

The Handicapables get under way, 3B



Hockey is back, 1B

Library a summer treasure trove, 3A

Farmington Observer

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Farmington, Michigan

40 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Schools resolve pay questions

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington school trustees registered concern about proposed pay hikes for non-tenured employees in the district, but approved the measure with minimal changes Tuesday, June 24.

Five percent across-the-board raises were granted, salary for the new deputy superintendent position determined, and the district's administrative assistant moved to a higher pay level for 1986-87.

A 6-0 vote approved the measure. Trustee R. Jack Inch was absent for the vote.

At a June 17 session of the board's finance committee, several trustees voiced disapproval with "automatic" five percent increases and a \$10,000 net increase in salary to Administrative Assistant Scott Bacon.

"I have a real problem automatically giving five percent," Helen Prutow said.

"We're not criticizing anyone at these levels," Inch added, "but next year, we'll have to take a look at the

situation. We need to be sure the upper administration does not get too far out of line."

"I see a big wall we're going to hit someday," Jack Cotton added. "Once adopted, we cannot go backwards."

SUPERINTENDENT GRAHAM Lewis agreed. "It's essential that we come to the table next year with a frame of reference," he said. Bacon's increase from \$38,861 to the top supervisory level which pays \$44,423 - \$47,423, will be split and paid over a two-year period follow-

ing board discussion, Lewis said. "His position has taken on more responsibility," Lewis explained.

The original one-time \$10,000 increase recommended for Bacon by Lewis and Deputy Superintendent Michael Flanagan was termed a "walloping increase" by Inch and "deplorable" by Prutow.

After discussion, the board agreed to the increase over two years. The increase was recommended to bring Bacon, who works in the central office, to a level with other administrative assistants in the dis-

trict's high schools, Flanagan said. Bacon has done an "unrecognized job" in the area of insurance for the district, he added.

THE PREVIOUS Tuesday, Cotton also raised the question of the employee evaluation process. "We've had no evaluation, which has been one of our weaknesses," Lewis told the board.

"There will be a schematic and an evaluation process developed, then a

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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 notes to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

LET'S try it again. Wrong telephone numbers appeared in last week's Observer for Farmington Hills' city hall and police-fire emergency number. The correct numbers are: city hall, 474-6115, police-fire emergency number, 477-0911.

HAVE a pet? A children's pet show, in conjunction with the 19th annual Farmington Founders Festival, is scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, as part of Kids Day.

The pet show, held on the stage of the showmobile in Shlawassee Park, is co-sponsored by Plaza Veterinary Hospital and Pets 'n' Particulars.

Trophies will go to the top three finishers in these categories: twin class (two most evenly matched pets), best trained (30 seconds to perform), pet with waggiest tail, most articulate pet (speaks the best), shaggiest pet, best dressed pet and owner, oldest pet, best presentation of a caged pet. Entry forms are available by calling the Farmington, Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce: 474-3440.

MOVING up. Roger Avie of Farmington Hills was elected to serve as director of Lawrence Institute of Technology's national Alumni Association. He will serve a three-year term.

The association's treasurer from 1978-79 and president from 1979 to 1984, Avie received an industrial management degree from LIT in 1968. He has served on LIT's Reunition Committee for seven years.

Avie is president of Specialty Products Inc. and Visual-Specialty Television Productions. He is treasurer of the Southfield Tri-Parish Credit Union. He maintains a financial consulting company as well.

NEW office in works. Farmington Hills City Council June 16 rezoned property on the east side of Hoggerty, between Nine and 10 Mile, from single-family residential to office research for proposed construction of an office.

BID'S awarded. Farmington Hills City Council June 18 awarded a \$659,920 construction bid to South Hill Construction Co. to pave 13 Mile, between Drake and Halsted. Construction is expected to begin in July.

POSTAL service will operate on a holiday schedule July 4.

There will be no regular residential or business mail delivery or lobby window service at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Post Office Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. However, Farmington Postmaster Kenneth Harris, said special delivery service, express mail service and holiday collection service will be provided. Normal service will resume Saturday, July 5.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week - At long last, construction will begin this week on a new Farmington Hills police facility, with completion expected by the spring of 1988.

Know the danger of fireworks

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

With the Fourth of July just five days away, there's some confusion over what fireworks are legal.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills follow the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal Division guidelines for fireworks. Under state guidelines, the only fireworks that can be sold at the retail level and used by the public are toy paper caps, toy snakes, toy smoke devices, toy trick noise makers, wire sparklers (size No. 14 or less), filter sparklers, and both cone and cylinder fountains.



Michael Wiggins (size No. 14 or less), filter sparklers, and both cone and cylinder fountains.

"If it goes boom at all, or if it moves while in the process of burning, then it's illegal," said Lt. Thomas Shurtleff of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

"These kinds of fireworks aren't toys. They don't just fizz, sparkle or produce smoke. They pack a significant amount of explosive material."

If used improperly, fireworks can cause not only property damage, but also personal injury. "There's always the risk of having one explode too close to someone, or of having a bottle rocket go off in an uncontrolled direction and start a fire," said Commander Michael Wiggins of the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

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GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

In the saddle

Tony Claramitro, atop his steed, Popcorn, waves to a fellow rider during a session for handicapped riders at the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club. Eric Clark (above left), formerly of Southfield and now of Bloomfield Hills, and Carol Hill of Bloomfield Hills serve as side-walkers for Amy Carlson of West Bloomfield. Sponsored by the 4-H Club of Oakland County and the Young Varley Club, the program allows handicapped youngsters a chance to climb in the saddle. For more on the program and the experiences of youngsters and volunteers, see Gary Caskey's story and photographs in Thursday's Suburban Life section.

Educator retires Clarenceville losing a 'people person'

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

When it comes to Anthony Marra, it's easy to sum up more than 3 1/2 decades of work in one word.

People. That's what drew Marra into the education profession in the first place and what he likes best about the field almost 36 years later — or "35 and four-tenths years" later, as he would tell you.

"The people," said Marra, a Farmington resident. "That's what this district is."

On June 30, Marra will retire as assistant principal of Clarenceville High School, on Middlebelt near Seven Mile in Livonia. The school is part of the Clarenceville School District, which takes in parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

MARRA IS looking forward to "R and R" and working on furniture, he said.

He spoke proudly with a recent visitor to the school about the 4 1/2-square-mile district where his career took root and blossomed. The district was established in 1837, the same year Michigan became a state, but Marra's pride stems from more than that. "It's only four square miles, but it's bigger than half the districts in the state," he said. "It appears small. When I tell people where it is, I say, 'You know where Livonia is? Well, that's a suburb of Clarenceville.'"

people

'I guess the reason I went into teaching was I liked people. I liked talking to people, I liked helping people.'
— Anthony Marra
longtime educator

"The way I like to say it is, the community has stabilized," he said. "I've seen an increase in pride over the years. We've been ahead of most school districts. People don't realize that."

For example, Clarenceville required more credits for graduation than other districts, Marra said.

"I like to think that we were ahead of the group," he said.

"We had driver's ed before Livonia, and before Farmington."

MARRA was studying pre-engineering at Northern Michigan University when he changed his mind in the last part of his sophomore year.

"I guess the reason I went into teaching was I liked people," he said.

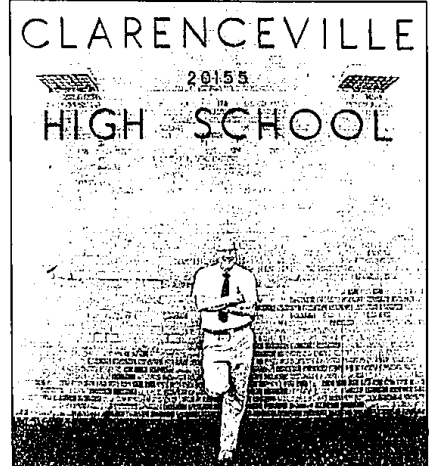
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- Sports line . . . 591-2300
- Home delivery . . . 591-0500
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EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the holiday, we will be closed Fri. July 4th. To place your ad in our Monday, July 7th, edition, please call Thurs., July 3rd.

WAYNE CO. 591-0500
OAKLAND CO. 844-1070
ROCHESTER 852-3222



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Anthony Marra is retiring as Clarenceville High School assistant principal after nearly 36 years as an educator.

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