



Farmingington Observer

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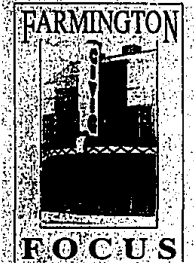
Thursday, June 6, 1991

Farmingington, Michigan

68 Pages

Fifty Cents

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BIG day — Graduation Day is coming for the seniors at the three public high schools in the Farmington District. The capped-and-gowned seniors from North Farmington, Farmington Harrison and Farmington High will walk across the stage and collect their diplomas Sunday, June 9, at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit. The North Farmington commencement begins at 1 p.m., Harrison's at 4:30 p.m. and Farmington's at 6 p.m. This is the first year at Cobo Center for Farmington High school graduations. Previous classes graduated from Ford Auditorium in Detroit.

YOU COULD say that Tina Schaeffer is the driving force behind the Farmington Police School. She drives a school bus and she's good at her job. Schaeffer is one of three Oakland County school bus drivers who have qualified for the 1991 State School Bus Rodeo June 25 in Eaton Rapids. They qualified for the state event by excelling in a regional rodeo May 19 at Randolph Vocational Tech in Detroit. The AAA Michigan and the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation sponsor the annual rodeo in which drivers demonstrate safe driving skills, a pre-trip inspection and knowledge of traffic laws and safe loading procedures.

WHAT DO YOU get when you combine the finest minds of the chambers of commerce of Farmington, Northville, Livonia and Novi? Why, you get "A Business To Business Connection," a sort of business mixer for business people in those communities, to be 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13, at The Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Road, Novi. Cost is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. Reservations should be made by June 11. Call the Farmington/Farmingington Hills chamber at 474-3440.

SPEAKING OF the local chamber of commerce, its general membership meeting will be at noon Wednesday, June 19, at Alcock's Restaurant in Pepper Square, Grand River and Haggerty. Anne Charles, Canadian consul to Detroit, will speak on "What's In It For You . . . The Canadian Free Trade Agreement." Cost is \$13 for chamber members and \$18 for non-members. Call 474-3440 for reservations or more information.

MEMORY LANE: From the June 14, 1951, Farmington Enterprise. • By a 2-1 margin, voters in the Farmington Township School District said yes to a \$1.75 million building program. Only 711 of 4,600 voters turned out for the election. • A barricade was erected in front of the Farmington Municipal Building on Grand River to protect pedestrians from falling concrete from the building's cornice. Repairs on the building were under way.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

White-gowned graduates
Dressed in white, Mercy High School seniors (from left) Megan Dunn, Kathryn Dudley and Jessica Doman line up in alphabetical order to receive their diplomas during commencement ceremonies Friday at the Baldwin Pavilion at Oakland University. For a story and more photographs of graduation at the all-girls Catholic school in Farmington Hills, see Page 3A.

Board campaigns enter homestretch
February's special millage election. Although absentee applications are sometimes not an accurate indicator, Rothrock said she "would anticipate a little heavier turnout than usual" because of the absentee rate and number of candidates. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at four precincts, and absentee voters can cast ballots during regular business hours weekdays and special hours Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Farmington Public Schools' Lewis Schulman Administrative Center at Shiawassee and Raphael. School precincts are different than those used in city and general elections. Please turn to Page 2

By Casey Hans
staff writer
Monday is school election day throughout the state, and three candidates for the Farmington Board of Education are winding down their campaigns by going door to door, telephoning voters and doing last-minute literature mailings. Business support services director for the Farmington district, Betsy Rothrock, said Tuesday that 254 absentee ballots had been issued — about triple what the district normally sends out for a June election but not as many as they mailed for

Parks committees on the way in Hills
A promise is a promise. And Quaker Valley resident Kurt Yockey reminded the Farmington Hills city council and parks and recreation commission of one made in April, a month before voters went to the polls and approved a half-mill levy for eight years for parks and

School board OKs \$97 million budget

By Casey Hans
staff writer
Farmington school trustees have approved an increased, \$96.95 million annual budget, with board president and candidate Susan Rennels voting against two related measures because she believes the district should roll back the millage rate. The 6-1 votes for 1991-92 budget and tax rate came at a regular school board meeting Tuesday, as a Farmington police officer sat in the lobby because of an anonymous death threat called into school offices over the past weekend. The reason for the threat, called into a taped phone line used for substitute employees, is not known. Police are taking the matter seriously and continue investigating it with the help of the state police. Rennels, who faces two challengers in the June 10 school election in her bid for a third board term, said sentiment in the community is against new taxes even though the district may need them. "It is apparent there is a misunderstanding . . . about how the budget works," Rennels said, detailing how the community has reacted to millage requests and bond issues over the past few years. "In no way does this (vote) mean I do not support Mr. (school superintendent Michael) Flanagan and his staff."

Challenger Richard DeVries also spoke out Tuesday against "the roll up of tax rates." DeVries, Rennels and Laura Myers will square off for one board seat this Monday. The operating millage rate for the district will increase slightly July 1 from 32.05 to 32.77 mills, with 1.25 mills of that earmarked for a new building and site fund. Also, each mill is worth more because of increased property values. By not rolling back its millage, the district is taking an average 5.3 percent increase, but school officials believe much of that will be eaten up by state aid recapture. The school district, which covers the city of Farmington, much of Farmington Hills and a portion of West Bloomfield Township, is the largest taxing agency in the area. The new budget, effective July 1, includes: • A total of \$83.9 million in the general fund, \$9.9 million in county special education center programs and \$3.15 million in a special building and site fund. Of general fund money, \$79.9 is budgeted for expenditures with \$4 million to be held in reserve. • A reduction of what would be equivalent to 46 full-time teaching positions, 69 support personnel positions, 29 maintenance and food service positions, between 8-12 bus drivers and six administrative slots. It also includes various program cuts which will impact transportation. Please turn to Page 6

Suspect arraigned in death of girlfriend

The boyfriend of a 30-year-old Livonia woman stood mute to a charge of open murder Friday in connection with her death. William Doll, 36, formerly of Detroit, stood mute to the felony charge at his arraignment in 35th District Court, Detroit, Friday. A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf. Bond was not set and Doll was remanded back to the Wayne County Jail. Preliminary examination on the charge is scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 11, in 35th District Court. Doll was arrested in connection with the death of Kristine Albert of Livonia, whose partially nude body was found in a Farmington Hills field Feb. 7. A quarrel is believed to have led to Albert's death though Farmington Hills police would not elaborate on a motive in the suffocation death. Farmington Hills police turned the case over to Detroit officials where it's believed she was killed.

DOLL WAS arrested as he arrived home to his apartment in Delta Township near Lansing May 28. Wednesday morning he was transferred to the Detroit Police Department. Open murder means a judge or jury will determine the degree of the charge. Albert's decomposed body was found by a Goldsmith Street resident as he drove by a field on the dirt road just north of Eight Mile, east of Haledale. Albert's father, Ronald Bekkala of Livonia, reported his daughter missing Dec. 21, 1990. Albert was last seen Dec. 15, as she left the Toy Box Bar on Six Mile and Telegraph with her boyfriend, according to police. Police believe Albert was killed in a house on Wormer Street in Detroit. Her body remained in the house 6-7 weeks before she was dumped in the Farmington Hills field, the night before the Goldsmith resident found her body, police said.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Coming home
Yvonne and David Porter visit with their son, Dave, at a homecoming party Saturday, June 1, at their northside Farmington Hills home. A 1988 North Farmington High School graduate, Dave returned home Saturday from duty in the Persian Gulf where he served on the USS Sacramento.

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