

Enrichment award goes to feminist, 1B



State's best, 1D

Drawing to benefit Founders Fest, 8A

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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 3232 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

REACHING out. The staff at Royal Transmission at 30680 Grand River brightened the day for a widowed 76-year-old Farmington Hills woman March 12 when they paid for \$400 worth of parts and donated their labor to repair her 1976 Buick LeSabre.

"She was tickled to death. And that makes us feel real good," said Iza Kubacka, manager. "We don't know what kind of financial shape she's in, but that really didn't matter."

The car wasn't safe to drive and has seen better days, but it works now, Kubacka said. He just wanted people to know that despite the bad publicity the industry has received because of allegations of fraudulent practices, "they're not all bad. Many of us do something good for the community."

BEWARE of a man with an English accent calling Farmington-area residents about a "too-good-to-pass-up" vacation deal.

The caller says he's from a new travel company, American Travel. He says he can offer a week-long trip to England, Paris or Hawaii, including air transportation and lodging at a quality hotel, for \$440. You select a travel period within a year of the telephone call.

The caller asks what credit cards you have. He also asks for the names of five others who might be interested and whether you'd consider taking along another person at a slightly higher price.

He then asks for a credit card number with a promise that more information will be forthcoming. If you don't provide a credit card number, he hangs up.

"It sounds really good," said one Farmington Hills woman, who said the man immediately hung up when she refused to give him a credit card number.

HELP fight a crippler and killer.

The Farmington Area Jaycees will collect donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Saturday, March 21 at 8 a.m., halted at Grand River, Farmington Hills.

Each contributor will receive a daffodil, in salute of the first day of spring and in appreciation for helping in the battle for a cure for this crippling disease.

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 — because more than 70 percent of Farmington-area students drink on weekends, students from Mercy, Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington senior highs are forming a weekend Safe Rides program spanning a 10-mile radius.

Home day care approval nears

Residents debate home day care inside subdivisions: 10A

By Joanne Malliszewski staff writer

Puzzled. That's how many people appeared to be Monday following the Farmington Hills City Council's introduction of an ordinance amendment permitting child day care in residential areas.

The council's action followed more than two hours of public comment — most of which echoed sentiments expressed by residents at a Farmington Hills Planning Commission public hearing in February. The amendment was introduced by a 6-1 vote. Councilwoman Joan Dudley opposed the amendment.

The proposed amendment would allow both family and group home child day care in residential areas, with certain restrictions. Family homes allow a maximum of six chil-

dren and group homes a maximum of 12. The council agreed to allow all existing group day care homes to continue to operate, pending amendment adoption.

But the final vote belies, based on comments and suggestions, what many council members were attempting to do — include the larger, group day care homes in subdivisions rather than on major or secondary roads, as required in the introduced amendment.

JUST WHEN it appeared as

though the council was turning the tide to allow both types of day care homes in neighborhoods, action fizzled. A couple of council members who embraced the idea instead voted for the amendment offered by planning commissioners.

Mayor Ben Marks defended the larger, group homes and maintained that he could not find that these homes caused any burden on neighborhoods.

"Nobody has proven to me tonight

there is an absolute difference between six and 12 kids," he said, adding that all he heard were "fears" without substantiation.

In the end — saying he wanted something on the books for starters — Marks voted for the amendment that restricts the homes to major or secondary roads. The introduced amendment, he said, would then be "vulnerable" for change before its

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OCC students picket alumni Fur Fantasy

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Inside, models in fur coats drew the spotlight. Outside, students, faculty and animal rights activists picketed. The attraction: the second annual Fur Fantasy fashion show, held March 12 on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser are earmarked for student scholarships. The OCC Alumni Association sponsored the event. The college provided the facility, the Smith Performing Arts Theatre.

"In the environment in which we live, a fur fashion show is not a very good vehicle for institutions of higher learning to raise funds," said Judi Franklin, an OCC faculty member who teaches "Man and the Environment."

"I would hope educated people in this world have a broader view of all living things." Forty OCC students and three faculty members joined Michigan Coalition for Animal Rights members in braving a cold Thursday night to chant, "Fur Coats Hurt." About 200 people attended the Fur Fantasy.

THE HANDMADE signs of the demonstrators carried such messages as: "The high price of furs: \$9,000 and 40 raccoons." "Use a steel-trap mind, not a steel trap." "Real people wear fake furs." Another sign pictured a raccoon and read, "My life for your coat."

After noticing posters on campus publicizing the fashion show, Franklin informed her environmental science students and helped pick their interest in waging an informational demonstration. She believes scholarships and other campus funding shouldn't be raised at the expense of animal suffering and exploitation. Campuses have too

Adding a school — option

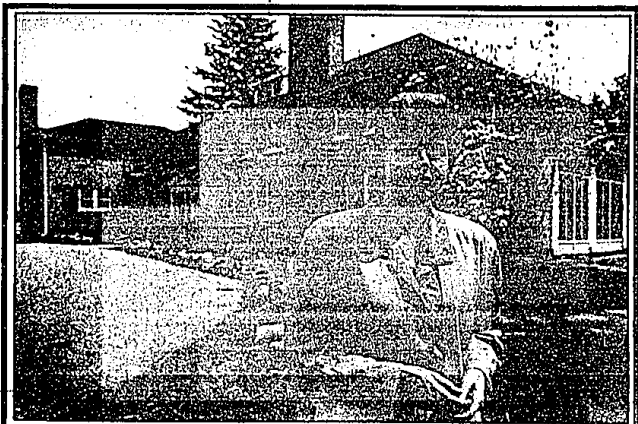
By Casey Hans staff writer

A new elementary school, several building additions and temporary use of portable classrooms are being considered by Farmington school officials as ways to handle continued residential growth on the west side of Farmington Hills.

In addition, a limited — and optional — centralized kindergarten pilot program at the districts' two early childhood education centers is

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Executive director Betty Paine, outside the Farmington Community Center.

Paine resigns Community center slot opens

By Loraine McClish staff writer

Betty Paine, who has raised more money and enlisted more supporters than her predecessors, will step down as executive director of the Farmington Community Center June 1.

In her letter of resignation to the center's board of directors March 13, Paine cited "long hours and the

daily frustrations of dealing with insufficient revenue and the inability to take appropriate action because of insufficient funds" as reasons for leaving the position she has held since 1979.

"This is a 12- to 14-hour-a-day job that takes a lot away from one's personal life. I still have a lot of living to go," Paine said.

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Pupil debate: Young people rate equality of sexes



Making students aware not only about career choices, but the stereotypes that go with them, is important to a child's overall education, says Jerry Kaplan, Warner gifted coordinator.

By Casey Hans staff writer

The discussion was heated. The class topic was equality of the sexes. What seemed fair to some Warner Middle School seventh graders didn't necessarily follow today's trends when comparing men and women in education, employment and basic lifestyles, they discovered last week.

A mathematics class discussion moderated by Warner gifted coordinator Jerry Kaplan followed previous discussions about career options held recently in middle school and high school mathematics and science classes in Farmington.

Gifted education staff throughout the district are using these discussions to promote the "Math, Science and Computer-related Careers"

"If they're both getting the same education, they're entitled to the same job, I think."

— Todd Stoneman Warner student

seminar scheduled for 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday at Harrison High School.

MAKING STUDENTS aware not only of career choices, but of the stereotypes that go with them, is important to a child's overall education, Kaplan said. "A kind of thought youngsters at this age were not aware of these forces working upon

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French will be missed

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Farmington Hills resident Marvin Bernstein first noticed fewer French families coming to shop for his French croissants, pastries, tarts and other baked goods last year. "We noticed a definite dropoff in French families coming by," said Bernstein, "American-born but French speaking."

He opened the French Gourmet bakery, 33920 Middlebelt, in 1979. His executive chef — his Mexican-born wife, Lisa — has studied with French chefs.

Formerly an international documentary film director, Bernstein launched the French Gourmet with the help of a French chef he had met at Fouquet's, a famous Parisian restaurant. "There's been a diminishing French work force at AMC for

some time. It was enough for me to be aware of it," Bernstein said.

On March 3, Chrysler Corp. announced its intent to buy Renault's controlling interest in American Motors Corp. Renault, owned by the French government, presumably will send its AMC executives back to France.

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