

Schools gear up for sesquicentennial, 1C



Raiders rule, 1B

Historic house's dismantling starts, 3A

Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item, feature story idea or an action piece with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

MICHIGAN

Department of Social Services has announced its intent to license a proposed adult foster-care family home on Colgate in Farmington Hills.

City officials said the site is not within 1,500 feet of another group home — and thus complies with state law.

The family which owns the house will live there and care for two physically disabled or mentally retarded adults, according to the licensing application.

EXPOSURE in the Big Apple.

An award-winning picture taken by Michael Schwartzberg of Farmington Hills is on display at Gallery Center, New York City, through Feb. 1.

It's part of a presentation of winners in the 1986 Kodak International Newspaper Snapshot Awards.

Schwartzberg's picture, "Morning Tree," was a top winner in the Detroit Free Press 1986 summer snapshot contest.

CARE for an outdoor snack?

Baker's Leaf, negotiating a lease with Nelson/Ross Properties for a space at the south end of the new Village Commons shopping center on Grand River, gained Farmington City Council approval Jan. 19 for a patio.

The patio, facing Grand River, will be made of paving bricks. It will be landscaped.

Baker's Leaf has operated a restaurant on Northwestern Highway in Southfield since 1978.

HELPING kids learn about government.

Farmington City Council has earmarked \$160 to again support Boys State, a week-long program for high school boys to learn about the democratic system of government with other young men from Michigan.

American Legion Groves-Walker Post 346's Boys State Committee encouraged continued support.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — The long-awaited Caddell Drain — designed to prevent flooding in the 10 Miles/Grand River area — is expected to be completed within 1 1/2 years but at a price far higher than expected.

The Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils agreed to sell additional bonds to pay each city's share of a \$1.3-million increase. The 28-percent increase in costs raises the project's estimated price to \$5.5 million — \$1.5 million above the original estimate.

Hearing on home child care set



'It (home day care) is not the snake pit they (city officials) may imagine.'
— Darlene Feldman
Hills resident

Parents to Organize In-Home Child Care states community meetings: 10A.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Child home care advocate Darlene Feldman plans to invite Farmington Hills officials to her home soon to see what day care is all about.

"I feel there is a lot of information we have to get through to them," Feldman said, following a Farmington Hills Planning Commission study session Thursday night. "It's obvious they have an open mind, but they need more information."

Feldman's invitations are expected to be mailed to planning commissioners and city council members

within the week. Feldman's goal is to show city officials exactly what home care is and how it works.

"It's not the snake pit they may imagine," she said.

Feldman expects to host the open house before a planning commission public hearing on a proposed day care ordinance at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.

Planning commissioners hammered out a proposed ordinance Thursday that would allow child home care in single-family residential areas. The proposed ordinance — with few restrictions — covers both family day care homes and group day care homes.

UNDER COMMISSION proposal, family day care homes would be permitted for a maximum six children

and the provider must be a resident of the home and licensed by the state. The same restrictions would apply to group day care homes except the provider could care for seven to 12 children.

Commissioners asked city attorney Dick Pochman to draft the less-restrictive proposed ordinance for legal advertising purposes. But he was also asked to provide language for restrictions — hours of operation, open space, screening and distance between child care homes — in case it's determined following the public hearing that greater restrictions are needed.

Feldman is urging city officials to change zoning ordinances that prohibit her and others in Farmington

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Farmington Hills elementary student Brian Fuller (foreground) attended developmental kindergarten. He's shown with his sister, Stacy (left), and parents Jack and Nancy.

Parent support grows for early kindergarten

Editor's note: This is the third in a series about developmental kindergarten — an early childhood program designed to give children not prepared for kindergarten an extra year of school. The third article gives observations from parents.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

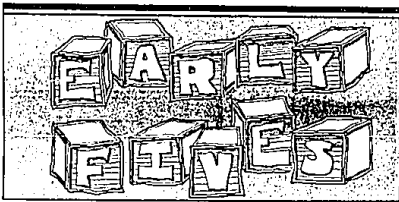
PARENTS ARE often put on the spot in deciding their child's future.

Given the option of developmental kindergarten, some don't know what to do.

Adult peer pressure and society's push for children to achieve place a burden on parents. Sometimes, these pressures push a child into school too soon, or cause the child to feel there's "something wrong" if he or she doesn't begin kindergarten at the traditional time.

But many parents today are taking the cue from local school districts that recommend a child be placed in a developmental program, local education experts said. This gives the child an extra year before beginning traditional kindergarten.

When recommendations are made for developmental kindergarten in Farmington Public



'The developmental program does not copy the kindergarten program — it leads them into it.'

— Linda Celko
parent

Schools, they are for the Early Fives program, which has been in existence for three years.

"I don't think I'll ever look back and say I did the wrong thing," said Farmington Hills resident Nancy Fuller about her 7-year-old son who has moved ahead in his schooling after attending Farmington's developmental program.

WITHOUT BEING told the Gesell test results, she knew her son needed the extra time. "I would have put him in a private program if he didn't qualify for developmental kindergarten."

"I have helped a lot of people make that decision," added Fuller,

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Lifesavers:

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

anyone asleep in a mobile home fire survives.

"Whoever reported the fire and the three public safety officers who were first on the scene saved the man's life — no question about it."

Two police officers and a firefighter are credited with saving a 22-year-old man's life after they pulled him, semiconscious, from a burning mobile home in Farmington Hills at midnight Thursday.

The accidental fire started when the man fell asleep after placing a pan of potatoes on the kitchen range to deep fry, said Fire Marshal Stephen Hume of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

The mobile home was equipped with a smoke detector that wasn't hooked up. "Detectors are there to give you some warning. In this case, the victim — asleep — was totally unaware there was a fire," said Deputy Chief Peter Baldwin of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

Patrick Thomas Bolda was reported in stable condition Friday in Botsford General Hospital's acute care unit, said Russ Tuttle, community relations director. He suffered smoke inhalation and first- and second-degree burns to his upper chest and face.

From outside, Bolda's small mobile home appears slightly damaged. "But even a minor fire can be life-threatening," Hume said. "You can be overcome by smoke in a matter of seconds."

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Man is saved from mobile home smoke

Hume said. "Trailers usually burn extremely fast."

An unidentified caller reported the fire.

When Sgt. Al Haver and Officer Gil Kohls of the Farmington Hills

Police Department and District Chief Bob Rebovy of the Farmington Hills Fire Department pulled into Flamingo Mobile Home Park, 22600

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Downtown merchant followed a winding road to Farmington

people

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Between two varied engineering careers and a newfound spiritual life, Harry Wingerter landed in downtown Farmington.

But there's more to Wingerter than a greening card or a present from one of his retail gift shops.

He and his wife, Stella, spend their free time visiting with family, volunteering at their Southfield church and devoting time to things they have considered important during



Harry Wingerter, in the Bon Ton Shoppe in the Downtown Farmington Center.

LADY LUCK plays a hand when

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Watch for these Special Sections Coming Soon!

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February 12, 1987

PERSONAL FINANCE
February 26, 1987