

Pregnancy shelters aid the lonely, 1B



Softball's best, 4D

McDonald, Spreen eye commission seat, 6A

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

### Parks tax is sought

Farmington Hills voters will consider a half-mill levy for parks and recreation capital improvements in a special election Tuesday, June 24. Following is the second of two parts previewing the election. For related editorial comment, see Page 18A.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

After a Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission citizens committee developed a shopping list of ideas for developing Heritage Park last year, the big remaining question was financing.

"We looked at that list as a committee. We said, 'Great, outstanding. Now, how do we accomplish it?' The only thing was to go to the community. So it was incumbent on us to decide what to ask for and how to spend it," Commission Chairman Dennis Fitzgerald said.



William Costick

Commission members took the shopping list of \$7 million in suggested parks and recreation improvements — called a five-year action plan — and identified \$3 million of priorities.

Nine improvements — including work on Heritage Park, development of athletic fields on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Farmington roads, as well as upgrading of Farmington Public Schools fields — are considered top priorities in the action plan.

The plan completes the city's newly updated master parks and recreation plan, approved by the Farmington Hills City Council in March. "The total action plan includes a listing of 21 suggested improvements.

FARMINGTON HILLS voters will be asked on Tuesday, June 24, to support a special 0.5-mill levy for five years to pay exclusively for development of parks and recreation facilities in the city.

The special millage will raise in excess of \$3 million over the next

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Kelly Lynn Garver, a 23-year-old Farmington Hills resident, has made a name for herself in pageant competition for her prowess on the violin.

### Kelly Garver wins pageant

By Loraine McClish staff writer

Kelly Lynn Garver — happy, excited and entrenched with confidence — took the Miss Michigan title and the roses of victory Saturday night.

The 23-year-old daughter of Arlene and Gerald Garver of Farmington Hills spoke confidently of winning the title of Miss Farmington before the pageant here last July. And she spoke with the same confidence when she left for Muskegon last week to represent Farmington and Farmington Hills in the state competition.

There was only one point in the pageant preliminaries where the confidence wavered, but that was short lived.

"The talent was so very good, it was incredible," Garver said of the 30 contestants who were singled out as the best in their hometowns. "But I won the 'Best Talent' award Thursday night and that did a lot to boost the confidence up again."

The latest version of the local, state and national competitions in the Miss America Scholarship Pageant count for 50 percent of the contestants' total points in the judging.

*"I won the 'Best Talent' award Thursday night and that did a lot to boost the confidence up again."*

— Kelly Lynn Garver, Hills resident

GARVER'S TALENT on the violin brought the audience to its feet in applause and foot-stomping when she played "Orange Blossom Special" in the Miss Farmington Pageant last summer.

A medley of "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Dixie" and "Yankee Doodle" played with little variation won her the "Best Talent" award in Muskegon.

Garver is a two-time winner of the Miss Farmington Pageant. She took the title the first time in 1981, entered Michigan State University for a degree in telecommunications and set her sights for another try up the Miss America ladder.

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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.

### TURNING the spotlight on Northwestern.

Farmington Hills City Council Monday appointed councilman Terry Sever and resident Ed Jacques of Franklin Knolls subdivision to serve on the joint West Bloomfield Township-Farmington Hills road study committee.

The group is charged with studying traffic problems of common concern to both communities. Meeting dates have not yet been scheduled.

### ATTENTION, entertainers.

Eric Johnston is putting together the entertainment schedule for this year's Founders Festival.

Entertainers will perform Thursday-Saturday, July 17-19, in the Downtown Farmington Center.

Johnston welcomes calls from dancers, singers and musicians. Call him at 476-3230.

WATCH where you walk. A tri-party agreement to place "Walk, Don't Walk" pedestrian crossing signals on Farmington Road at Alta Loma street approved Monday night by the Farmington City Council.

Oakland County, the Oakland County Road Commission and the city of Farmington will each pay one-third, or \$3,767, of the \$11,300 project.

### HE'S re-appointed.

William Bowman III of Farmington Hills was re-appointed to the state Construction Safety Standards Commission for terms expiring March 1989.

Bowman, who will continue to represent construction management, is president of the Thompson-Brown Co.

### STUDYING up.

Farmington Hills resident and Harrison High School student John Eskandar participated in Operation Bentley, an eight-day intensive government study program at Albion College.

He was one of 100 Michigan high school students selected.

THIS is National Safety in the Workplace Week, sponsored by the American Society of Safety Engineers.

It's intended to help reduce the incidence of injury and death of Americans on the job. Last year, workplace accidents killed 11,000 Americans and injured an additional 2 million, costing business \$3 billion and causing untold human suffering.

THE Farmington Observer summer hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. We're at 33203 Grand River, in the back of the Metro Bank building in Downtown Farmington.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — "Fantastic," "overwhelming" and "rewarding" are the words used by organizers of this year's all-night graduation parties held at Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison high schools.

## Schools looking to the future

### Task force files studies

By Casey Hans staff writer

Staff development appears to be the key to any changes and goals proposed for Farmington Public Schools.

Giving the school board a "strong foundation" on which to move the district forward, four committees of the board-appointed, districtwide task force gave final reports Tuesday.

Recommendations from the board-appointed, 27-member group were made in the areas of physical resources, human resources, early childhood education, and staff development. A fifth committee on community education was dissolved shortly after its creation, according to Superintendent Graham Lewis.

Board President Susan Remels thanked parents, teachers, business leaders and school administrators

involved, and called for "more concentrated meetings" to discuss the findings in depth. Lewis suggested a possible full-day board and administrative workshop to set goals for the district using the task force recommendations.

THE TASK force committees were appointed on Sept. 3, 1985. Some of their suggestions included:

- Creation of an ongoing staff development program, including appointment of a program director and having a site for such a program.
- The recommendation calls for a master plan, that the program be continuous for all district employees in all departments, and that it be evaluated on a periodic basis.
- Implementation of day care for

district employees as a benefit, utilizing the program already in place at the early education level. Also called for was a commitment and recognition of early education as a separate, but equal, segment of education in the school district. It was suggested children up to the age of 7 be included in the early education level, and that a curriculum be developed for 4-year-olds in preparation for the future.

• The hiring of a professional engineering or architectural firm to survey the physical needs of the district's 27 buildings. The firm would review both positive and negative aspects of the buildings, provide a projection of needs and their costs, and develop written specifications necessary to bid out projects.

• Taking into account the student size projections through the year 1990-91, which show an increase of about 200 at the elementary level, a minimal decline at the middle school level and decline of 1,140 students at the high school level.

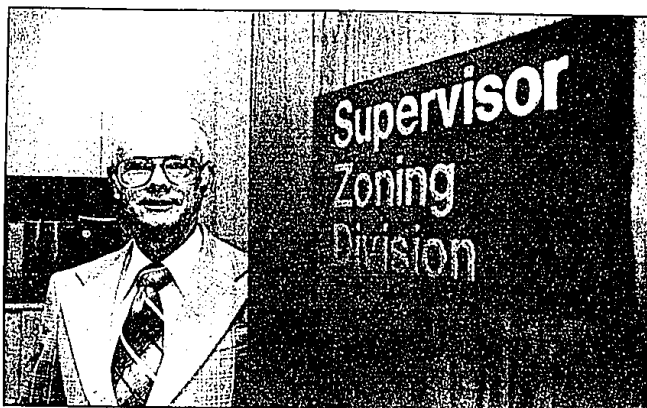
"WE'RE SETTING the tone for the future," said Barbara Novatis, who chaired the staff development committee. She called the recommendations "exciting." An elementary teacher, Novatis recently finished an internship in the district's personnel office, giving her experience in the staff development area.

Staff development is a key concern to the district, because of the recently implemented school employee retirement changes, allowing numerous employees to retire with

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## Getting involved

Homeowner clout isn't easy to measure



Farmington Hills Zoning Division Supervisor Hal Rowe calls neighborhood associations

"the first step in the grass-roots political process."



### Neighborhoods

This is the fifth installment in a series examining Farmington Hills' homeowner associations and their impact on the city.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills Councilman Don Wolf puts it succinctly: "Homeowner is a magic word in Farmington Hills."

Oakland County Commissioner David Moffitt describes it differently: "There is nothing to get a bunch of elected people off their haunches than a group of loud people."

Whether neighborhood associations have influence or even political clout with local politicians depends on point of view.

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