

\$10,000 is pledged for CROP Walk, 1B



Hawks alive, 1D

Spren eyes county commission seat, 4A

Farmington Observer

Volume 97 Number 69 Thursday, June 5, 1986 Farmington, Michigan 82 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.

IT'S unanimous.
The Farmington Board of Education approved two new policies May 20.
One change calls for regular meetings to be held in the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center unless other arrangements become necessary. The board no longer will rotate meetings among district schools.
The other change creates a consent agenda, where some agenda items not requiring a roll call will be voted as one line item.

ON board.
Farmington Hills Mayor Joe Alkateeb made two appointments at last week's city council meeting.
David Dougie was reappointed and Diana Thornhill was appointed to three-year terms on the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission cable access committee.
Planning commissioner Robert Pratt was appointed liaison to the historic district commission.

HELPING hand.
North Farmington High School's basketball marathon netted \$3,000 for Cloverdale Training Center's playground, custom-designed for the students.
The check, given to school officials last week by representatives of North's National Honor Society and Student Council, heralds Cloverdale's groundbreaking for the new playground, set for Thursday, June 19.

ROAD work's planned.
Two local projects are part of Oakland County 1986 tripartite road improvement program.

In Farmington, a pedestrian traffic signal will be installed at Orchard Lake Road at Alta Loma at a cost of \$11,300. In Farmington, a third lane will be added on Orchard Lake Road from 11 Mile to the Oakland Community College entrance at a cost of \$140,475.
The projects were selected cooperatively by the Oakland County Road Commission, the Board of Oakland County Commissioners and the local communities. The cost will be divided evenly three ways.

WATCH where you turn.
Farmington Hills City Council has adopted a traffic control order prohibiting left turns at all times from a westbound Grand River to southbound Freedom.

IT was the safest day of the year on the road in Farmington Hills.
From 7 a.m. May 25 to 7 a.m. May 27, no traffic accidents were reported in the city — the first such accident-free 24-hour period in a year, Traffic Division Sgt. Ray Cranston said.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Of 52 pink-slippped teachers, all but eight will be back teaching in the Farmington Public Schools in the fall. "Eight remain on our recall list," said Robert Coleman, personnel director. "The situation as it stands now is the best it has been in the last 12 years."

Deputy superintendent chosen

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Little more than a year after his appointment as assistant superintendent, Michael Flanagan will hold the newly created position of deputy superintendent in the areas of business and finance for Farmington Public Schools.

The 36-year-old Flanagan's appointment was approved by a 6-0 vote of the Farmington Board of Education Tuesday. Board President Susan Rennels was absent.

A new, two-year contract, is expected to be proposed for Flanagan at the regular June 17 meeting of the board.
Creation of the deputy post re-

flects the first major reorganization of newly appointed Superintendent Schools Graham Lewis, whose contract takes effect July 1.

Also approved Tuesday was the creation of a new administrative position in the district's personnel department, and the posting of Lewis' previous position of assistant superintendent for special education ser-

vice.

THE DEPUTY position is second in line to the superintendent, and holds full authority in his absence, according to Lewis. Flanagan said "most major districts" have such a position.

"I'm very honored to be appointed to this position," Flanagan told the

board. "We're probably in the most important profession — one that has an impact on kids."

Flanagan's ability to define goals and objectives for the district and the revisions he's made in the finance and operations areas since arriving in February of 1985 made him the likely candidate for the deputy's position, Lewis said.

"This particular office is encumbered with significant and serious responsibilities essential to future decisions to be made by the superintendent and the Board of Education," Lewis said in his report to trustees.

Please turn to Page 13

Associations

They're part of a homeowner identity



Neighborhoods

Editor's note: This is the first installment in a series examining Farmington Hills' homeowner associations and their impact on the city.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

They are safe and familiar havens — places where children are raised and friendships formed. They provide identity. To say someone is from a particular neighborhood can pretty well sum up who and what they are — their lifestyle, income and background.

At the very least, the house and the neighborhood represent, in large measure, fulfillment of a dream — the move from the newlywed apartment, the move from that first, cramped house to accommodate a growing family, increased economic success.

Once moved in and settled, families work to protect and maintain the neighborhood in which they have committed their futures. As one neighborhood resident remarked when telling the Farmington Hills City Council of her strong opposition to a proposed rezoning near her home, "We are talking about our lives."

With strength in numbers, subdivision and neighborhood associations are more the rule today than the exception.

FARMINGTON HILLS is home

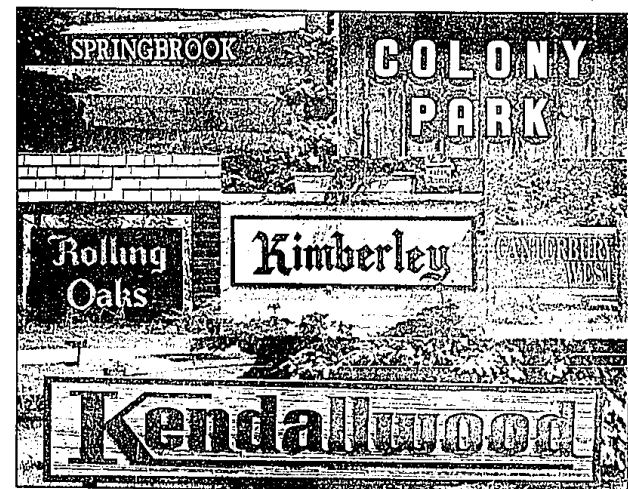


photo illustration by RICK SMITH/staff photographer

Entryways are the first visual contact that visitors have with residential subdivisions.

to at least 80 neighborhood associations with varying levels of activity. Many associations represent two or three adjoining neighborhoods. Associations form as required by property deed restrictions — most evident in the city's newer subdivisions — or by common cause, generally in older subdivisions. Organized associations with

elected officers and special committees oversee growth and maintenance of subdivisions. The same associations that organize block parties can also wield influence in development of a growing community.

"Our research shows that neighborhood associations are like invisible governments. When things are running smoothly, you don't notice

them," said Professor Don Warren of Oakland University.

A visit to the Farmington Hills City Council chambers any Monday night can provide a tell-tale sign of how prevalent associations and their concerns have become.

AT FIRST glance, it appears

Please turn to Page 13

Bennett to leave council

By Casey Hens
staff writer

One might say Alton Bennett is returning to the fold.

The 11-year Farmington City Council veteran and former mayor — currently he's principal of East Middle School — resigned his council seat Monday night.

Bennett and his wife, Mae, will leave Farmington to begin new careers in the "world of theology," he announced. Bennett served as an ordained Methodist minister for 10 years before beginning his career in public education.

Resignation from his council seat is effective July 31. His retirement with full benefits from Farmington Public Schools, where he worked for 21 years, is effective June 27.



Alton Bennett

"It will be a tremendous challenge until we decide to retire," he said of his new position as congregational director for the 2,000-member First Reformed Church in the Western Michigan community of Zeeland.

"It's been a real privilege to be able to serve," he told his surprised counterparts on the council.

Please turn to Page 10



Dale Countegan, Farmington Hills assistant to the public services director, at the banks of the Rouge behind the Farmington Nursing Home.

our river reclaiming the Rouge

Workers sought for river rescue

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Volunteers' time and energy is still needed for Saturday's "Rouge Rescue '86 Cleanup" in Farmington Hills.

"We haven't really received the response we wanted to for this day," said Dale Countegan, coordinator of the Rouge cleanup in the Hills and assistant to the director of the Department of Public Services. "We contacted civic groups, but we really haven't had much of a response."

Countegan is hoping that between 25-45 volunteers will join city Department of Public Works and Special Services Department employees in removing logjams from the city's portion of the river by Farmington Nursing Home, 30405 Folsom, near Tuck. Cleanup is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. until about 12:30 p.m.

"That site is what we have identified as the biggest problem in our area," Countegan said. "With it going through the Hills, we are faced more with natural occurrences — logjams, trees falling and blocking the river."

ON SATURDAY, volunteers and city employees will remove five logjams that have restricted the water flow and consequently caused flooding along the banks. In Farmington Hills, the Rouge has not been suffering from pollution as it has in some of the industrial downriver communities, Countegan said.

The majority of the Rouge runs across private property in Farmington Hills, where residents have done a good job of maintaining the river, he said.

"Rouge Rescue '86 Cleanup" — coordinated by WBEK-TV and partially underwritten by the Ford Motor Co. — is a major volunteer river cleanup effort involving 10 communities, private businesses and governmental resources.

The Farmington Hills cleanup project is sponsored by the city, Farmington Nursing Home, Botford General Hospital and Community Emergency Medical Service (CEMS).

Please turn to Page 10

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 4B
- Business . . . Section B
- Cable connection . . . 4C
- Campus pipeline . . . 6C
- Club circuit . . . 2B
- Classifieds. Sections C,E,F
- Crossword puzzle . . . 13C
- Entertainment . . . 6-9D
- Hallways . . . 3A
- Obituaries . . . 8C
- Opinion . . . 18A
- Police/fire calls . . . 15A
- Readers' forum . . . 19A
- Recreation news . . . 9B
- Sports . . . Section D
- Travel . . . 10C

News line . . . 477-5450

You deserve the best

CREATIVE LIVING REAL ESTATE GROUP

IN EVERY THURSDAY EDITION