

Farmington Observer

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People of value: Several hundred volunteers were honored recently in Farmington Hills. /3A

'Heaven Can Wait': Farmington High's actors and actresses are dusting off their halos in preparation for the school's spring play. /4A

School squabble: A decision about a kindergarten program in the Walled Lake School District has some people angry. /6A

Finders are walkers: Two Farmington Hills walking women have saved items from the dump for a worthy cause. /12A

TASTE

Mother's Day: Moms share favorite family heirloom recipes. /1B

Super Supper: A busy Oakland County resident prepares for Village Antiques Show, and still finds time to cook dinner. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Garden gifts: Linda Bachrack shops for Mother's Day presents guaranteed to plant a smile. /8A

Three generations: The Fitzsimons women meet at Laurel Park Place to share a day of shopping. /8A

SPORTS

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Soccer roundup: The Harrison and Farmington High teams keep winning games. /1C

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— Phillip Power, Chairman

Payback tough to come by



So where did that \$400,000 go? Well, you can't ask the people from a defunct computer company, realize city and district court officials.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

There were some "happy campers" and some trying to explain a \$400,000 lost horizon after the Farmington and Farmington Hills joint budget meeting May 2.

The two cities discussed their joint budgets for the Farmington Area Arts Commission, Farmington Youth Assistance, the Farmington Area Commission on Aging, Farmington Area Advisory Council, Farmington Community Library and 47th District Court.

Council members from both cities were impressed with the job the agencies were doing. But an estimated \$300,000 to \$400,000 the district court erroneously paid to a state fund to train police officers got the most reaction.

A Farmington Hills computer company, Horizon, had set up a system to allocate traffic ticket fines for different accounts, including the money that is returned to the cities and that going to the officer training program.

But because the computer system was unable to separate enough accounts, \$5 for each ticket between 1993 and 1994 that should have gone

back to the cities wound up going to the state fund.

Quip from the state

"We raised the issue with the state," said John Donohue, attorney for both cities. "They said the money's been spent. They said things like, 'It's all taxpayers' money.'"

Court Administrator John Grewell said the problem was discovered when a new computer system was installed in 1993. The auditing firm of Plante and Moran is now doing an

See BUDGET, 5A

She's his saving Grace in class



SHARON LEBLON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

School helper: With the guidance of paraprofessional Grace Plasa, Clinton Moore goes through his morning routine in Jayne Cox's third-grade class.

Autistic boy makes a new world

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Though his disability tends to shut out those around him, Clinton Moore draws people into his world.

He's a boy with autism. He withdraws from reality. Sometimes that can lead to misunderstanding or confusion.

Not for those at Clarenceville's Grandview Elementary where Clinton, 9, attends regular classes along with his special education ones.

They watch over him and occasionally guide him. Included are a battery of teachers, paraprofessionals and social workers.

Where there isn't a professional

degree or knowledge, there is kindness and patience.

"It brings out the very best in children around Clinton," said his mother Denise Moore, whose family lives in Farmington Hills. "It brings out the selflessness in the children."

Clinton has "two buddies" children who all with him during the ride to and from school. More so,

they treat him like everyone else.

In art class, a girl acknowledged his presence. "Clinton is here," she said before returning to her work cutting paper.

"When I first started to do this, I had to tell him all the rules on the bus," said Jennifer Matheson, 8.

See AUTISM, 10A

Sparks fail to fly

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

They live on opposite ends of the district, but both candidates seemed as close as condominium neighbors on the issues Wednesday.

The square off between Farmington School Board candidates Linda Enberg and Jennifer Levin in Farmington Hills City Council Chambers was hardly the Nixon-Kennedy debates. The forum sponsored by the area Republican Club at last offered an in-

SCHOOL RACE

roduction to the two hopefuls.

Enberg and Levin are vying for one open seat in the Farmington schools election Monday, June 12. They'll debate again May 24 in a forum sponsored by the Democratic Club.

Both candidates were curious, concerned and courteous to one another.

See ELECTION, 2A



Linda Enberg



Jennifer Levin

Listen up, WWII vets!

If this is the 8th of May, can the Farmington Memorial Day Parade be far off?

Nope. It's scheduled for 10 a.m. on (when else?) Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, in downtown Farmington. As usual, the parade route will be northwest along Grand River Avenue from about Mooney to the war memorials near the Masonic Temple.

This year's parade will be dedicated to the Farmington area's World War II veterans. They'll march — or more likely ride — in the parade, according to Larry Christensen, parade official.

Some 250 area WWII vets have been rounded up for the parade, but Christensen is looking for more. Other veterans are needed to help with parade duties. Christensen is also looking for an-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

lique autos and convertibles to carry the WWII vets on parade day.

Any volunteers? Call Christensen at 474-8554.

On Indian affairs

Two American Indians — Adrienne Brant James, of the Mohawk Nation, Turdine Clain, and Wayne Jackson, of the Tuscarora Nation, Dearborn — will speak on Indian stereotypes at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, at the Farmington Training Center, 53000 Thomas St.

James and Jackson will discuss Indian contributions to society. The free program is sponsored

by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council. The program will be cablecast throughout May on MetroVision's Channel 12.

Mayors to be swapped

Mayor Exchange Day, once part of Michigan Week festivities, has all but disappeared in many areas. Not so in the city of Farmington.

Mayor Exchange Day in Farmington will be Thursday, May 18. Farmington Mayor Arnie Campbell will head for St. Clair, and St. Clair Mayor Bernard Kuhn will come to Farmington. Campbell's "replacement" will be honored at a luncheon at Marco's Restaurant that Thursday.

See FOCUS, 4A