

Historic Torah is dedicated, 1E



On the run, 1D

Latchkey grabs the spotlight, 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 98 Number 5 Thursday, October 23, 1986 Farmington, Michigan 120 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 32023 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

NO child or senior citizen should be without a Christmas. That's the motto of the Farmington Area Goodfellows, which is looking for volunteers for the upcoming holiday season.

Last year, the Goodfellows brightened the lives for 200 families with 480 children and 115 seniors.

"Due to people moving away or having other commitments, there is a need for additional volunteers for all phases of the operation," said Goodfellow Richard Tupper.

To volunteer, call the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce: 474-3440.

Schools nix suing over TIFA plans

By Joanno Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Public Schools officials don't plan to sue Farmington over the city's proposed multi-year tax increment financing plan to help revitalize downtown.

Yet school board members Tuesday did not formally offer a vote of confidence or support for Downtown Development Authority (DDA) plans to establish a tax increment financing authority (TIFA).

Board secretary Janice Rolnick voiced the most opposition to the DDA's plans. "Philosophically, I am very much opposed to this arrangement with tax dollars for education going for development or whatever," she said.

Rolnick lobbied strongly for the board to initiate legal action earlier this year against Farmington Hills to halt formation of a TIFA district along the 12 Mile Road office corridor. The school board dismissed the suit in April when Farmington Hills abandoned its TIFA plans.

With only board vice president Helen Ditzhazy supporting Rolnick's efforts, board members defeated by a 5-2 vote a move to file suit against Farmington.

"I DON'T believe in lawsuits," board treasurer Jack Inch said. "I think it would be difficult for our attorneys to refute the findings of the DDA that there is decline there (downtown). I'm really anti-lawsuit unless you have the cards marked and nine out of 10 can come up for you."

"I really feel this is a last-ditch effort to save the Grand River corridor," Inch said, about DDA revitalization plans, including the TIFA.

Rolnick continued to disagree.

With a copy of the complaint filed earlier this year against Farmington Hills in hand, Rolnick said the issues involved have not changed. The list of 27 concerns in the complaint against Farmington Hills can be applied to Farmington's DDA plans, she said.

In particular, two major issues — using educational tax dollars for city improvements and the question of declining property values — still exist, Rolnick said.

Though property values in the DDA district may not be increasing, "it looks to me that the property value has not decreased," Rolnick said. "A decline has to be recognized by

Crowning moment



Farmington High seniors Dan Woytowich and Leslie Martin were crowned king and queen of the school's homecoming festivities Saturday, as they rode through downtown Farmington in the annual parade. Turn to Page 6C for the story and more pictures of the traditional fall celebration.

Debate gives Lucas biggest boost: poll

By Tim Richard staff writer

Debates do change minds.

A survey showed William Lucas held his own supporters, converted some of Gov. James Blanchard's backers and made the most memorable points during their debate before the Economic Club of Detroit.

'Business climate in Michigan is not as good as Gov. Blanchard claims.'

— A Farmington Hills Blanchard supporter

respondents — even Blanchard supporters — quoted Lucas when asked who made "the most memorable point."

About 3,400 persons attended the debate in Cobo Hall — second largest turnout in the Economic Club's 52-year history. (President Reagan set the record.)

KEY FINDINGS:

- All 16 persons who favored Republican Lucas at the start of the debate were either just as strongly (10), or more strongly (6), in favor of the Wayne County executive afterward. Asked who made "the most memorable point," all 16 quoted Lucas.

no one quoted Blanchard.

In summary, 28 of the 32 said Lucas made the most memorable point, one quoted Blanchard, and three failed to reply.

Altogether, 32 people, including some from Farmington Hills, answered a three-question Observer & Eccentric Newspaper survey. The survey wasn't designed as a scientific poll of who would be elected governor Nov. 4, but it did show shifts of opinion toward Lucas — during Monday's one-hour debate.

More importantly, it showed the

And eight of the 11 thought Lucas made "the most memorable point," while only one Blanchard supporter quoted Blanchard. Two quoted neither candidate.

• All five who listed themselves as "indifferent" or "undecided" before the debate said they leaned toward Lucas afterward. Four of the five said Lucas made the most memorable points, one didn't reply, and

THE LONE person who quoted Blanchard was an Ann Arbor resident who cited "the number of new business startups, new investment and the strategic fund."

A Farmington Hills Blanchard supporter quoted Lucas as saying, "On a clear day, you can see Stroh's, Vernor's and Wonder Bread from here" — meaning that the buildings are vacant because the jobs are

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Biblical harvests symbolized

"And ye shall take you on the first day the fruit of the goodly trees, branches of the palm trees, and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook, and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days."

— Leviticus 23:40

By Casey Hans staff writer

Friday at sundown, the Jewish holiday of Sukkot — the Season of Rejoicing or the Holiday of Harvesting — ends.

The holiday tradition of bringing Jewish people together in faith

should not end, said Lubavitch Movement leaders, who visited the Summit Apartments in Farmington Hills Tuesday afternoon.

Lubavitch Movement members brought with them a mobile Sukkah, or booth, an integral part of the seven-day celebration of Sukkot, Oct. 17 at sundown.

They traveled statewide bringing the mobile Sukkah to those who did not have their own, and with it their message of celebration and Jewish unity.

The Hills visitors came from New York to help with the Sukkot celebration locally.

Sukkot relives memories of a day long ago when clouds appeared from behind to shield the Jewish people from Egyptians, from above to shield them from the heat of the day, and in front to "show us the way," said Aurothom Lipszyc, one of the Lubavitch visitors.

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YeHUDA Mann (right) of the Lubavitch Movement shows a Lulav to 8-year-old twins Aquil and Alicia Minnz of West Bloomfield. They're inside the mobile Sukkah.

THE SUKKAH reminds Jewish people of these so-called "clouds of glory" from long ago and the protection their Hebrew ancestors received from God.

During the celebration, Jewish people traditionally eat their meals in the Sukkah, except on rainy days. They combine palm, willow and myrtle branches — Lulav — with a citrus fruit called Etrog and shake these four items — which have various tastes and smells — as part of the festive, religious ceremony.

"It's a very joyous time," Lipszyc said. "We sit outside unprotected... putting our faith in God."

Another visitor, Levi Reitzes, said the combination of branches and Etrog also symbolizes the unity of the Jewish people during the holiday. "We all sit together in the Sukkah," he said.

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPER INC.

SUBURBAN

Pace

IN TODAY'S ISSUE

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — A 10-year Farmington Hills Fire Department veteran became the city's new fire marshal. Stephen Hume assumed the full-time post Sept. 1, 1985. He continues in the part-time role of district chief at Fire Station 1, near 10 Mile and Research Drive.

The various levels of Jewish faith Please turn to Page 14