

Farmington Observer

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Our Earth Day: The Heritage Park Nature Festival — the Farmington-area's version of Earth Day — will be held Saturday. /8A

OPINION

At your disposal: Household Hazardous Waste Day is a great way to get rid of dangerous trash. The Farmington area could use a few more days like that. /10A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Art exhibit: Children of Ukrainian descent from throughout metro Detroit visually express their thoughts in "Chernobyl — 10 years After Through the Eyes of Children." /1B

SPECIAL SECTIONS

Academic excellence: Look for our special supplement, "Observer Academic All-Stars," among today's inserts.

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Con artists blk senior of \$5,000



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

An elderly Farmington woman who once gave money in response to a telemarketing sales pitch ended up being taken twice.

The 78-year-old woman sent \$5,000 to an alleged bonding agency in Austin, Texas after she was told \$61,000 would be sent to her. She hasn't seen a cent.

Farmington police caution people

to be wary of telephone solicitors who award prizes or gifts — but ask for money up front. People should ask for a phone number to call the solicitor back, said Farmington Public Safety Deputy Director Mike Wiggins.

"They target the elderly and get their confidence," Wiggins said. "And got them to send money."

On April 17, a man called and claimed to represent United Services. He said the company was distributing forfeiture money from another

telemarketing company, which the woman had contributed to in the past, police reports said.

In order to receive her money, the woman was told she first had to post a 10-percent bond. She was instructed to send a cashier's check for \$2,846 to an Austin address.

The woman received a second call from another man representing the same company on April 22. He told

See B14N, 2A

A fine creek-full of fish in Farmington



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMMER

At fishing Derby: John Buckner, 11, asks his buddy's little sister, Casey Shortt, 8, if she wants to kiss the fish he caught during Saturday's Fishing Derby in City Park.

Hills narrows city manager field to 6

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council moved cautiously toward picking a new city manager when six finalists were chosen for the position at a Monday night study session.

Dick Bennett, of Bennett Isaacson Associates, the Boston firm hired to recruit a possible successor to former City Manager Bill Conkle, presented a list of nine applicants for the job and also talked about the three internal candidates who had applied.

Bennett said six of the nine applicants he was recommending to the council had requested anonymity. The council went into closed session to discuss those candidates.

"Under the Open Meetings Act, a candidate has to request confidentiality," said City Attorney Dirk Beckerling. "Those who didn't request anonymity, you must consider openly."

Bennett said the 60 people he had either recruited or been contacted by, including the 12 considered Monday, were considered applicants only.

"If they're selected as candidates, they lose their privacy cloak," he said.

Although some council members said they were uneasy about discussing some candidates openly and others behind closed doors, they did and then narrowed the field to six finalists. Depending on scheduling, Bennett said the six will be brought to Farmington Hills either on May 10 or May 17.

The city will be given a tour of the city on the Friday, he interviewed by the council Saturday and then, after the council narrows the field to two or three finalists, there will be final interviews Sunday.

Bennett said he will send each finalist a packet of information, including budget information, to the candidates to study before they arrive.

Bennett said the three internal candidates he interviewed, Assistant City Manager Steve Brock, Assistant City Manager Dave Call and Planning Director Dale Coutegan, were skilled, but did not fit the job description given by the council as well as the nine he recommended.

"These are three individuals I have known," he said. "When I looked at what they offered in the position and what was important to you, I couldn't raise the bar."

Bennett, whose firm had done the city's management audit, said Brock was a "very talented deliverer of services," who needed to broaden his experience. He said Coutegan had "a sense of vi-

Something fishy hooks families angling for fun

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Overheard at Shlawassee Park around 1 p.m. Saturday:

"Fast, they gone yet?" one trout asked another as they skimmed the shallow depths of the Middle Rouge River.

"Hmmm, let me check," replied his bespeckled cohort. "None, I still see that one way trip to the frying pan disguised as a worm dangling out there."

"As if we'd fall for the wiggy worm bit. They must think we're a bunch of rubes."

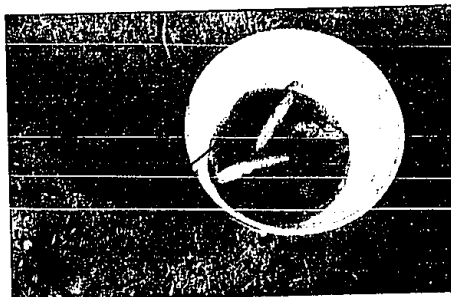
"Yeah, as if . . . hey lookie there

at that golden kernal. Why that must be corn. I'm feeling a might bit peckish . . . perhaps just a nibble. Whoa phlim."

Fisherman and fish alike took the bait at the second-annual Farmington Fishing Derby. The event matched wits between anglers and 500 planted trout swimming covertly below the banks of the river.

The score? Call it a draw. Nearly 200 trout were nabbed during the four-hour derby. That means at least 200 speckled trout escaped the hook.

See F16HY, 8A



Knowing the limit: Three fish per person was the limit in Saturday's Fishing Derby.

Boys and Girls Republic honors its volunteers

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Boys and Girls Republic Saturday celebrated 100 years of providing wayward juveniles with a decency from a berth of self-destruction.

The agency honored those who have help rebuild lives and announced a renovation at the 80-acre facility on Nine Mile Road in Farmington Hills during its annual Founders Day

Long range plans call for new football and softball fields as well as a tennis and tennis courts. A gymnasium expansion is first priority, though.

The 80-bed residential facility handles children ages 12-17 who are either temporary wards of the court, delinquent, abused or neglected.

"We've got doors falling off the hinges and the floor coming up," said Bylyia McNamoy, director of development. "It's a 50-year-old facility that

needs renovating."

Overall cost for all three phases of the renovation are estimated at \$1.2 million.

First phase plans alone are expected to cost \$650,000. The agency received a \$500,000 United Way grant but still needs to raise \$350,000.

The agency will look to develop corporate partnerships, McNamoy said. Boys and Girls Republic also has a golf outing planned at Tanglewood

the Lion in South Lyon Oct. 7.

A girls locker room and restroom will be built during the first phase. Along with a multipurpose room, the first phase plans — which were sealed back and pushed a new library and weightroom to the second phase — will likely be completed in the next two years.

The agency started accepting girls

See VOLUNTEERS, 8A

The war that wasn't

How would you feel if someone teased "The Great Bagel Challenge" and no one accepted?

Charlie Kays knows the feeling. The owner of The Bean and the Bagel, Inc., who runs a deli-type restaurant of that name at Farmington and 14th Ave., put out just such a challenge, daring other bagel-makers from near and far to pit theirs against his.

The stakes: A \$5,000 check paid to the winner's charity of choice — plus a whole lot of positive publicity.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Sadly, only one other bagel-maker was even mildly interested. That one accepted briefly, only to withdraw at the last minute.

"I'm sure you know our bags are better," said Kays, who's still donating \$5,000 to his favorite charity: the Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Mass.

Several media types were to have judged the entries in "The Great Bagel Contest" last Saturday.

When the appointed hour arrived, however, only one judge was on hand to sample Kays's goodies — gratis, of course.

Kays, who plans a second Bean and Bagel outlet in the Grand River/10 Mile area, says he plans to make the "Challenge" an annual event.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9723; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer file, the Internet E-mail address is: packy@asonline.com.