



Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

They're sentenced: Two Novi men have been sentenced to prison terms for the armed robbery of a Farmington Hills bank last July./6A

Is that Lou?: If you see someone who looks like Farmington Hills' Lou Nolan on TV or in the movies, well, it just might be Lou Noian./13A

COUNTY NEWS

Clinton country: Local Democrats find the inauguration all that they hoped for./5A

OPINION

Vote yes on millage: The Farmington Schools' millage renewal deserves support in a special election on Tuesday, Feb. 2./16A

SPORTS

Hockey hotbed: Observerland has become a prime recruiting area for pro hockey scouts searching for talent./1B

Court victory: Farmington Hills Harrison needed the maximum five games Monday to defeat Plymouth Canton in a league volleyball match./1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Theater: In the hands of an enormously talented cast, "The Sound of Music," a Nancy Gurwin Production at the Jewish Community Center's DeRoy Theatre, is a real audience-pleaser./7B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Home alone: Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross has a class for kids to learn how to handle the situation./1C

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Clock plaza plans worry some



Erect a clock tower near the Masonic Temple on Farmington's most prominent corner? No way, say some longtime city residents. Any concerns are premature, says a city official.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Concerns are being raised over the Downtown Clock Plaza proposal. Some say it's about time. The renovation project would include a sign, a garden area, trees and a clock tower on the northwest corner

of Grand River and Farmington. The clock tower is the focal point already — especially for debate.

Some worry a tower would detract from the historic Masonic Temple building. Others wonder if downtown needs another clock. "Nothing is etched in stone," said

councilwoman Shirley Richardson, who initiated a clock proposal with money left over from the 125th anniversary celebration and private contributions.

"It's getting a lot of input. There has been some input from the community, which is what we want to see."

Initial recommendations from city architect Chris Wzacy — OK'd by the Downtown Development Authority — had the tower standing 34 feet, 6 inches with a base 4 by 6 feet. The

See letters, 16A

dimensions now are expected to change.

The concept was presented Friday for approval to the Board of Masonic Temple, which owns the land for the proposed site. EDA Director Judy Downey also met with the full membership Tuesday.

One member of the board said the design is attractive, but the dimen-

See CLOCK, 3A

Exercise your options to keep fit



BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

If you're finding that New Year's resolve to lose weight melting away faster than the pounds, scale down your expectations, but keep watching the scales.

That's what many diet and health experts say. But finding a health regimen that works during the colder months can be more of a psychological hurdle than a real obstacle.

"Weight-loss programs are always well-attended during this time of year," said Gail Cox, a dietitian with the Botsford Center for Health Improvement. "People lose control during the holidays, make a New Year's resolution, but then don't have realistic goals."

Those goals should include diet and exercise, but in moderation, Cox said.

"Set small goals," she said. "It's better to eat breakfast and not go hungry. When people are hungry, that's when they binge. If you just cut out the extras you had over the holidays, you can get back in a reasonable time."

Cutting out the treats consumed during the holidays is a good place to start. Resisting some of the many diets glamorized in January issues of magazines might not be the best approach, Cox said.

"People tend to be guilty because they indulged over the holidays," she said. "Then they go to extremes. A 1,200 calorie diet is going to be very hard to follow."

Retreat indoors

A lot of people retreat indoors during the winter months, making exercise more difficult.

"People are just paranoid of the cold," she said. "I know a lot of people who walk outside all year. I run throughout the winter."

And for the more adventurous, winter sports are available, even in the confines of Farmington Hills:

See EXERCISE, 2A

In training: Jeanmarie Loureiro helps Mike Gladd of Farmington Hills train at Total Fitness on Orchard Lake Road.

Board fields questions on millage renewal

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

They were peppered with questions on Headlee rollbacks, future tax proposals and how money will be spent. The panel seemed to survive the exam.

After the Farmington Public Schools millage renewal information meeting Tuesday evening, board members and administrators seemed satisfied and somewhat relieved. "Until hearing other people saying it went well, I couldn't tell," said Superintendent Michael Flanagan. "I've never done this before."

The meeting was designed to answer any lingering questions regarding the Feb. 2 election. Voters will be asked to renew a consolidated 12.8834

What they asked, 3A

mill, which is \$31.1 million of the district's operating budget. The question-and-answer session was cablecast live on Channel 10. Viewers called in their questions and concerns on four phone lines at district headquarters.

Flanagan, assistant superintendent for finance Bruce Barrett and school board members were on the panel.

In all, 29 questions were received at the switchboard. Only two weren't able to be answered. One was phoned in too late; the other involved a calculation of a hypothetical Headlee rollback.

Those people will be called back

with answers, according to an assistant to the superintendent, Pam O'Malley.

Some people attending the informational meeting raised a few questions. Though many were answered in a 10-minute informational video preceding the public forum, which outlined the proposal and the district's three-year goals.

Not surprisingly, concerns centered on how combining millage proposal would be affected by the Headlee Amendment.

A definition was given on the amendment, which is designed to limit tax growth to the rate of inflation.

"The Headlee Amendment is not really understood," said board pres-

ident R. Jack Inch. "It's more difficult to explain verbally."

Another pointed query came from Richard DeVries, who submitted seven questions and left. DeVries asked if the board would promise no further tax proposals for 1993 through 1995 if the millage renewal passes.

The panel gave no assurance, citing possible changes in school financing due to state legislation.

"The problem is you're dealing with a lot of the unknown," said Inch afterward. "Power flows downward. We're a child of the state. . . We can be changed by the state."

Overall, Flanagan said he was pleased with the quality of questions. "We got some heartfelt questions of what people have on their minds."

'Winter Fantasies'

Sick of winter? Then check out the people at Group du Jour, a symphony orchestra based in Farmington Hills. They're trying to speed up spring's return.

Group du Jour will present music designed to soothe the midwinter blues with "Winter Fantasies" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, at Dublin Hall in the Mercy Center, 11 Mile and Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

Music at the concert will be reminiscent of sunny days, tropical breezes and spring fever. Selections will range from classical favorites ("Romeo & Juliet") to Broadway ("South Pacific") to Walt Disney ("The Little Mermaid").

Concert-goers are invited to bring picnic baskets and lawn chairs. "They're going to turn the heat

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up so people can wear shorts," said Karen Nixon, a Farmington Hills resident and conductor of Group du Jour.

Linda Snedden-Smith, a Farmington Hills resident and a violinist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, will be featured with Group du Jour.

Tickets, at \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors, may be purchased at the door.

Investment series

The Winter Investment Series continues Tuesday evenings at the Farmington Hills Branch Li-

brary on 12 Mile Road. Four programs are planned for February.

On Feb. 2, estate planning will be discussed. Host Rick Bloom will give his audience the benefit of his background as an attorney and an investment adviser.

On Feb. 9, Jim Husband and Donald Criss will provide information on changes in the tax codes. The two local certified public accountants will answer questions following the presentation.

There is no charge, but reservations are needed. Call the library at 563-0300.

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