

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Speeders, look sharp: A new program targets motorists who may be going too fast through Farmington Hills subdivisions. /2A

Summer fun: Wednesdays have been fun days for Farmington-area youngsters under the big tent in downtown Farmington. /11A

COUNTY NEWS

Engler's choice: In an area interview, the governor tells our reporter, Ralph Echtnaw, schools of choice among public districts is a done deal. /5A

OPINION

Yes — yes: The Farmington Observer supports the upcoming library proposals, but with some reservations. /14A

Write on! Letters, we get letters . . . and quite a few are on the library proposals. /15A

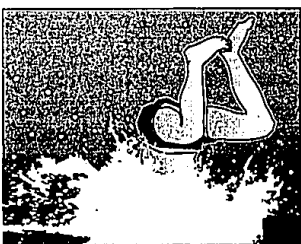
SPORTS

Tourney champions: The South Farmington Grey Bronco baseball team won a Pony regional tournament and heads to zone competition. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT

Memorable Meals: Our new restaurant column features the restored Wooden Horse Inn, where Chef Edward St. Laurents presides. /5B

SUBURBAN LIFE



Making a splash: Area youngsters and their parents enjoy the summer with swim club meets and socializing. /1C

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Library catalogs reasons for vote



Farmington Community Library officials are answering questions about their proposals to build and operate a new library in Farmington Hills. It would more than double the current library's size and collection. Voters will decide the issues on Tuesday, Aug. 10.

By **SUE BUCK**
STAFF WRITER

It's a mobile, technological world, says Bev Papal, director of the Farmington Community Library, and local libraries need to keep pace. That's one of many reasons Papal gives in explaining the need to build a

new main library in Farmington Hills.

"This has been a long process," Papal said. "Issues were not casually arrived at."
A proposal for issuing up to \$16.5 million in bonds to build a new 80,000-square-foot library on city-

owned property on Orchard Lake Road south of I-696 will go before Farmington-area voters Tuesday, Aug. 10.

Also on the ballot is a 1.1-mill tax increase to operate such a library. If the millage is approved, it would actually represent a .33-mill increase because Farmington and Farmington Hills already earmark .77 mill to support the library.

If the millage passes, the two cities have agreed to roll back their tax rates by the .77 mill used to operate the libraries. A mill is \$1 of tax for

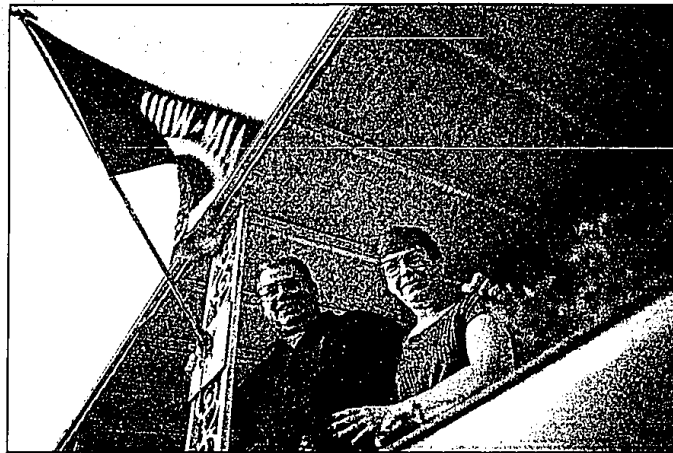
each \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The amount of money to pay the debt retirement on the bond, the length of time it will take to pay, and the millage amount depend on interest rates, which Papal said are favorable now.

The sale of the current Farmington Hills main library would also reduce the debt by \$2 million to \$3 million, she said. The debt millage could be in the .4- to .5-mill range, she said in a

See **LIBRARY, 6A**

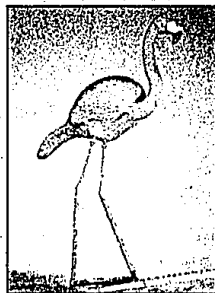
Life in Flamingo Park



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

On the porch: Bill and Velma Ellsworth look out from their porch. Their yard is decorated with flags, flowers and ornaments.

Neighbors in park love trailer life



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Symbol: Ornamental bird makes park special.



Stories about Farmington-area neighbors' hoods will appear occasionally in the Observer.

By **BILL COUTANT**
STAFF WRITER

Like the large pink plaster birds that guard its entrance, the Flamingo Trailer Park is an unusual landmark in a city that is better known for its large modern houses and condominiums.

"I'm so embarrassed," said longtime Flamingo resident Maxine Catton about the two pairs of plaster flamingos in beds of pink petunias that overlook Middlebelt just north of Nine Mile in Farmington Hills. "But people remember the flamingos. And I enjoy living here."

Four generations of her family live at the park, which has been

part of the area since the 1950s. Catton's son Jonathan Schaefer has lived in the park for 15 years, and her granddaughter Tina Schaefer has lived there five years with her husband and son Jonathan, 3.

Catton, who moved into the park in 1969 from Detroit, is one of many longtime Flamingo residents. That seems to be one of the park's trademarks, and one of its charms.

"We sold our house and moved to an apartment," she said. "But with two boys playing guitars, we found that didn't work. Here, the trailers are close together, but you still have privacy."

Granddaughter Tina, 26, said there is good reason for the family tradition of living at Flamingo. "It's trouble-free," she said.

Close to work

Like Catton, Wilma Aremaman

See **FLAMINGO PARK, 8A**

Tykes take a stroll

By **LARRY O'CONNOR**
STAFF WRITER

Two Farmington foster children, ages 4½ and 20 months, decided to take themselves out for a morning stroll Wednesday.

On their nearly two-hour journey, while still in their pajamas, they managed to meet the city manager, play with public safety officers and clerks, consume a few bowls of cereal, summon a Child Protection Services

See **pictures, 4A**

worker and leave their foster parents in a state of panic. "We didn't know who they belonged to," said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss, whose department took on the look of a day-care center for a few hours.

All's well, though. The foster parents found the missing kids at the police station around 9:20 a.m.

The two apparently slipped out of the house on Wesley undetected while their fosterfather was caring for another child.

An employee at The Greenery Extended Care Center reported seeing two young children playing.

City manager Frank Lauhoff saw the children wandering onto Grand River on his way to work and had them brought in to the public safety department.

Police officers called Oakland County Child Protective Services. The children were in the process of being transported to Probate Court when the foster parents arrived.

While waiting, Crystal, 4½, and Carvel, 20 months, played with teddy bears and received blue balloons left over from the previous night's "Lights On" event.

A worker from Child Protection Services came to meet with the parents.

Both children have been living with the Harold Poindexter family since birth. The Poindexters have been foster parents for 10 years, according to Goss.

Goss said the tots appeared to be in good condition.

See **KIDS, 8A**

Farmington council race grows to 4 for 3 seats

By **LARRY O'CONNOR**
STAFF WRITER

The race for three seats on the Farmington City Council is on.

Russell Buyers, 61, an attorney with an office in downtown Farmington, has picked up a nominating petition and said he intends to run for the council.

Buyers joins challenger Mary Bush and incumbents Richard Tupper and Arnold Campbell, who will vie for three open council seats in this year's election.

"I'm not a politician," said Buyers, who lives in Pinewood Condominiums in Farmington. "I have a feeling as a businessman in the community I owe the community."

"I decided to say, 'Hey, it's payback time,'" Buyers' entry turns the election into a contest.

The top two vote-getters in the race will win four-year terms. The third-place finisher will win a two-year term.

Some political aspirations apparently have been awakened since coun-

cilwoman Shirley Richardson's announcement that she will not seek reelection. The deadline for filing for candidacy is Friday, Aug. 13.

Bush, a former president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, said Richardson's decision not to seek a second term

See **COUNCIL, 6A**

Post office hours

Hours at the two Farmington-area post offices have changed. Full retail service is offered from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, at the main Post Office, 32450 W. 12 Mile, and the Farmington branch on Slocum Street.

"We are attempting to match our window hours with the needs of our customers," said Mark Bate, postmaster. "Feedback so far has been very positive."

Another service — stamps by fax — has just started in the Farmington Post Office. Customers who fax (653-7840) their stamp orders by 9 a.m. will have their postage up to \$600 delivered the next day. This service is limited to the Farmington area.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

For more information, call Linda Sheppard at 653-3910.

Helping flood victims

In one week, Farmington Hills radio station WLLZ-FM (98.7) and the Food Bank of Oakland County collected more than 20 tons of food and other products for victims of the Midwest floods.

The station doubled its original goal to fill a semi-trailer with non-perishable canned goods, hygiene products and disinfectant cleaners. The

donations will be delivered to food banks in the disaster-stricken areas.

WLLZ listeners dropped off donations as the station broadcast live from the parking lot at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads the week of July 19.

One listener delivered a truck filled with 72 cases of bleach, a station official said. Hundreds of others brought everything from one can to several cases of goods.

Memory Lane

From the Aug. 13, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise: Henry L. Trombley, Farmington's new postmaster, had the distinction of being the first postmaster appointed by the Republican Party in Michigan in 20 years.