

Summer swimwear:
Bold and bare, 1D



Soccer
result, 1C

OCC trustee won't
run, 2 seek seat, 4A

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PARK talk

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission will detail its two summer millage proposals when it meets with the Farmington Hills City Council at 6:45 p.m. today in the council chambers.

Commission manager Ralph Richard and staffer Jackie McFarland will make the brief presentation.

On Aug. 7, county voters will consider a quarter mill renewal to acquire, develop and maintain parks. They'll also consider a one-year-only levy of a half mill to develop Orion Oaks in Orion Township.

LOOK inside today's

Observer for a special section detailing "Networking '90," a business show the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will host this week at Mercy Conference Center.

Memory lane

25 years ago:
Parents from Kimberley North subdivision appeared before the Farmington school board to object to having their children transferred from Eagle School to Middlebelt School.

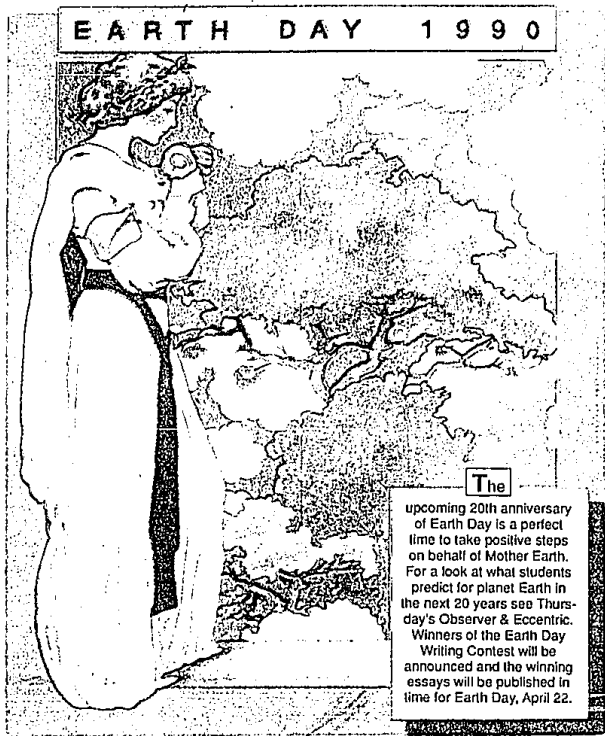
This week

IT'S spring break all this week for students in the Farmington, Clarenceville and Walled Lake school districts. Classes resume Monday, April 23.

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WEEKLY**
in today's issue



Budget crunch forces out 8 kids at Fisher

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Eight children with emotional problems are being forced to leave a 60-bed residential treatment program at St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills, after Wayne County officials announced money for mental health services was depleted.

Although this sometimes happens near the end of a budget year, this mid-year crisis has abruptly ended any in-patient treatment for the youngsters, who range in age from nine to 13, said Jean Vickers, director of professional services for Sarah Fisher.

"It's very atypical," she said. "They can usually get through a much longer period. This year, it came very early."

FOUR OF the children have gone back to live with parents and guardians, while one was sent to live in a foster home. Three more will be taken out of the program over the next few months, Vickers said.

Overall, 71 children handled through the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health system will be affected at various facilities.

'It makes us feel very frustrated when these children have to go home . . . We're also concerned about the numbers that will never get this far. There are many on waiting lists we will never even touch.'

— Jean Vickers
services director

per day, per child, until the beds are again filled.

But Vickers said she is more concerned about the children. "It makes us feel very frustrated when these children have to go home . . . because there is no money," she said. "We're also concerned about the numbers that will never get this far. There are many on waiting lists we will never even touch."

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Revamp sought for 47th court

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A third judgeship won't be added to the 47th District Court in Farmington within the next year. But the cramped, two-judge courthouse will be partially renovated to make better use of space for employees faced with a growing caseload.

"We haven't requested a third judge in our budget," said Judge Margaret Schaeffer, chief Farmington district judge. "We're still trying to get along with a third magistrate. We are really going to need another judge in the near future."

But Schaeffer is seeking an estimated \$190,000 renovation to the civil and traffic (criminal) divisions in the 13,883-square-foot courthouse, a re-converted elementary school on 10 Mile, between Farmington and Power roads.

The project would include a redesign of office space for employees and electrical work, according to a space study by Farmington architect Bob Allen of John Allen Architect.

"By redoing some of it, they can function better," Allen said.

PUBLIC ACT 54, signed by Gov. James Blanchard April 11, enables some district court systems to add another judge. If the control units, such as Farmington and Farmington Hills, agree to foot the bill.

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Ramadan month Area Muslims observe period of prayer, fasting

By Louisa Okrutsky
staff writer

Among Muslims, the month of Ramadan, March 28 to April 27, marks a time of fasting and prayer to cleanse one's soul and body.

For those living in Oakland and Wayne counties, part of the month will be spent praying in mosques, or masjid, in Troy, Ann Arbor or Dearborn. The Troy masjid has nearly 500 members. An estimated 300-400 people regularly pray in the Ann Arbor masjid.

"When you start fasting, it's with a spiritual intention. It's between you and God," said Syed Razvi of Farmington Hills. "By the middle, we have peace with God. And at the end of the month, our past sins are forgiven."

Razvi is president of the monotheistic Congregation of Western Suburbs of Detroit. The group of Jews, Muslims and Christians meets in Bryant Elementary School, Livonia. "We exchange our ideas and look for similarities and

commonality in these faiths," he said.

According to religious law embodied in the Koran, all practicing Muslims over the age of puberty, interpreted to mean 12 years old, must fast in deference to and out of love for Allah.

Pregnant or nursing women are exempt as are people who are ill or traveling. They are expected to make up for the missed fast when able. One who avoids fasting without genuine reason is a transgressor, according to the Islamic Law.

SINCE ISLAM follows the lunar calendar, the beginning of the fast is marked by the witnessing of the full moon by two people from the mosque's congregation. The end of the fast becomes official when the next full moon is seen by two members of the congregation.

The faithful rise before dawn to eat an early meal, called sahoor, before the fast continues. Fasting



Zia Razvi of Farmington Hills rolls bread dough as she prepares to make fresh breads, called Roti and Parathay, for her family during the pre-dawn hours during Ramadan.

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C'ville Schools asks Headlee waiver

By Mario Chestney
staff writer

Clarenceville School District officials are counting on voters approving a Headlee waiver in June so the district doesn't have to dip too far into its surplus to pay 1990-1991 estimated expenses of \$9.8 million.

Clarenceville has put together a preliminary budget for next year that assumes the district will retain its present tax rate — 41.4 mills. Because the value of the property in the district has risen faster than inflation, the district must cut the tax rate so that it gets just a cost-of-living tax increase.

To collect more, Clarenceville must ask the people to vote for a Headlee waiver. The waiver is

If we do not get the override, then we will be forced to make some significant cuts.'

— Ralph Skrocki
assistant superintendent

named after the section of the state constitution that limits unvoted tax increases.

"The voters in Clarenceville have not turned down a millage request in the past 30 years," Ralph Skrocki, assistant superintendent for school business affairs, told the Wayne County Allocation Board in submit-

ting the estimated budget.

IN THE preliminary budget, the district estimates its expenses only. The district can't estimate its income because it doesn't yet know next year's enrollment, how much the taxable property in the district is worth, or whether voters will ap-

prove the Headlee waiver in June.

In May, the county will give tell the district the value of its taxable property. The district projects next year's value will be \$407 million; in 1989-90 it was \$191 million.

Unless voters approve a Headlee waiver in June, the district will be forced to limit its tax increase to the rate of inflation, about 4.5 percent.

Clarenceville's estimated \$9.8 million in expenses next year is \$895,411 more than the \$8.9 million the district will spend this year.

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