

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

On the way: October is Substance Abuse Awareness Month in the Farmington area. Many activities are planned./3A

Who, what, where: A survey shows 43 percent of Oakland voters are unaware there's an election for the county's highest office./5A

Merit semifinalists: Bloomfield Hills schools has the highest number of qualifiers among area schools in the prestigious Merit Scholarship competition./9A

OPINION

Abuse month: It's good to see that adults seem to be willing to fight substance abuse on all levels./20A

SPORTS

Scouting for the scout: Jeff Silverman promised to help prep athletes get a scholarship, but that hasn't been the case, according to his clients./1B

Grid predictions: More is in store this weekend as area high school gridgers enter the third week of action./5B

ENTERTAINMENT



Eating out: Lox, Stock & Barrel in Farmington Hills serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Homemade cheese blintzes, corned beef and fresh roasted turkey are their specialties./7B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Men in fashion: Members of Detroit Men's ORT got a preview of the fashion scene for guys, at "Breakfast at Barney's."/1H

Campus safety: A new product, created by a former area resident, is the Campus Safety Kit, which helps students be on their guard against potential danger./1H

INDEX

Building Scene Sec. G Creative living... 1D
 Business... 1C Crossword puzzle... 6E
 Classifieds... 10A Entertainment... 7-10B
 Classifieds... Secs. D-G Opinion... 20A
 Auto... C, F, G Police, fire calls... 4A
 Real estate... E, F Personal scene... 6G
 Employment Sec. F, G

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Wage hikes OK'd by school board



By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington school board approved new, three-year contracts for three of the district's unions Tuesday, plus gave annual raises to non-union employees and the district's superintendent.

Wage increases ranged between 3 and 4 percent, with some management raises tied to incentive pay based on specific goals.

Teachers will also get an annual stipend of 1 percent for increased instructional time and more parent conferences.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan praised those involved in reaching a

tentative agreement between the unions and district on Aug. 30, and said in light of strikes and contract conflicts in other area districts, "We're very fortunate."

"The important thing is our kids are in school and we have a fair and equitable contract," he added.

Unionized are 738 teachers in the Farmington Education Association, 210 custodial maintenance and cafeteria employees in the CMC unit and 265 employees in the Educational Support Personnel unit. New wage provisions also apply to bus drivers whose contract

was tied to this year's negotiations.

Details of Tuesday's actions include:
 • A 3 percent raise was approved for Flanagan, whose salary will increase from \$114,000 to \$117,420 per year. Flanagan has a contract with the district through June 30, 1995, although Tuesday's action sets his wages only for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

• Other managers will get 3 percent wage increases for this year with a 1 percent incentive bonus, similar to what was negotiated with principals in

See WAGE HIKES, 10A

Balancing act



Showing her colors: Kay Rodgers, a junior at Farmington High School, takes a break from the school band's color guard routine to balance her flag. The group was practicing for a performance at a Saturday football game. Rodgers and her Farmington High crew can be seen in action during Saturday's football game against Westland John Glenn.

SHARON LAMERUS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Debate boils over in water main issue

By JOANNE MALINZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The Biddestone water main issue — pitting neighbors against each other — isn't over yet.

"I don't think this has to be an issue where we fight. If they (a majority of homeowners) don't want it, that's fine by me. I think it's possible. There's a way to do it — if you want to do it," said Victor Cassar, one of a handful of residents who want city water.

Two hours into a public hearing Monday for a special assessment district for city water, the city council decided to delay the proceedings to check out an idea suggested by Anne Moseman, whose husband planned the rural subdivision immediately east of Farmington Road, north of 11 Mile.

Moseman no longer lives in Biddestone Woods but still owns property there.

City staff will study the possibility of bringing water from a Farmington Road water main over an easement on private property to those in the northern and western edges of the neighborhood that want water.

Without that idea, the city would tear up roads for a water main to run under Biddestone Woods. Unless a district is created for just the handful of residents

City staff will study the possibility of bringing water from a Farmington Road water main over an easement on private property to those in the northern and western edges of the neighborhood that want water.

who want water, the whole neighborhood would be assessed for water, which the majority of residents do not want.

The city council will continue the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19.

Bringing in city water has divided the small subdivision. Stephen and Sandra Secret and a few other neighbors on the north and west edge of the neighborhood petitioned for a special assessment district in their area of the subdivision in August. They had tried unsuccessfully before.

"The water is bad. And they (neighbors who signed petition) want something done," Sandra Secret said. "I don't want to force my neighbors."

See DEBATE, 2A

Council to confer on filling key post

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Farmington City Council members are expected to meet today, their second meeting this week to continue discussion about their search for a new city manager.

Being debated is whether the council should look first within city hall or go to the outside and do a professional search to fill the city's key post, which will be vacated when current City Manager Robert Deadman, 57, retires in early January.

Feelings were mixed when four council members met Tuesday to begin discussion on the issue, but all agreed they need to move forward as quickly as possible. This is the first time in 20 years the city has had to select a top administrator; none of the current council members had a hand in appointing Deadman.

Mayor William Hartsock and council members Richard Tupper and Shirley Richardson said they were in favor of looking internally first, while councilwoman JoAnne McShane was adamant in her belief that a professional search be done. Councilman Arnold Campbell was absent.

"I think it's unfair to the community



Robert Deadman

not to do a search," McShane said, saying that a search would "make it a level playing field."
 "We've been blessed with Bob Deadman. But I think things have really changed," she said. "We would do a disservice to the city by not doing a search."

See POST, 2A

Remembering Rob Mahle

Rob Mahle died of Hodgkin's disease last spring, but his friends and classmates (North Farmington High School, Class of 1989) haven't let his memory fade.

About 60 people raised \$500 recently to plant an oak tree and install a bench near the new Day Camp Building in Farmington Hills' Heritage Park. Ceremonies were Sept. 12.

"It was like a little service," said JoAnn Graves, whose daughter Suzanne was involved with the project. "People talked about how they remembered Rob, and they played a song."

"Then they released 21 balloons (Rob would have been 21 last Monday) — gold for North Farmington and green and white for Michigan State University

FARMINGTON FOCUS

(where he went after high school)," she added.
 Added Dan Potter, director of special services for Farmington Hills, "It was a very moving ceremony. There was a lot of love expressed by a lot of people."
 The turnout — about 60 people — was the largest of any dedication ceremony held at Heritage Park, Potter said.

It'll be a gala event

A member of the League of Women Voters of the Oakland Area will be honored along with a business

that has supported the group's activities at the LWV's annual Autumn Appreciation Gala at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, at the Glen Oaks County Club, 30500 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Member Jane Cameron of Birmingham will receive the Charlotte Yaverski Citizen Education Award for more than 50 years of service. She has served League chapters in Birmingham and Dearborn. Federal Mogul Corp. will also receive a Yaverski Award.

For more information about the event, call League headquarters at 647-1350.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.