

Youth enriched with arts, sciences, 1B



East stars prevail, 1D

Hills automation report looks to the future, 2A

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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 dubbed Operation Wildflower.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Transportation are sponsoring the beautification program to honor Michigan's sesquicentennial in 1987.

Different highway interchanges throughout the state are selected for wildflower plantings through the program.

Last week, the Farmington Hills City Council asked that the I-96 interchange in Farmington Hills be a future wildflower planting site.

The city's beautification commission promoted such a planting in February. Many of the commissioners are members of local garden clubs affiliated with the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan.

These local groups have earmarked money to be matched by the Michigan Department of Transportation for the planting of wildflowers at the I-96 interchange in Farmington Hills.

CAN you imagine winning a \$100 shopping spree? Farmington Hills resident Karen Rubin — who won exactly that at Lechter's, a kitchenware and gift store at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi — can't.

"I couldn't believe it," said Rubin, whose name was selected in a mid-summer drawing.

Accompanied by her 2-year-old son, Marshall, Rubin went shopping July 25. "They said the store is yours and let me select my gifts," she said. A wooden salad bowl and a set of knives were among her selections.

YET another homeowners group has gone on record calling for Drake Road to be paved between 11 and 12 Mile.

In a July 11 letter to Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick, the Old Homestead Association told of its "ardent desire . . . in the plan to improve the condition of one of the main thoroughfares in our immediate area for vehicular traffic."

The most recent traffic count showed 3,000 cars per day travel the road. The stretch is slated for paving if voters approve the city's \$7-million bond issue for road improvements this fall.

DO you have secretarial skills you can donate to a worthy cause? The Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon needs a secretary in its Farmington-area office at 23540 Farmington Road.

You must be able to work Monday through Friday during regular business hours until Labor Day. You also must be able to work at the WJBK-TV Studios in Southfield during the Labor Day Telethon. Call Susan Bemis at 477-3944.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — The future of the historic Harger House on Halsted Road — a fine example of Greek Revival architecture — is undecided.

World of silence

Implant will let him hear

By Janice Brunson staff writer

Edward Butcher, 59, of Farmington Hills fully intends to hear his youngest child, Kimberly, exchange wedding vows with Gregory Gordon on Sept. 20.

For Butcher, the event will mark the end of a troubled and frustrating period in his life that began six years ago when he suddenly lost all hearing in his right ear. Four years later, he lost all hearing in his left ear.

For 2 1/2 years, Butcher has been totally deaf.

"He can't hear a single thing," said his wife, Marilyn, in a telephone interview. "Nothing."

By the wedding date, however, Butcher expects to be hearing most things. On July 29, he underwent surgery for a cochlear implant — a small, 22-channel disk implanted in the bone behind the ear. When electrically stimulated, the cochlear implant carries signals to nerve fibers, which often remain alive in cases of total deafness.

Butcher's deafness is caused by nerve damage. In his right ear, the actual hearing loss occurred over a period of several days.

"The left ear went overnight," Marilyn said. "It was like his nerve disintegrated. He was watching a Pistons basketball game. He said he heard, 'blump, blump, blump.' And then nothing."

ACCORDING TO Butcher's otologist, Dr. T. Manford McGee, "sudden deafness" is rare. He and his partners at the Greater Detroit Otologic Group in Farmington Hills see approximately 15 such cases annually. It is not known what causes the condition. But many otologists suspect a viral inflammation may be responsible.

Butcher has been aware of implant surgery since 1984. Then a single-channel device was avail-



Edward Butcher is back to work following surgery for a cochlear implant, which is restoring his hearing after more than two years of total deafness. At left is his wife, Marilyn.

able, but hearing made possible by at the Greater Detroit Otologic Group, then will begin working with Butcher, finding the most comfortable balance of sound and pitch through a specially designed computer and teaching him how to interpret sounds he hears.

Butcher is only the second patient with a cochlear implant that Kullek has worked with. She estimates that it will take Butcher three to six months to become fully accustomed to the wider range of sounds it permits over the single-channel device.

Butcher has continued to work while deaf, running the firm his father founded, Steve Butcher's Furs in Farmington.

"The customers we've had for years have been so understanding," Marilyn said. And, she adds, her husband has become "excellent at reading lips."

That skill, however, will soon be a thing of the past for Butcher. The sound he most wants to hear first, according to Marilyn, is the cry of the couple's first grandchild, Brandon Michael, born June 12.

Meanwhile, Australian research was continuing on the cochlear, a dramatically improved device. In 1985, the FDA removed the experimental status of the surgery. In November of last year, McGee performed the first cochlear implant in Michigan at Providence Hospital, Southfield.

McGee estimates the cost of the procedure to be \$18,000-\$20,000. This includes pre-screening, surgery, hardware and post-operative rehabilitation.

In a month, after Butcher's surgery has healed, his implant will be stimulated for hearing.

WHAT THIS means to Butcher is described quite simply by Marilyn: "It will bring him out of a silent world."

Kathleen Kullek, an audiologist

Area voters reflect state, back Lucas

For a related story about statewide gubernatorial results, see Page 9A. For a local election-results summary, see Page 3A.

By Janice Brunson staff writer

Farmington-area voters reflected state voting trends Tuesday by supporting Wayne County Executive William Lucas as the Republican Party candidate to face Democratic Gov. James J. Blanchard in the Tuesday, Nov. 4, general election.

Lucas, now one step closer to becoming the nation's first elected black governor, beat out Brighton businessman Richard Chrysler by a nearly 2-1 margin in Farmington/Farmington Hills voting. Lucas drew 3,146 votes, Chrysler 1,740 locally.

Chrysler's campaign was marred in the final days of the hot primary battle by news reports about alleged irregularities in his business practices.

State Rep. Colleen Engler of Mount Pleasant and Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy trailed in the GOP primary both statewide and locally. Murphy received 1,553 votes in the Farmington area, Engler 414.

A first-term governor, Blanchard received 1,856 votes in Farmington and Farmington Hills, locally outpolling his only opponent in the Democratic primary, human rights activist Henry Hank Wilson of Detroit, a Lyndon LaRouche follower who attracted 49 votes.

COUNTYWIDE, 20 percent of the voters turned out.

In comparison, 23 percent of Farmington's 7,723 registered voters turned out. Absentee voting was unusually heavy: 85 ballots were cast absentee out of 1,764 total votes, City Clerk Josephine Bushey said.

More absentee ballots were received than the voter turnout in

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Both Parks of Birmingham conducts exit polling for NBC News at O.E. Dunckel Middle School Tuesday morning.

County contests now set

For a related story about the Circuit Court race, see Page 9A.

By Casey Hans staff writer

Thanks to Oakland County voters, two local incumbents will get the chance to retain their seats on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in November.

Winners in contested races in Tuesday's partisan primary included county commission incumbent Republican David Moffitt, of District 15, Democratic incumbent Alexander Perloff, of District 21, and Republican challenger Douglas Soko-

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Moving up: Schools name 2 to principal positions

By Casey Hans staff writer

Two new principals and a special education supervisor for Farmington Public Schools were named Tuesday, as the school board filled vacancies left by resignations, transfers and promotions.

The changes were prompted by a new state retirement law causing more than 50 retirements in the district during the past year, and internal changes within the district under the supervision of Superintendent Graham Lewis whose position was effective July 1.

The board also voted to create two new administrative assistant positions in the district, one in the newly created staff development department and the other at the Shiawassee Center alternative education program for residents of Boys Republic.

The three appointments were unanimous and included:

• Barbara Novatis as elementary principal at Wood Creek Elementary. She replaces Wallace Prince, who moves to Beechview Elementary to replace the retiring Norman Langdon.

• William Martin as principal at East Middle School. He replaces Alton Bennett, who recently retired.

• Charles Aulry as the district's special education supervisor. He replaces Mary Lou Ankele who was recently promoted to the newly created position of assistant superintendent for special services. She replaced Lewis.

A 17-YEAR veteran of the district, and a product of Farmington Public Schools, Novatis most recently worked in the district's central office as a personnel department in-

tern. She previously worked as a teacher at Forest Elementary, and she has served for her new position.

"It's not something you jump into, it takes years of preparation," Novatis said. "The first thing . . . on my agenda is to assess what's working well and perhaps look at areas to develop further."

Novatis supports current internal changes in the district and looks forward to the new year. "It's in tandem with what I feel — to create an

atmosphere where all employees can work to the best of their abilities."

NOVATIS WILL soon complete her doctorate through Wayne State University, an experience she finds "educationally refreshing." She has also published numerous articles in national education journals.

Martin has been with Farmington Public Schools for 24 years and is a veteran of both the junior high school and middle school systems. He has taught at Dunckel, was an as-

stant principal at Dunckel, East and Farmington Junior High. He moved to Warner Middle School when the district made the change to the middle school system.

"I'm excited, obviously," he said about his new job. "In the experience I've gained, I've attempted to pick up the best from other people. I'm pleased to be part of the new administrative team set up in the district."

MARTIN IS an advocate of the

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Planning seat opens

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Newly appointed city Councilwoman Shirley Richardson resigned from the Farmington Planning Commission Monday night, creating an at-large vacancy on the nine-member panel.

Richardson was sworn in by City Clerk Josephine Bushey at the start of Monday's city council meeting. Richardson will fill the remaining 3 1/2 years of Alton Bennett's term. Bennett resigned from the council July 31 and has moved from the community.

Mayor William Hartsock hopes to fill the planning commission vacancy in September. If you'd like to be considered for the unpaid post, send your credentials and reasons for applying to Hartsock in care of Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty, Farmington 48024.

To apply, you must be a resident



City Clerk Josephine Bushey (left) swears in newly appointed councilwoman Shirley Richardson.

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