

Mystery with dinner every Thursday, 1C



Tennis champ, 1B

Summer school returns to biblical times, 3A



Farmington Observer

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FARMINGTON



FOCUS

IF A FAMOUS mayor like Fiorello LaGuardia can read the funnies over the radio (as he did during a New York newspaper strike in 1945), why shouldn't Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson do something similar?

Mayor Richardson, in fact, will read to four- and five-year-olds at the Farmington Branch Library, 2350 Liberty, each Tuesday morning in August. From 10:30-11 a.m. on Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27, she will share her love of reading with young Farmington and Farmington Hills residents.

Interested parents should call the library at 474-7770 as soon as possible for reservations.

ALAN LOWRY of Farmington Hills is happy he entered the Michigan Renaissance Festival photo contest last year.

Two of his photographs, entitled "Mask Maker" and "The Royal Kiss," finished first and third, respectively, in the black-and-white division.

The photos will be on display, along with the other winners, will be on display July 29 through Aug. 15 at the Grand Atrium Lobby of the New Center One, Fisher Building, on West Grand Boulevard, Detroit.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners Sunday, Aug. 18, at 3 a.m. on the Green Grove Stage at the Renaissance Festival, near Holly. The festival runs weekends and Labor Day Aug. 17 through Sept. 29.

FARMINGTON officials have a definite opinion of addresses on curbs . . . and those who point on the numbers and solicit donations.

"It is the opinion of (Frank Lauboff, public safety director) that numbers painted on curbs are not used by the Public Safety Department or other emergency service providers as these numbers usually wear off quickly, are obstructed during the winter months and are further obstructed by parked cars," said a recent communication from City Manager Robert Deadman.

"As a result, numbers painted on curbs cannot be relied on and therefore provide little advantage to the residents."

At a recent meeting, the Farmington City Council voted 5-0 to adopt a policy prohibiting the painting of addresses on city curbs.

The public safety department has issued a violation to two people who were doing just that, while soliciting donations of between \$5-\$48 without permission.

MEMORY LANE — From the July 26, 1991 Farmington Enterprise:

From the Around the Block column: "Talk about excitement . . . there was plenty of it around the school buses at both the Farmington and Clarenceville high schools as youngsters loaded up for the annual boat trip to Bob-Lo. All in all, it was a big moment for a lot of mighty fine boys and girls. It sort of does your heart good to see such carefree excitement in a world where most excitement is far from carefree."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21808 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Hills seeks better answers from Edison

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Everyone wants answers from Detroit Edison. And Farmington Hills residents and elected officials are no different.

"That's why city representatives will either make a presentation or send a formal letter, including recommendations to improve electrical service in Farmington Hills, to the Michigan Public Service Commission at a public hearing Monday, July 29, in Livonia.

"I think we have to have a constructive approach to solve the problem," City Manager William Costick said, referring to recent Detroit Edison power outages. "What's in the past is in the past. What can we do to improve the situation?"

Monday's short thunderstorm again knocked

many residents — particularly in the northwest section of Farmington Hills — out of power.

The Sunday, July 7, thunderstorm is infamous this year for being responsible for power outages that Detroit Edison was unable to fix for days. The outages left hundreds of homeowners and businesses without power.

NURSING HOMES in the Farmington area were particularly affected and were forced to order in fast food for residents and send clothing to laundromats during the outage.

"The frustrations expressed by our residents was not as much with the storm," Costick said.

Downed wires, problems with electrical frequency, tree trimming and burying electrical lines underground are items city officials want to discuss with Detroit Edison.

"I'D LIKE to know where we stand in the pecking order with other communities," councilman Larry Lichtenman said, because Farmington Hills always seems to have electrical problems and power outages.

Council members supported attendance at the public hearing at 7-9 p.m. in the main floor auditorium in Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Avenue.

Residents also are urged to attend the public hearing or provide written comments to the public service commission, Department of Commerce, Lansing 48913.

"You're getting so many different stories," councilman Ben Marks said about Detroit Edison's response to the rash of power outages.

'I think we have to have a constructive approach to solve the problem. What's in the past is in the past. What can we do to improve the situation?'

— William Costick
city manager

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Sharon LaMueux/staff photographer
Jean Fox stands near a casement window with its oval top — a characteristic of architect Marcus Burrows who designed the more than 50-year-old house on Biddestone in Farmington Hills. The house, one of a handful of estates houses built along Farmington Road in the 1920s and '30s, has been accepted into the State Register of Historic Sites.

Biddestone house put in state historic registry

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

WHEN JEAN FOX moved into her more than 50-year-old, English Cotswold home in 1968, it was simple. She just put her furniture in the Farmington Hills house and as she says, "that was it."

Her house on Biddestone, east of Farmington Road, north of 11 Mile, is the city's newest addition to the State Register of Historical Sites. The house is the 28th historic site in Farmington Hills on the state register.

"You're a part of the culture and history of the state. It's an acknowledgement," said Fox, a Farmington Hills city councilwoman and local historian.

Age isn't what makes Fox's house unusual or even historically significant. It's the architecture of the house and the architect, Marcus Burrows, that draws historic attention.

"It is representative of a very fine style in architecture that will never be replaced," said Ruth Mochlman, chairwoman of the Farmington Hills Historic District Commission.

"THE HOUSE IS one of a small group of 'fine estate houses' for well-to-do families in the 1920s and 1930s, designed by Burrows along Farmington Road, Mochlman said.

"Burrows was a fine artist as well as being an architect. He was absolutely fantastic in his art," she said.

The original owner of the house, Edward Moseman, a prominent attorney and philanthropist, and his wife, Anne, hired Burrows to build the house in 1927.

Moseman was one of the first appointees to the new Farmington District Library when it was created by state law in 1955.

The house — known as Biddestone — and the street on which Fox lives are named after the village of Biddestone in Wiltshire County, England. "Edward Moseman came from that village," said Fox, who visited the village when she traveled to England.

When Moseman commissioned Burrows to design and build the 14-story house on the then-40 acres, he wanted to recreate his heritage in Farmington Township.

"He had this feeling about his heritage. His branch of the family had not inherited the manor house (in Biddestone)," Fox said. "You could sit this house right down in the village and it would fit."

When you walk up to Fox's house, you get a distinctive feeling you're walking through a bit of the old English countryside.

"This house is built like a European house," Fox said. The steeply-pitched, side gable house features Bedford limestone — taken from the old Federal Building

Surrounded by ivy, a cornerstone in the heavy square limestone chimney on the Biddestone house boasts the initials of the original owner, Edward Moseman, one of the first appointees to the Farmington District Library in 1955.

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Surrounded by ivy, a cornerstone in the heavy square limestone chimney on the Biddestone house boasts the initials of the original owner, Edward Moseman, one of the first appointees to the Farmington District Library in 1955.

Community will mark 125th anniversary in '92

By Casey Hans staff writer

The Farmington area will remember the "good old days" next year, as the community celebrates the 125th anniversary of Farmington's incorporation as a village in May.

Dozens of volunteers are already planning events including a kickoff reception at the Farmington Historical Museum, dedication of a commemorative quilt handmade by members of the community, a "family day" with old-fashioned activities like square dancing and a chicken barbecue in August, an "1867 Day" at the Community Center during the

summer and a historic homes tour in the fall.

"I'm excited, I really am," said Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson, who initiated the idea for the celebration and is chairing the steering committee for the festivities.

"I think it's going to turn into more of a celebration than we thought it would."

OTHER COMMUNITY and civic groups are also getting into the act, with the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce planning the 125th Anniversary as a theme for next year's Founders Festival, and area business groups being

encouraged to coordinate their activities with those being planned.

Schools will also be asked to help celebrate Farmington's anniversary during Michigan Week in mid-May.

The idea for the 125th Anniversary came as Richardson and other city officials planned a small birthday party for another city anniversary earlier this year.

"All of a sudden, this 1867 date popped out," she said. "It really stood out, as we were talking about the city's 65th (anniversary of cityhood)."

Since her term as mayor will expire this year and she will continue as a council member, Richardson

felt she would have plenty of time to work on the project.

MANY PEOPLE have encouraged the idea of celebrating the founding of the community because of the rich history here, she said.

Although the living descendants of the Farmington founders will be honored during the 1992 celebration, "the idea is to involve as many people in the community as possible," Richardson said.

AMONG THE planned activities:



Mayor Shirley Richardson

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Group will study senior issues

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Terry Sever knows the squeaky wheel gets the oil.

"I feel the senior issue always seems to get pushed to the side. The squeaky wheel gets the oil."

— Terry Sever
Hills city councilman

The ad hoc seniors committee comes on the heels of two other ad hoc committees the council created in June. One committee is devoted to

'I feel the senior issue always seems to get pushed to the side. The squeaky wheel gets the oil.'

— Terry Sever
Hills city councilman

developing plans for a youth sports park — most likely on the 90-acre old school farm on Eight Mile Road. The city has applied for a state grant to buy the land.

ANOTHER COMMITTEE is devoted to the controversial Peltz-

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ANOTHER COMMITTEE is devoted to the controversial Peltz-

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