education seats from among incumbents R. Jack Inch and Janice Rolnick and challenger Paul Blizman. The American Association of University Women's Farmington chapter will host a candidates' night at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29, in O.R. Dunekel Middle School, 32800 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Informal discussion will follow formal remarks and a question-and-answer period. Voters will fill two four-year terms on the seven-member, policy-making board.

TURF talk. Farmington City Council approved replacement of the sprinkling system at the lighted baseball diamond in the Drake Road Park May 5. The bid process was waived and a low proposal of \$3,388 from the C.S. Bellmore Lawn Sprinkler Co. of Livonia was accepted. The project includes replacement of sprinkler lines and installation of sprinkler heads. Money for the project will come from the 1985-86 general fund.

NEED a limo? Two taxicab licenses were awarded May 19 to a Taylor company, which plans to offer limousine service in Farmington. Premiere Limousine Service of Taylor, owned by Ann Purdy, will rent two vehicles at hourly rates. City ordinance requires such services be licensed as taxicabs. City Manager Robert Deadman told the city council, "This office does not believe that the proposed limousine service would have adverse impact on the existing taxicab services operating in the city." The company will charge \$30-\$40 per hour for services.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week - It's too late to take her name off the ballot. But Sara Lee Wollard has unofficially withdrawn from the board of education race, leaving 13 candidates still in the running.

School candidates share views

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Three candidates for the Farmington school board took the hot seat Thursday as about 25 members and guests of the Farmington Democratic Club posed questions about school-related issues. Eight-year incumbents R. Jack Inch of Farmington and Janice Rolnick of Farmington Hills and newcomer Paul Blizman of the Hills each gave short presentations during the club-sponsored candidates' night at the Balsford Inn in Farmington Hills. Audience questions followed. They were quizzed on topics ranging from the promotion of women to top district posts to communication between the school board and community.

The three will vie for two four-year seats during the Monday, June 9 school election. BOTH INCH and Rolnick cited "solidity of the board" due to the district's newly appointed superintendent as their main reason for running, while Blizman called for a "better environment" for our teachers to teach and our students to learn.

"I am thoroughly and intensely interested in education," Rolnick, a former teacher and self-employed businesswoman, told the group. "I have an interest, background and commitment to education." Inch called for a return to traditional educational values and stressed the "appreciation of the value of being able to read. That's our number one priority." Inch is a pro-

fessor and chairman of the economics and political science departments at Oakland Community College. An attorney and former juvenile social worker, Blizman also noted the importance of selecting quality teachers, as retirements increase throughout the state.

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Derek Huston, left, watches as his uncle, Michael Huston, and several others try their luck during the recent fishing derby in Southfield. The annual event along the banks of the Rouge River provides a glimpse at the recreational possibilities a cleaner river might offer.

River provides a glimpse at the recreational possibilities a cleaner river might offer.

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Cleanup effort targets Rouge

An extensive effort to reclaim the Rouge River has begun. The dirtiest river in Michigan will be given a chance to return to a time when people fished from its shores, strolled along its banks and even swam in its waters. Various organizations, ranging from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to Ford Motor Co. to small community groups,

are involved in the 20-year project to clean up the 125-mile river that flows through 36 communities in Oakland and Wayne counties. But individuals can play an important role in cleaning the Rouge, according to Bruce Monson, executive director of the Rouge River Watershed Council. "Rouge River Day," a cleanup and celebration of the river, is

scheduled Saturday, July 7, at 17 different sites along the river.

The project can be obtained at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 2, at Bentley High School, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia.

A detailed look at the Rouge, its history, the people who live near it, the problems and planned solutions will be examined in a special Observer & Eccentric Newspaper section in Thursday's editions.

Special services director resigns

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills Special Services Director Douglas Gaynor has announced his intention to resign June 6 to take a position as director of parks and recreation for Santa Clara County in California. Gaynor's announcement at a special meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council May 21 comes little more than a month before the special Tuesday, June 24, millage request for parks and recreation.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity being afforded me," said Gaynor, who has been employed with Farmington Hills for more than 11 years. "It's a different type of challenge."

As head of the Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation, Gaynor will be responsible for more than 50,000 acres of regional parks and waterways and more than 100 full-time employees. He will be responsible for the everyday operations and maintenance of the county's parks, as well as for a more than \$50 million capital improvement program.

Santa Clara County, about 45 minutes south of San Francisco, is about 1,300 square miles in size and is home to 1.75 million people.

GAYNOR DEVELOPED the Hills special services department from a two-person recreation commission staff. The department currently includes a video production division, a senior adult division, a community relation division, an energy management program, a municipal golf

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Program architect New school chief putting house in order



Newly appointed Superintendent of Schools Graham Lewis, in a hallway at Farmington Harrison High School.

RANDY BOSTER/staff photographer

people

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Just as Graham Lewis planned and designed his family home in Hartland, he's "quite anxious" to accomplish the building of a new house - the construction of positive concepts for Farmington schools. The father of three and newly selected Superintendent of Schools for Farmington labels himself the "architect of programs."

"My philosophy is to provide education to everybody who needs one," he said. "It's not something that happens in six months, a year, or two years. The element that makes success... is how well you administer the time and resources you have."

"In my tenure, I want to carry these things through the year 2000." The 53-year-old former artist,

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