

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Sea of shamrocks: A Farmington Hills hair salon was showing its green last week to help the Muscular Dystrophy Association. /2A

Farmington abuilding: You've heard of bedsheet ballots? Well, Farmington's going to have bedsheet building permits. /3A

Wearin' of the purple?: They were wearin' the green — and purple — at the Farmington Hills City Hall. /6A

TASTE



Great Meatout: They won't be eating animal products March 25 at the Great American Meatout, a celebration of vegetarianism. /1B

Focus on Wine: Napa Valley's Sterling Vineyards produce consistently good wine. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Retail advice: Chamber of commerce members in one Oakland County suburb learn "What's In Store" for the future of retailing. /4B

Behind The Label: Meet jewelry designer David Yurman whose trademark is his sophisticated cable collection. /4B

SPORTS

Back on track: Harrison High School got the girls track season started Saturday at the Huron Relays. /1C

All-Area picks: Farmington High's Matt Michalski is among the first-team wrestlers on the All-Observer team. /1C

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State of cities praised



C. Robert Maxfield

Everything's just dandy in the Farmington area, if the glowing tributes expressed by the area's leaders are to be believed.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Mayor Arnold Campbell called the State of the Cities breakfast March 16 "an opportunity to brag about our city."

Campbell, Farmington Hills Mayor Joanne Smith, the two city managers, Farmington Board of Education Pres-

ident Cathy Webb, and school Superintendent C. Robert Maxfield were as warm as the springlike day in their praise of the cities and schools at the Alexander Hamilton Insurance complex, where the breakfast was given.

About 80 business leaders, civic leaders and officials from both cities seemed to eat up the good tidings just

as they ate up the \$10-a-plate breakfast.

Campbell was visibly proud of citizens' willingness to pay for the city's certified combined sewer project, which will cost \$13 million. The project, a giant holding tank designed to keep raw sewage from overflowing the wastewater system and polluting the Rouge River, was completed in the summer of 1993 and has helped the city avoid problems similar to those in Lake St. Clair.

See CITIES, 4A



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nosebleed seats: Ironworkers Jim Binches (right) and Shannon Williams work high up on the skeletal system of what will be the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Council gets assist on rates

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The voters did the hard part. At a meeting of the Farmington Hills Ice Arena Advisory Committee March 16, members had to be reminded that the difficult part was getting approval to build and pay for the state-of-the-art facility.

Committee members, who for the next three years will advise the Farmington Hills City Council on

ICE ARENA

policies, scheduling, rates and other issues, had their philosophical and practical differences over what rates to set for ice time.

And after Ice Arena Manager Gerald Nelson presented a "model" schedule to accommodate hockey leagues, figure skaters, open skaters, senior skaters and community groups, there were still some differences.

"I've decided to chair these meetings until we get past the money items," quipped Hills City Manager Bill Costick.

But after the giggles ended, it was clear that Costick had the right idea. Nelson said the rates of \$135 an

See ARENA, 3A

Close vote sends OCC back to drawing board

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Oakland Community College's tax hike loss was close enough that officials vow they'll go to the voters again.

"We'll have to come back. When? We don't know at this point," said chancellor Patsy Calkins as vote returns showed an 11-9 margin of defeat. "Not one person said OCC is not a good school. We'll do it some way."

"We're going to come back," agreed board chair Janice Simmons with trustees Carol Crew and Anne Scott flanking her.

"I guess we'll have to do it again," said George Mosher, the Birmingham attorney and former board chair who led the campaign.

"Honey, you don't guess — you know!" shouted Doris Mosher, his spouse and co-worker, to the immense delight of campaign workers Thursday night.

Voters rejected 18,855 to 22,969, OCC's request for a one-mill property

ELECTION

tax increase — a yes vote of 45 percent. If approved, it would have raised the tax rate to 1.85 mills next year and added \$29 million to the current \$71 million revenue stream.

"We'll have to make budget cuts. We cannot balance the budget at this time," said Calkins. "But the taxpayers haven't realized that at this point."

"The public is very much concerned about additional taxes," said Mosher, citing local tax issues. "It doesn't matter how good the cause. The SMART bus is going to come up as a (tax) issue in Oakland County. I don't think we should take this personally as a blow against the college."

Supporting the proposal were West Bloomfield, Rochester, Troy and several Royal Oak area school districts in the southeastern corner. Mid-county districts like Farmington, Bir-

See OCC, 4A

Is winter really over?



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lunch in the park: Harrison High seniors (from left) Dawn Moran, Kristi Leewen, Jaime Joffe, Andrea Berman and Artemis Calagias take advantage of good March weather to enjoy a lunch in Farmington Hills' Heritage Park.

'Count on Me' at OCC

His lives and accomplishments of several Michigan women who fought for suffrage and women's rights will be depicted in "Count on Me," a theater production, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, in J-306, Threl Hall, on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College, south of I-696 between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

Tickets, at \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, may be bought at the door or in advance by calling the OCC Womencenter at 471-7602.

'Swing into Spring'

The Farmington Community Band's March concert — "Swing Into Spring" — will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26, in the auditorium of Harrison High School on 12 Mile

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Road between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads.

Light, spring-oriented music will be played. For more information about the Farmington Community Band, call 476-8014 or 489-3412.

Memory Lane

From the March 17, 1965, edition of the Farmington Observer.

Three teenage boys, described as residing in "neighboring Farmington communities," were charged with breaking and entering at the Bond School and the New-West Recreation Bowling Alleys in northeast Farmington Township. Little

damage was reported at the school. At the bowling alleys, however, considerable damage was reported and a sizable amount of merchandise and money were taken.

What to do in case of an A-bomb attack was to have been the subject of a program on home protection organized by Farmington Civil Defense.

Dial telephone service was to start March 20, 1955, in Livonia and Garden City. Farmington-area residents calling those places had to give the operator numbers starting with Garden 1 or 2.

Short Item: "Experts say that there are about six sextillion (6,000,000,000,000,000,000) atoms in a typical drop of water."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 3341 Grand River, Farmington 48335, faxed to 477-9723 or dropped off at the newspaper office.