

Taking the 'shock' out of athletics, 1D



Softball report, 1C

Flanders kids plant tree for Earth Day, 3A

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THIS is Lions White Cane Week in Farmington Hills. The city council proclamation designating the week observes: "The Lions of Farmington Hills give freely of their time and effort to support sight conservation projects through the sale of miniature white canes to raise funds for these worthwhile projects."

A BRIGHT yellow cover framing this year's Farmington city budget made council members sit up and take notice when it was presented.

"At least we didn't put a red cover on it — we just used a yellow one for caution," said City Manager Robert Deadman.

Although Deadman is proposing to lower the city tax rate, Farmington is still facing some big costs in the next budget year.

Memory lane

Farmington Board of Commerce directors are formalizing plans for the first Farmington Founders Day festivities in July.

Residents of Kemberton Park subdivision, northeast of Nine Mile and Middlebelt, met with the South Farmington Township Civic Association to discuss neighborhood living conditions and criticize township and county officials.

— Farmington Enterprise, April 28, 1985

This week

FARMINGTON City Council members will host a public information forum at 7:30 tonight on \$12 million in planned sewer system improvements. A special election to fund the project will be Tuesday, May 22.

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NOW in every Monday Issue!

Historic Botsford Inn up for sale

Historic perspective, 10A
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By Casey Hane
staff writer

After nearly 40 years, innkeeper John Anhut has decided to pass the Botsford Inn into another set of hands.

Though it is not yet sold, Anhut is making a serious effort to do so.

"The area has been good for me but it (the inn) needs new direction," Anhut said last week. "I just feel it needs someone with a lot

more energy than I can give.

"This place is a very, very personal place," he added. "I put my life into it."

The 68-room inn, which has three apartments, 10 banquet and meeting rooms and a 100-seat restaurant, was listed for sale several months ago at a price of \$3.5 million.

The 154-year-old inn is on the north side of Grand River, north of Eight Mile — at the gateway to Farmington Hills and at the borders of Livonia and Redford Township.

ANHUT HAS seen the inn's business change in four decades from parties with strolling violinists to weddings with disc jockeys and a hip

beat. Competition for business meetings has also become stiff with the area's growth and addition of hotel chains, he said.

"We've had to completely change the concept here," said the innkeeper, whose family bought the Grand River business from Henry Ford in 1951.

"It was a nice quaint place to eat," with specific meal hours, he said. "Today, you bend and twist the hours to suit the customer — and we're glad to have them."

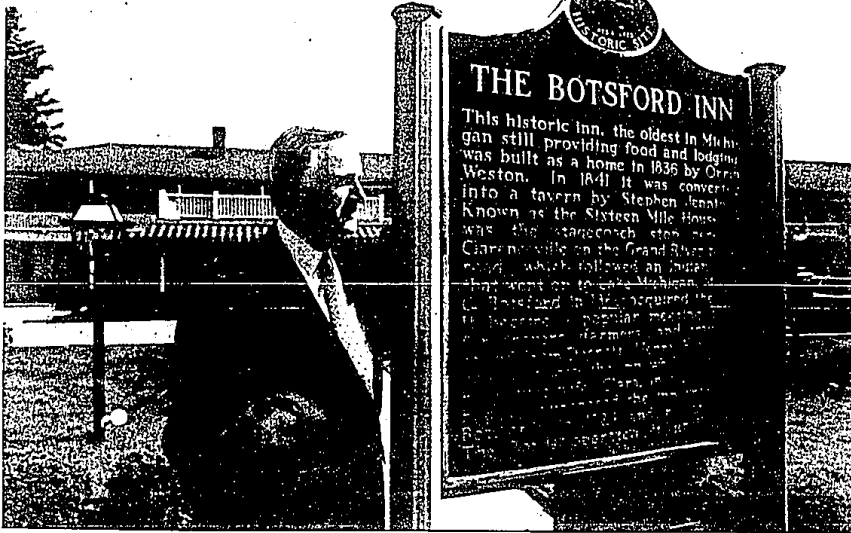
According to Farmington Hills assessment records, the building and property on which it sits has a State Equalized Value of \$762,900, 50 percent of the fair market property value.

But Anhut's \$3.5-million price tag includes all personal property as well, including furnishings and numerous antiques, not to mention the inn's historical value. The inn also has a staff of 50, many who are longtime employees.

THE ANHUT family originally bought the building in 1951 for \$225,000 on a land contract with 5 percent interest.

Local historian and Farmington Hills Mayor Jean Fox was aware the property was on the market, and hopes someone with concern for the area buys it, and carries on the historical tradition.

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John Anhut's family has owned and operated the historic Botsford Inn since 1951, after buying it from the estate of Henry Ford. RANDY BOST/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

More than a tavern

"... We are all travelers ... from 'birth 'til death'; we travel between the eternities."
— excerpt from Innkeeper's Poem, by John Anhut

The Anhut family name is part of a lengthy and colorful history of the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills.

And, if the inn is sold, the family's legacy since 1951 to the present could come to be known as the "Anhut years," as have other longtime families operating the inn before them, including those of Henry Ford and Miller.

Current innkeeper and entrepreneur John Anhut recently confirmed he had listed his business for sale, bringing to mind some 156 years of local and regional history.

In her 1986 book, "More Than a Tavern — 150 Years of the Botsford Inn," local historian Jean Fox called the Botsford Inn "an enduring reminder of our own pioneer past."

"It is a symbol, it is a landmark for each passerby," she said. "It is a

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St. Mary's coach killed in accident

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

An assistant coach of the Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory School rowing team was killed and several team members injured in a freak, three-vehicle traffic accident in West Bloomfield Saturday afternoon.

David Caswell, 28, of West Bloomfield, was a passenger in one of two St. Mary's School vans returning from a morning rowing competition Downriver. Both vans were involved in the accident.

Sgt. Mike Madigan of the West Bloomfield police said all three vehicles involved in the accident were traveling northbound on Middlebelt, between Maple and Walnut Lake Road shortly after noon.

The driver of a late model Ford Tempo stopped at Winchester to make a left-hand turn into a subdivi-

vision. The car was struck from behind by the first of the two St. Mary's vans. The van was hauling a boat carrier that held a half-dozen of the narrow, 25-foot rowing sculls used in competition.

THE SECOND VAN, which held most of the rowing crew, was closely following the boat carrier and was unable to stop in time to avoid a collision. Three racing sculls from the carrier punctured the trailing van's windshield and struck the front seat occupants.

Caswell, sitting to the right of the driver, sustained head injuries. He was taken to Providence Hospital and was declared dead on arrival.

The driver, Daniel Elliott, 27, an assistant coach, was critically injured. He was taken to Pontiac General Hospital, where he underwent surgery for shoulder injuries. He was in stable condition Sunday.

Aaron Reed, 17, of Farmington Hills, a member of the rowing team, a passenger in the back seat of the second van, sustained serious injuries and was taken to Pontiac General Hospital where he is listed in critical condition.

TWO OTHER STUDENT passengers in the second van and the driver of the car received minor injuries. No passengers in the first van were injured.

Several hours after the accident, Middlebelt was still closed to traffic, as police officers and fire department personnel continued their investigation of what should have been a minor fender-bender.

Only moderate damage appeared to have been sustained by the vehicles. But a six-foot section of one of the boats lay in the roadway. Another was split four feet from its end.

Faxon eyes 6th Senate term

State Sen. Jack Faxon, the dean of Oakland County's legislative delegation, will seek re-election to a sixth term representing the 15th State Senate District.

The Farmington Hills Democrat said he will continue to champion the return of a fair share of state tax dollars to Oakland County schools.

"Many children from southern Oakland County receive a quality education, and that should not be jeopardized because of outside efforts to play Robin Hood with our success," he said.

"I intend to continue my efforts, as a state senator, to prevent dependency on Oakland's tax base for the support of state programs in other districts."

His latest effort to prevent the state from "penalizing Oakland County for its success," he said, focused on a proposal to reduce the

amount of state aid to better financed districts for categorical programs — special education, transportation and vocational education.

A Faxon amendment to the proposal would leave the cost of school employees' Social Security "where it belongs," he said — with the state, rather than on some school districts, like those in south Oakland, which invest more money in education.

BACKED BY 25 years of legislative experience, Faxon said only two of Michigan's 148 lawmakers boast more experience.

"I believe my record amply demonstrates the value of my experience in the resolution of current problems. Just as importantly, it demonstrates that I have the vision necessary to meet the future needs of the people I represent."

Faxon's re-election announcement came at a reception in his honor at the Botsford Inn in

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Sever in hunt for GOP nod

Farmington Hills councilman Terry Sever has officially declared his candidacy for the 15th State Senate District seat held by state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

Two weeks ago, he filed a Statement of Organization in Lansing to run as a Republican candidate. His platform will focus on changes in rising tax assessments, crime education and availability of alcohol to minors.

Farmington Hills councilman Ben Marks, elected in 1984, said he also plans to seek the GOP nomination. Southfield councilwoman Denise Alexander, elected last year, said she's considering entering the race, too.

Sever, a five-year councilman, cites an imbalance in which state law requires local assessors to review property values annually. Stronger emphasis should be on controlling government spending as well as controlling in-

creased tax revenue, he said.

Citing the dramatic increase in the cost of housing criminals, Sever believes a deterrent must start with increased penalties for first- and second-time offenders. "We need to develop a 'get tough, stay tough' attitude toward law enforcement," he said.

INCREASED SPENDING on schools will not necessarily provide improved education, Sever said. "We must find ways to impress on our children, during their formative years, that substance abuse is bad," he added.

"Priority for the next decade should be to reverse the rate of dropouts in the state of Michigan and to insure a quality education for our children," he said.

While serving as Farmington Hills mayor in 1989, Sever said he recognized the need to increase law enforcement regarding the sale of alcohol to minors.

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Academic All-Stars coming Thursday

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers presents its sixth annual Academic All-Star Team on Thursday.

Sixteen of the best and brightest students of 21 public and parochial schools in the Observer area will be featured in a special section in your hometown newspaper.

The 16 members of this year's team were selected based on high school grade point average combined with national test scores. Another 26 students were honorable mention. Academic All-Stars in their own right, they missed out on making the team by a fraction. They too will be featured in Thurs-



day's special tabloid.

Students were nominated for the team by their respective school principals. A committee of Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, led by Robert Schramke, principal at Redford Union High School, volunteered their time to select the team.

This year's field of top scholars

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Terry Sever