

Study in Italy adds spice to designs, 6D



Gymnastics preview, 1C

'Alphabetics' gives kids a line on letters, 3A

Farmington Observer

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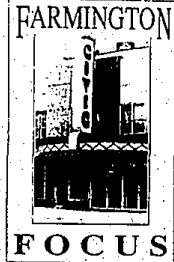
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Farmington, Michigan

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Facilities top priority for Hills in '91



By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

Challenges abound for Farmington Hills officials as 1991 unfolds.

Facilities — parks and recreation, senior adult and cultural activity needs — top the list of priorities. Garbage and recycling and how to pay for the expected increased costs take a close second on the list.

"We need to develop a program that will address all the facility needs we have identified," Farmington Hills city manager William Costick said.

An update on the state-required parks and recreation master plan "will set the stage" for the program and an expected request to renew the half-mill parks levy, first approved by voters five years ago.

What will be done with the 72-acre Peltz-MDOT land, south of I-696, west of Farmington Road will be included in the master plan, as well as other land acquisition, the need for parks and recreation facilities, senior adult facilities and a place for cultural activities, Costick said.

"A lot of controversy we've had over buying land will be answered in this plan," Costick said.

THE PROPOSED parks and recreation master plan will be discussed at a city council study session after a special 7:30 meeting tonight in council chambers.

Though expansion plans for the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile will not be a part of the master plan, a decision is yet to be made whether acreage on the Peltz land will be sold to the library

board for a larger facility

"I think we have to give them an answer fairly soon," Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said. "We have to agree on a location before they (library trustee) can make further plans."

Solid waste and plans for curbside recycling July 1 will continue to take the spotlight in the new year. "Too often I get the feeling the public feels recycling will save money," Costick said.

Not true. Other than eventual savings in disposal costs at landfills, costs will increase significantly. "We're making an investment today to hedge against future costs," Costick said.

In addition to the \$1.8 million already budgeted in 1990-91 city budget for refuse removal, another

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WHOOFS! A Dec. 31 Farmington Focus item listed the wrong times for graduation ceremonies for the three Farmington public high schools.

Graduation for all three is still June 9, a Sunday, at Cobo Hall in downtown Detroit. The correct times are: North Farmington, 1 p.m.; Farmington Harrison, 4:30 p.m.; and Farmington High, 8 p.m.

Farmington high school ceremonies will be held at Cobo for the first time this June after years at Ford Auditorium. School officials started searching for another graduation site about a year ago when they learned that Ford Auditorium might be razed to make way for Comerica Bank's headquarters.

TRANSITION, Taxes and Testimony" is the subject of an address to be given by State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce luncheon at noon Thursday, Jan. 24, at the San Marino Golf Course, 26884 Halsted Road.

The public is invited to attend. Cost is \$12 for chamber members and \$15 for non-members. Call the chamber at 474-3440 for reservations.

ATENTION anyone court- ing knowledge about the judicial system:

Thomas Cramer, an attorney, will present an overview of the judicial system at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Farmington Branch Library, 24500 Liberty, Farmington.

Cramer's address will cover the various courts (federal, district, recorder, probate, circuit, court of appeals and supreme) and their responsibilities.

Call 474-7770 for reservations for the free program.

REGISTRATIONS are being accepted for the free high school completion classes being offered at the Farmington Community School.

Office hours at the school, 30415 Shilwassee, Farmington Hills, are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Registration is held 7-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Classes begin Monday, Jan. 21.

For more information, call 489-3333.

MEMORY LANE — From the Jan. 11, 1991 Farmington Enterprise:

Greyhound Bus fare from Farmington to Marquette was \$12.40. The bus left from the Oak Pharmacy on Grand River.

About one third of the \$13,174.61 tax bill sent out by the city of Farmington has been collected, according to Kathryn Cotter, city treasurer.

An emergency civil defense welfare center was established at the Seventh Day Adventist Church at Grand River and Oxford, according to Mrs. Robert Goetz, church spokeswoman. The center was to make bandages and store clothing for use in emergencies.

Bruce Richards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Richards, played the part of Peter in "Heldi" sponsored by the Farmington PTA and staged at the Farmington High gymnasium. White Swan, a goat used in the play, was on loan from Mrs. E.C. Napier of Gill Road.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Lynne Schwarz is the new general manager for the historic Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills. Longtime innkeeper John Anhut (right) will retain ownership of the inn and stay active in some operations.

Passing the book

Historic Botsford Inn has new general manager

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The Botsford Inn's longtime owner and innkeeper, John Anhut, has passed the hospitality book to a new general manager, although he plans to stay active in the business.

At a time when a weak economy has businesses holding back, Anhut said he plans to take a "different tack."

"Today, people are cutting back," he said. "We're going to go the other route, and go for bigger sales."

Up for sale for the past two years, the inn was recently taken off the market and will remain in Anhut's hands, with day-to-day operations being coordinated by newly-hired general manager

Lynne Schwarz. Anhut said. Several companies were interested in the 155-year-old inn, Anhut said, but none wanted to maintain the inn's historic character.

"They were bottom-line people," he added. "I've de-listed it. We're going to slug it out and make it work."

"I just want to maintain the image. I think we have, and make it better. And we can do it," he added.

SCHWARZ WAS most recently the food and beverage director at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn, where she had worked for nine years.

She also worked at the Holiday Inn in Southfield for five years prior to that.

the historic property, on the east side of Farmington Hills on the border of Livonia and Redford Township.

"This is such a unique property," she said. "Being able to market something like this will be delightful."

Anhut said he still plans to spend time at the inn, but wants to know "what a 5-day week is like. I think I've paid my dues." Schwarz will be responsible not only for daily operations, but for increasing sales for the inn.

Anhut said the additional help will also give him a chance to do more selling and promoting of the property, and more time to spend with family and other leisure activities.

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Hills roads safer again

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

Bad driving habits are hard to change. But something's happening. For the third consecutive year, traffic accidents in Farmington Hills are on the decrease.

"It's certainly a tribute to the drivers of the community," said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department traffic section.

Increased use of seat belts, enforcement of drunk driving laws, education and improved road engineering are believed to be the reasons for the improvement.

Preliminary statistics show a total of 2,470 accidents reported in the city in 1990. That's compared to 2,820 in 1989 and 2,542 in 1988.

"Preliminary indications show injury accidents are down 20 percent over last year. And the severity of injuries is down," Cranston said.

Six people died in traffic accidents in 1990. That's one less than in 1989 and 1988, seven died in each of those years.

Three of the six fatalities in 1990 were pedestrians. Alcohol was involved in two of the pedestrian deaths and one of the vehicle deaths, Cranston said.

The city's figures are comparable to state statistics that show that 50 percent of all fatal vehicle accidents involve alcohol. None of the six killed in accidents in the city were younger than 21. Four of the victims were 80 or older, Cranston said.

WHILE FARMINGTON Hills is faring well in the accident department, so too is Oakland County and the state. The diagnosis comes in the face of increased traffic volume. Farmington Hills traffic volume grows seven percent annually, Cranston said.

"There's more traffic volume, more cars, and they are going far-

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Look for the Farmington Suburban Cable Weekly



NOW in every Monday issue!

Water pails handy items for Olde Town residents

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

Ontaga Street resident George Roberts is accustomed to keeping a bucket of water in his laundry tub sink just in case a water main breaks in his Olde Town neighborhood leaving him and his neighbors without water.

As he expected, his bucket of water came in handy late Tuesday when an 8-inch diameter water main on the north side of Eight Mile at Ontaga broke, cutting off water to at

least 100 homes and as many as 200 in a six-block area north of Eight Mile, west of Inkster.

"This is a fact of life in this part of the city," Roberts said. "This is not new."

But it is inconvenient. "It was off for 24 hours. We had nothing to drink. We had no water in the hot water boiler. And it gets very unsanitary in the bathroom," Roberts said.

Though toilets work — at least once — when water mains break,

'It was off for 24 hours. We had nothing to drink. We had no water in the hot water boiler. And it gets very unsanitary in the bathroom.'

George Roberts
Ontaga resident

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