

Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

High tech wonders: Here's a look at some of the modern equipment the Farmington High School journalists use. /3A

Good for what ails ya: A Farmington Hills man seems to have found his calling at a restaurant and bar in Detroit's Rivertown section. /13A

OPINION

A done deal?: Several residents spoke out against the clock tower planned for downtown Farmington. The powers that be would do well to listen. /16A

Stud muffins: It was a dark and stormy night. Our columnist was curled up with the Blue & White. /17A

SPORTS

Basketball playoffs: Farmington Hills Harrison played host to Plymouth Salem in the Western Lakes tournament Tuesday. /1B

Regional wrestling: North Farmington senior Jared Lawrence earned a return trip to the state finals by finishing third at 160 pounds. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Theater: Powerful performances by Evelyne Orbach and Randall Forte in "Exile in Jerusalem," by Israeli playwright Motti Lerner, in the Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center. /6B

BUSINESS

Fur sure: Celebrating its 100th anniversary, the Dittrich family has seen many changes in the fur business but none as wide-ranging as what is going on in the global industry. /12B

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Clock foes don't sway board



People who oppose plans for a clock tower at Farmington and Grand River spoke out at Tuesday's meeting of the Downtown Development Authority Board. The DDA, however, still supports the clock tower.

By LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

Stop the clock, some said. Others stated it's time to move forward. They included an architect, a mother, a downtown theater owner and a councilwoman. All had their say Tuesday at the Farmington

Downtown Development Authority meeting. The issue: the Downtown Clock Plaza.

Many oppose the proposal, which includes construction of a 28-foot clock tower at the corner of Farmington and Grand River. Their reasons vary.

Many believe a tower would detract from the historic Masonic Temple. Others are concerned how the tower would blend in on the main corner.

Some worry about shadows that the structure will cast. Unlike the Feb. 2 DDA meeting at which the plan was approved, those who don't want the tower were more vocal.

"You have listened to the 125th committee, you have listened to the business community, you have listened to yourselves on the DDA," said JoAnne McShane, who is a coun-

cilwoman and resident for 22 years. "I strongly encourage you to listen to the citizens of Farmington. They will be around long after you're gone and I'm gone."

DDA board members listened. Their stance remains unchanged, though.

"We appreciate the comments," said DDA director Judy Downey afterward. "We are still uniform in wanting to go through with the project."

See CLOCK, 2A

Talking it over



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Diversity workshop: Ann-Therese O'Sullivan (right) and Margot Lineberger take part in a group discussion at the recent conference on race and diversity.

Workshop explores diverse cultures

By BILL COULTANT

STAFF WRITER

The afternoon workshop on cultural diversity began with the premise that all the world's major religions preach some form of the Golden Rule.

It ended with the warning that trying to follow that rule amid diverse cultures in the same commu-

nity could be "risky business."

About 100 educators, professionals, parents, students and clergy attended a workshop on cultural diversity at the Bolshard Inn Feb. 24, with the emphasis on understanding the dynamics of race discrimination.

After a short presentation on the changing demographics of Oakland

County and the Farmington area, people were asked to form groups that included representatives of different cultures, ages, races and both sexes for discussions on race relations.

The talks followed the viewing of a taped segment of a television show in which a black and a white both attempted to rent, shop and walk

the same streets of St. Louis, Mo., to see if they were treated differently.

For blacks, the result of that televised experiment reflected their own experience — including being stopped by police because they were black, losing out on jobs, and being

See WORKSHOP, 2A

Sewer costs provoke council discussion

By LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

An amended change order on the Sewer Improvement Project provoked a debate among Farmington City Council members Monday.

Councilman Richard Tupper was thwarted in an attempt to get figures from Public Services director Earl Billings regarding city employee time spent rechecking the sewer separation process.

Additional construction was needed to separate additional storm water catch basins discovered after initial testing. An engineering firm involved in the testing has agreed to pay additional construction costs above those originally bid.

But Tupper also wanted the city to be reimbursed for additional city employee time used because of the oversight.

"I think it's a legitimate cost we

should recover," Tupper said at the meeting. "If the rest of the council doesn't feel that way, then so be it."

Mayor William Hartsock made Tupper put the request in the form of a motion, which failed in a 3-2 vote. Councilwoman JoAnne McShane voted with Tupper.

Tupper said he was upset with Black and Veatch, one of the two engineering firms involved.

Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment

agreed to pay \$53,300 as part of the additional separation work on Kingslane, Mooney Street and T.J. Maxx. The city was spared costs it would have paid because of increased construction prices.

Dave Mariner, representing the firm, said it worked out an agreement with Black and Veatch on the matter. Tupper wasn't satisfied.

See SEWER, 2A

Diamonds are sought

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging has created of the "Diamond of the Community" award to be presented to a Farmington area senior citizen 75 or older who is actively contributing to the community.

This commitment can be through paid or volunteer work for any Farmington-area business or organization.

The Commission on Aging will accept nominations postmarked through Friday, March 19. A brief, written description of why the nominee should be considered should be mailed to: The Commission on Aging, 33735 Cadillac, Farmington Hills 48335.

Letters should be no longer than one page and contain telephone numbers of the nominee and the person or persons making the nomination.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Self-nominations are accepted. The award will be presented April 22 during Volunteer Recognition Week at the Farmington Hills Senior Center.

Suds that auto

Clean the winter grime off your car and help Farmington Families In Action at the same time. That's the advice of FFIA officials who are sponsoring a car wash March 7-27 at the Colonial Car Wash on Nine Mile Road, west of Farmington Road. FFIA will get \$2.50 of each \$5 ticket sold. The funds will be used in the group's addiction awareness program.

Tickets, which may be used any time during the drive, are available at Valvoline Oil on Grand River in Farmington, Total Fitness on Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Tennis Club on Farmington Road, or from any FFIA member.

Memory Lane

From the March 5, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise: Dorothy Ann Cant and Dorothy Jean Monk were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of Farmington High School's Class of 1953.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21698 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.