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Jockeying for position at the race track, 6D

Farmington Observer

Volume 98 Number 54

Monday, April 13, 1987

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Farmington FOCUS

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SWAPPING hot seats for a day. No, it won't be a change in leadership.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills will have new mayors in May — but only for a day. Both cities will take part in Mayor Exchange Day as part of Michigan Week festivities May 17-23.

Farmington Hills will exchange with Portage, a growing city of 40,000 near Kalamazoo. "We're looking forward to it," said Karen Birkholz, assistant to Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick. "It's experiencing road problems and developing a park system, just like us. We're hoping to get a lot of good ideas and good contacts."

Farmington will exchange with Riverview, a town with a city of 15,000 and 4.4 square miles. The pairing was at Riverview's request.

"It's always nice to sit down with another mayor and discuss some of the problems you have," said Riverview Mayor Peter Rottevel, a 12-year veteran. "It's also nice to share ideas."

Riverview doesn't have a downtown, but it owns and operates a golf course and a sanitary landfill. It also operates a ski hill on part of the landfill site. By the end of the year, it plans to sell power produced by methane gas at the landfill to Detroit Edison as part of a 35-year contract.

SHE'S hospitable. Diane Risko, manager of the Roman Terrace in Farmington Hills, was one of 15 finalists in the Michigan Restaurant Association's Michigan and Great Lakes Foodservice Show Most Hospitable Person Contest.

The show was held March 29 at Cobo Hall. The fifth annual contest is co-hosted by AAA's "Michigan Living" magazine.

Risko has worked in the food service industry for 15 years, the past seven at the Roman Terrace.

IT'S proclamation time. Farmington City Council approved four proclamations last week.

April 11-18 was proclaimed National Community Development Week, April 15 to May 15 Keep Farmington Beautiful Month, April 18-25 Arbor Week, April 23 Arbor Day and April 19-25 National Consumers Week.

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 — Thieves drove a station wagon through the front of a Farmington jewelry store and left with valuables worth more than \$5,000, investigators and store owners said. It was the second Sunday morning in a row that DuQuet Jewelers, 31620 Grand River, was burglarized by thieves who smashed a vehicle through the front of the store.

In the red Money woes plaguing center

'We would look to work out the problem and aid the community center, but it would be a real burden for us to take on as a financial commitment.'

— William Costick Hills city manager

By Joanne Melliszowski staff writer

The 19-year-old Farmington Community Center is in the red. And no one is quite sure what to do about it. "I think the center is at a critical crossroad. Something has to be done. I don't feel the community center can continue with the present financial condition. We are actually in the red," said Jonathan Grant, a center director who serves on the financial development committee. One thing that is certain is that un-

less finances improve, the center could revert — according to the facility's deed — to the Farmington Community Library. The library is financed by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. That's a move that neither the center's board of directors nor Farmington Hills officials appear to want for the 8,400-square-foot historic facility at 24705 Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

"We would look to work out the problems and aid the community center, but it would be a real burden for us to take on as a financial commitment," said Farmington Hills city manager William Costick. "It would be hard with our charter limit (maximum 10 mills)."

The center's board of directors is expected to document the money problems and possible solutions for the financially ailing center before a joint meeting of the Farmington and Farmington Hills city council meeting.

THE JOINT meeting has been called to discuss proposed 1987-88 budgets for agencies, such as the library and 47th District Court, that are financed by both cities. Discussion is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, in council chambers at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile.

"It (the center) has had financial problems for quite some time," Grant said. "Costs are going up and contributions are going down. There are a host of reasons why that is."

Specifically, the center is about \$18,000 in debt. With a \$300,000 1987 budget, two-thirds of the revenue comes from corporate and individual contributions and fees charged for classes and activities. Rentals are expected to bring in \$42,000.

The center does not receive any money from Farmington, Farmington Hills or the state.

Because revenues often lag behind bills coming in, the community center draws money against a banking line of credit. When revenue comes in, the draw is repaid.

"We are already in a position of drawing on our line of credit before we can pay it off," Grant said. "There has been a pattern set in the last two years where we are drawing against the credit before we can pay it off."

The center also has what is called the Angell Foundation. The fund has

school ended last year, according to superintendent Graham Lewis.

"It's a complicated picture," said FEA president Tom Chrzanowski, "and an unpleasant situation. But we've been through some much more terrible times. Our hope is obviously that there will eventually be no layoffs."

AS A first-year teacher in 1972, Chrzanowski was "pink slipped." "I know what I felt like — you remember what it was like."

Although he remains concerned that 12 FEA members will receive notices, he said the situation is better than the late 1970s and early 1980s — when up to 120 teachers appeared on the list due to declining enrollments plus a shift of sixth graders from elementary to middle school.

At that time, secondary teachers were more in demand, and many elementary teachers faced lengthy layoffs — some went back to school to get secondary certification.

Today, the district faces a need at the elementary level, according to

12 teachers will receive layoff notices

By Casey Hens staff writer

In what has become an annual event for Farmington Public Schools, pink slips will be sent to 12 teachers, advising them their services may not be needed during the 1987-88 school year.

Most are certified in secondary education; one middle school teacher on the list also holds elementary certification.

School administrators and the Farmington Education Association president voiced hope that all would be recalled quickly.

"This has certainly been done with deep regret," said assistant superintendent for personnel Lawrence Freedman. "Certainly the intent is to recall the teachers as soon as possible. We realize the trauma involved."

The layoffs were approved unanimously by the school board April 7. Board president Helen Prutow was absent.

Eight teachers who received pink slips for the 1985-86 school year were all called back to work before

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A sense of civic pride spurs him on

people

By Chris Rizk staff writer

Walt Sundquist is no politician. He says he's no civic leader either. What he will admit to being is a poor farm boy who learned the value of a limited upbringing early in life.

It's that upbringing that brought him to his position as a prominent Farmington businessman. The philosophy that he adopted as a youth allows him the freedom to prosper while still carrying with him respect for his past.

And respect is what Sundquist

Varied hues Easter Windows tell story



RANDY BORST/staff photographer
The stained glass window depicting Christ's resurrection, celebrated this year April 19, is one of seven that tell the joys of the Virgin Mary in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington.

The stained glass windows sparkle inside Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, even on gloomy days, telling the story of the joys of Our Lady on one side and the Sorrows of Our Lady on the other.

The picture story in stained glass stems from the Middle Ages when most of the population was unable to read.

"In the churches of Europe, many windows read exactly like a catechism book and, no doubt, many were used to teach the catechism," said the Rev. Kean Cronin of the Farmington church. "For any one visiting here who wanted to ponder, reading from the outside walls and moving chronologically, the entire story is told. It would not be difficult to find the message."

The stained glass windows are the work of Gabriel Loire, who created them in Chartres, France, known as "the cathedral city." Loire paid an unexpected visit to Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church a few months ago to see the windows in place.

"It was the first time he had ever seen the windows since they were put in the building in March 1961," Cronin said. "I'm sure that was a treat for him. It was certainly a treat for me to meet him."

Easter is a joyous holy day, celebrating the resurrection of the Christ from his tomb, after his death and burial.

"But the mysteries of Our Lady's life — concerning Christ's death, entombment, resurrection and ascension — are all taken as a whole, both the joys and the sorrows. And His ascension into heaven didn't occur until 40 days after Easter," Cronin said.

The Easter ritual remains constant. Only the sermon may change from year to year.

"The homily is one of many parts of the liturgy of Easter. The scripture is so rich there is much more than one message," Cronin said.

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church on Flower, between Shawwassee and 10 Mile — celebrates 60 years as a parish this year on Sept. 15, the feast day of the Virgin Mary.

outs well, perhaps better than his success as owner and director of Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

"I don't cherish anything," he said during a tour of his home and business. "What I have, I want others to enjoy. When you're raised on a farm, you learn to appreciate, but not cherish, the things that you have."

Sundquist's goal, aside from completing several refurbishing projects around his home, includes revitalizing Farmington, a chore he said would be better served if more residents would take up the same cause.

"THIS CITY is like a youngster, a

3-year-old youngster," he said. "When you're that young, everyone thinks you're so cute, and they tell you they don't want you getting any older. They say you can't grow anymore. It's the same with this city."

"People will tell you Farmington is fine the way it is. Sure it is, but you can't stop it from growing — and you shouldn't. We should recognize that and all try to make it better for the future."

Sundquist plays an active role in sprucing up the city's image. From revamping his business front and restoring an old farmhouse — for

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Antiques offer a diversion from bereavement in Walt Sundquist's funeral home.

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