



Farmington Observer

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

VOLUNTEERS still needed: The Farmington Area Goodfellows needs more volunteers for the upcoming holiday season to assure no child or senior citizen goes without a Christmas. Last year, the Goodfellows made Christmas brighter for 200 families with 480 children and 115 seniors. "We're looking for volunteers for every phase of our operation," Goodfellow Richard Tupper said. To volunteer, call the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce 474-3440.

TAKE note: The U.S. Postal Service will operate on a holiday schedule during its Veterans Day observance Tuesday, Nov. 11. There will be no regular residential or business mail delivery. Special delivery, Express Mail and Post Office Box service will be provided. Limited caller service will be available only for customers who regularly pick up their mail at either the Farmington office, 33200 Sleumer, or the Farmington Hills office, 32455 12 Mile. The service window will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. for customers; however, there will be no financial transactions. Mail will be picked up from all residential collection boxes as late in the day as possible to meet first-class mail service standards. All business collection boxes, with the large 5 p.m. decal, will be picked up after 5 p.m. Normal mail service will resume Wednesday, Nov. 12.

GROWING pains: Farmington Hills City Council has approved the site plan and authorized the taking of construction bids for a proposed addition to Fire Station 3 on Wheeler. The 2,000-square-foot, two-bay addition will be designed to hold two fire trucks or, in the future, an aerial ladder truck. Approval was contingent on the meeting of several planning commission design requirements.

THEY'RE winners: Farmington Hills Fire Department has announced the two winners of its "Fire Chief of the Day" coloring contest. They are Woodcreek elementary second grader Laura Plato, 7, who won the Farmington Community Library Coloring Contest, and Our Lady of Sorrows third grader Stephen Valenti, 8, who won the McDonald's Restaurant Coloring Contest. Each won lunch with firefighters for their efforts.

FOOTNOTES: Looking back in time — School musicals aren't unique to recent times. A poster reproduced in Lee S. Peel's "Farmington: A Pictorial History," advertises "The Gypsy Rover," a musical comedy to be performed by Farmington High School May 9-10, 1923, in Town Hall.

Clerks eye good turnout on Tuesday

By Bob Sklar staff writer

How will Republican challenger William Lucas fare against Democratic Gov. James Blanchard in the largely Republican communities of Farmington and Farmington Hills? Will Lathrup Village councilman Frank Brock, a Republican, oust four-term Democratic state Sen. Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills? Can former Oakland County sheriff Johannes Spreen parlay strong name recognition into victory over six-term GOP incumbent John McDonald in Farmington Hills' 27th county Commission District? Will the door-to-door stumping of Farmington Democratic Club chairman Michael Breshgold translate into an upset triumph over six-term Republican state Rep. W.V. "Sandy" Brotherton of Farmington? Do local voters agree with Detroit's two daily newspapers, who endorsed St. Clair County Prosecutor Robert Cleland over Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley, in office for 25 years? When Farmington-area voters go to the polls Tuesday, they'll answer these and a host of other Election '86 questions.

The day of reckoning is at hand. WITH ABSENTEE voter applications signaling late interest in the election, local clerks predict solid voter turnouts. "I think we probably will be very close to the 59 percent turnout in the 1982 gubernatorial election. We may even see a few more people. I hope to see a turnout topping 60 percent,"

'I'm seeing more candidates out there working, with more publicity and more advertising. That's bound to have an effect.'

— JoAnn Reynolds
Hills City Clerk

said Farmington Hills City Clerk JoAnn Reynolds.

Farmington City Clerk Josephine Busbey hopes to equal the 1982 turnout of 67 percent. But it could end up a little lower. "I say that because the first month absentee ballots were available, there was little activity," she said. "But in the last five to six weeks, it has gotten very busy. We've had lineups for absentee voter applications two to three people deep." Applications to vote absentee have passed 4,000 in Farmington Hills and 800 in Farmington. Farmington Hills has 42,612 registered voters, 3,000 more than in 1982. Farmington has 7,758 registered voters, about 50 less.

REYNOLDS CREDITS increased campaigning with increased voter awareness. "I'm seeing more candidates out there working, with more publicity and more advertising. That's bound to have an effect," she said.

A hot judicial race often brings

Halloween fun



Two-year-old Abigail Brithline (right) of Wixom gets ready for a hot time at the annual Botsford General Hospital Halloween party Oct. 28. The little dinosaur is followed by her mother, Pat. Turn to Page 9A for more pictures and a story about the community event for preschoolers and elementary-age children.

Group leader brings change

By Casey Hans staff writer

More activities for retailers and a focus on legislative business issues are key areas of concentration for Nancy Finley, 1986-87 Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce president.

The senior vice president for Michigan National Bank-Farmington took office last August. The chamber is off to a good start in these areas, plus it has activated several committees dormant for years, she said.

Each of the 18 members of the chamber of commerce board of directors sits on a committee this year, she said. For retailers, Finley said the board is eyeing possible breakfast with speakers on primarily retail topics such as effective advertising, marketing, crime prevention and sales management. Many of the retailers cannot attend the chamber lunch meetings because of their schedules.

"They're an important part of our community," Finley said. Several chamber of commerce directors have taken "an active interest" this year in legislative issues. The chamber's Legislative Commit-



Nancy Finley chamber chief

Co-op director markets student careers

By Casey Hans staff writer

Years ago, June Kilmer went door-to-door to find jobs for her co-op students. Today, business knocks on her door. The decrease in numbers of teenagers combined with the swift business growth of Farmington Hills has created a job surplus, the Farmington schools co-op coordinator for marketing education said. Despite this turnaround, she continues to match students with businesses and teach high school students the need to learn career skills. The abundance of jobs has made her counseling of students more challenging. "It's created a monster in a sense; given youngsters some

false illusions that jobs are plentiful and easy to come by," she said. During the past 13 years as coordinator, Kilmer placed more than 1,350 co-op students and has worked with 605 employers — primarily in the Farmington area. Co-op enrollment has tripled under her leadership.

KILMER'S EFFORTS in education since 1970 recently earned her the seventh annual Farmington Rotary Club Vocational Service Award, for which she was honored at a

luncheon last week. She was recommended for the award by Earl Baumunk, director of vocational and career education for Farmington Public Schools, and Kilmer's boss.

"She is a warm, caring person whose enthusiasm, imagination and leadership inspires confidence, determination and self-respect in our young people," he said in his recommendation. "She is dedicated to helping youth succeed and willingly gives of herself without limitation." Kilmer's vision for herself as she graduated from Mackenzie High School was not in a co-op office at North Farmington High School. She began training to become a retail buyer, an effort that was short-lived because she could not afford the tuition. Kilmer subsequently went to

work, eventually got married and had five children before she was able to continue her education.

STUDYING AT Wayne State University moved her toward a second career choice in cooperative education. She earned a bachelor's degree in distributive education and continued on for a master's degree in business education. She has continued her education through Michigan State, Eastern Michigan and Northern Illinois universities from 1975 to the present. Perhaps her dealings with students over the years was the best education. "We've come full circle in the past 10 years," she said. "Currently, the students are very knowledgeable, very wise not necessarily in grade point, but in what's going on outside in the world." The management background of parents in many area homes also contributes to this student awareness, she said.

Of the classrooms Kilmer visits during the year, she finds a majority of students employed. She discusses career futures and works at recruiting underclassmen for the vocational

co-op program. "Don't look at yourself as going down one narrow path," she tells them. "Use your skills in other areas."

"They need to learn about getting along with people. I always say no matter what you do, you learn from it." Another part of her job is working with parents of her students, who sometimes worry about work interfering with academics. "A lot of parents think if their kids go to work their grades will drop," she said. "Most of the time they go up. It teaches them how to organize their time. It teaches them responsibility."

One of Kilmer's goals is to offer a course in entrepreneurship for high school students. "This is an area that's going to grow," she said. "The opportunities and challenges are tremendous right now."

TO GET started in a career, Kilmer recommends each student work at least one job — paid or unpaid — before leaving high school. Despite her encouraging words, she



June Kilmer (left) works with Harrison High senior Robert Koenig and Farmington Hills store manager Gene DiPrecco. As a co-op student, Koenig works in Crowley's men's department as a salesman.

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