

Public vs. private:
life vs. death, 1C



Official praised
for his service, 15A

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Schools to cut 6 administrative jobs

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Six administrative positions will be permanently eliminated from the Farmington schools, including two which will require layoffs and others already vacated, superintendent Michael Flanagan said Tuesday.

The position of director of staff development, currently held by Eva Damen, will be eliminated at the end of this school year, according to action taken by the Farmington school board Tuesday night. The school chief

said Damen may stay with the district in a teaching capacity.

Another another yet-to-be-named administrative post will also be eliminated, Flanagan told the board.

He calls the situation a "worse case scenario" and said the upcoming budget process could lessen the impact, but said that's not likely.

"We have to plan for the worst case because of the way our contracts are written," he said, calling Damen's job elimination "particularly

hard, because an exemplary job has been done."

MORE CUTS are expected to be announced at the April 16 school board meeting when the budget process begins. School officials have offered estimates of cuts ranging from 106 to 140 positions and including teaching, paraprofessional, and custodial employees.

The cuts come after a February operational millage defeat, sought to offset a large chunk of money recaptured by the state last summer

and to prepare the district for statewide school finance reform.

Things will also tighten up at the district's three high schools, with an administrative decision to permanently ax one administrative job at each building. Longtime administrative assistant at Farmington High School, Clarence Showbridge, announced his retirement this week from a post which will no longer exist when he leaves. Two administrators at Harrison and North Farmington high schools retired

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FOCUS

IT WAS EASY to spot City Manager Bob Deadman during a recent Farmington City Council meeting. He was the only one wearing the red carnation.

In commemoration of the city's switch to the city manager form of government some 40 years ago, present Mayor Shirley Richardson placed the flower on present City Manager Deadman.

"I feel the city of Farmington is very well blessed with the city manager we have," the mayor said.

For the record, Farmington voters approved a city charter, 411 votes to 252, in April of 1951 to pave the way for the manager form of government.

MAYBE YOU'VE noticed the traffic jams. Another round of sewer construction began April 1 in Farmington as part of the \$12 million sewer improvement project.

Construction is ongoing in the Nine Mile/Farmington Road area with the inevitable traffic slow-downs on busy Farmington Road.

Work on the sewage separation project should be completed by the end of the construction season, while work on a big retention pond should be done in 1992.

THE FARMINGTON Area Jaycees have been involved in some pretty "bad" activities lately. The local group is donating 200 trees — one tree per member — to be planted with the help of the Farmington Beautification Committee.

The committee, by the way, hopes to plant 7,500 trees, or one for each student in the Farmington school system. Planting will start Sunday, April 21, at an undetermined site, possibly an elementary school.

Anyone interested in donating trees or contributing in other ways should call Tom Griswold, 442-0018.

HOW DID "Over There" affect right here? Find out by attending "World War I Comes To Farmington" at a meeting of the Farmington Historical Society 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at the downtown branch of the library, Liberty and State streets.

Jean Fox, author, historian and member of the Farmington Hills city council, will discuss the impact of this global conflict on the rural village of about 500 that was Farmington in 1918.

The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

MEMORY LANE — From the April 15, 1951 Farmington Enterprise:

A grass fire near the Allen home on Mayfield Avenue caused considerable concern before being extinguished by residents.

The Farmington Township Board approved the purchase of a new police car, a 1951 Ford with special police equipment.

The Friday special at Lewis's Inn, Grand River at the west end of the cut off, was Lake Erie perch and chips for 75 cents.

Short item: "After a lengthy siege of the flu, little Miss Gloria Ziegler of Farmington Road has returned to school."

Mrs. E.C. Grace celebrated her 90th birthday April 4, 1951, at her home on Grand River. Her late husband, Edward C. Grace, operated a general store for many years.



Caring a lick

North Farmington's Brad Pugh's tongue is out in the effort he put forth on the tennis court Monday in a match against Redford Union High School. North Farmington won the rain-shortened meet, 4-0. For details and more photos, see Page 1B.

SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Incumbent challenged in board race

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A two-term Farmington school board incumbent will be challenged this June by two residents who ran for the board last year.

If early indicators prove to be correct, voters can expect a heated race for the one open, non-partisan seat on June 10.

Susan Rennels, 47, of Tuck Drive in Farmington Hills, is vying for a third term against downtown Farmington resident Laura Myers, 39, of Silwassee Street, and Richard DeVries, 41, who lives on the northwest side of Farmington Hills on Chesapeake Court.

The term will be for four years, beginning July 1. Candidates have until today at 4 p.m. to withdraw from the race, or their names will

2 activists set to battle veteran member Rennels

automatically appear on the June ballot.

The two challengers each made their first attempts at the school board last June. Running with last year's slate of 9 candidates, Myers finished a solid third to newcomer Catherine Webb and incumbent Jack Ingh with 714 votes, taking about 17.5 percent of the vote, while DeVries came in fourth with 319 votes.

RENNELS is seeking a third, four-year term, because she says she wants to lend a sense of stability to the district, which is facing leaner

budgets and a number of other program changes.

"I want . . . to bring some continuity, experience and some stability, because nothing else is stable," she said. "I expect, for a least two to three years, there to continue to be an accelerated amount of change."

Rennels said she plans to focus this campaign on several areas including: involving the community in projects stemming from Public Act 25, a mandated report which must be given annually by each school district and building, expanding communications with taxpayers in the

district, which she "hopes includes cablecasting (school board) meetings," continue an upgrade of the district's facilities; and monitor change already started in the district's curriculum.

Rennels is an assistant vice president for First Federal of Michigan and manages the company's branch on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. She has lived in the district for 19 years and is currently president of the school board. Both her son and daughter are graduates of Farmington schools.

Myers is running a campaign with a "communication" theme similar to Rennels, but believes the current board is "out of contact."

"I think the community is looking for a change, and I hope I can pro-

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Detroit cop arraigned on sex charges

A Detroit police officer, suspended from the force last month, was arraigned in Farmington's 47th District Court Tuesday on multiple sexual assault charges.

The officer, 40, stood mute to three counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct which involves penetration, three counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct, and one count each of third- and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer.

He faces up to life in prison if convicted of all eight counts.

A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf and bond was set at 10 percent of \$15,000 cash or

surety -- \$5,000 for each of three warrants. He posted bond late Tuesday and was released.

The defendant is not being named so the privacy of the victim will be protected. Warrants have also been obtained charging two other men in the case. Neither has been arraigned, to date.

THE OFFICER was suspended from his job without pay for "conduct unbecoming an officer" in March, according to a spokesman with the Detroit police public information office, who had no knowledge of, or comment on, the criminal charges brought Tuesday.

The suspension came from the Detroit police chief's office, and was upheld April 4 by the police board.

According to information from the court and police, the officer was charged in three separate sexual assault cases that involved minor children in Farmington. It is believed the cases are family related.

Farmington police referred all questions in the case to the Oakland County Prosecutor's office. Prosecutors could not be reached for comment.

Hills commits to new parks

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Farmington Hills reaffirmed its commitment to buy and develop additional land for so-called active sports, such as baseball and soccer, and youth recreation facilities.

The city council unanimously passed a resolution to that effect at a meeting Monday night.

Voters head for the polls May 7 to decide the fate of an eight-year, half-mill tax proposal that would fund parks and recreation programs. The millage, if approved, would pay \$9.6 million of a \$19.9 million parks and recreation program.

A previous parks and recreation millage, a five-year, half-mill tax, expired last year.

Concern centers on the fate of the city-owned Peltz land and property immediately adjacent that is owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation. The land is located just south of I-696 and west of Farmington Road. The 70-plus acres are north of Quaker Valley subdivision.

Ten acres would be reserved for a new 80,000-square-foot library.

"This is a beautiful thing for Farmington Hills," said councilwoman Nancy Bates of the project. "We're the envy of a lot of people. Let's do it."

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