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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

New man at top: Clarenceville school officials went to the Plymouth-Canton Schools to find a new superintendent./5A

COUNTY NEWS

In Jury's hands: Dr. Jack Kevorkian and Oakland County prosecutor's have both had their say in court. Now it's up to the jury./8A

FOIA fees: The State Chamber of Commerce joined the Michigan Press Association to rescue the Freedom of Information Act from high fees sought by county governments./9A

TASTE

Egg-citling dishes: May is National Egg Month. Look inside for quick and easy recipes for this sometimes overlooked protein source./1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Somerset North: Nate Forbes discusses the ups and downs of leasing a new, tri-level shopping center, in tough retail times./8B

SPORTS

City champs: Farmington High won the public school title in girls soccer by defeating Farmington Harrison./1C

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Schools budget money hearing

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Schools want pictures of children to tell 129 million reasons why education is important.

Favorable community survey results and standardized test scores are included in the 112-page budget document, which calls for a 6.7-percent increase in spending.

A public hearing on the proposed \$129.1 million budget takes place 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 23, at the Farmington Board Office, Farmington Road and Bhiwasawac.

The school board will then consider approving the budget at its regular meeting.

"... It's very appropriate throughout the document that there are lectures of kids," Trustee Cathleen Webb said, "because that's what the budget is about."

General fund expenses are projected to be \$114.3 million for the 1996-97 fiscal year. Added to that are special revenue fund expenditures of \$2.9 million and debt service of \$11.9 million.

Several new programs such as the restructuring of the school day at Farmington High are included in tabulating general fund expenses.

The district is also saddled with paying increases into the Michigan School Employees Retirement System as mandated by the state.

Staff additions and wage increases account for the rest. Salaries and benefits consume more than 60 percent of expenses. Farmington expects to receive \$113 per pupil increase in state aid, which is a 1.8-percent increase and below the 2.6-percent rate of inflation, school officials said.

Homeowners will see a slight decrease in July tax bills. The district has to trim .25-mills to fall below the local hold harmless rate.

An owner of a \$150,000 home will pay \$18 less in school taxes.

The homestead rate will be 20.89 mills ... which is below the pre-Proposal A levy of 33.51 mills. (For a detailed story on the Farmington Schools budget, see page 8A)

City entwines own Web site



City council meetings aren't cablecast in Farmington, but information about city activities soon will be popping up on another kind of screen — a computer terminal.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

With a click of a mouse, Farmington residents will have City Hall on their computer screens. The city of Farmington is heading into cyberspace.

Farmington will have its own home page on the Internet's World

Wide Web through a two-year agreement with Interactive Marketing Counsel.

Computer users could find a calendar of events, commission and board openings, and information on licenses and permits on the site.

IMC in Southfield will construct and maintain the site under a two-

year agreement approved by City Council at Monday's meeting. The site is expected to be available in four months.

IMC agrees to undertake the startup costs — estimated at \$20,000 — in exchange for promoting the site. The city will pay a monthly maintenance fee of \$260 and a \$100 annual domain fee.

"Even though Farmington is not the biggest place, it is nice to know we're going to be on the cutting edge of what is going to come down the line eventually," Councilwoman Mary Hush said.

Cities such as Scottsdale, Ariz., and Palo Alto, Calif., have home pages on the Web. Farmington would be one of the first cities in Michigan to have its own site, IMC's Ron Baker said.

World Wide Web features graphics, text and links to information servers and other sites. The Web is the Internet's most popular feature.

While cities use Web sites as marketing tools, they may also generate revenue.

City clerk's office could provide information to private companies

see WEB, 2A

Got a date with a senior



SHARON LAHER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Prom afternoon at Harrison: Dennis Fattig of Farmington Hills dances with Harrison High School seniors Jayann Bregand and Jessica Stefanek during the fifth-annual Student/Senior Adult prom, May 7 at the school. "The intergenerational activity has become an important part of life for both 'seniors' in the area."

GOP confab

Senate hopefuls discuss differences

By WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It was a bright night for the GOP faithful as three of the four candidates dueling for the party's spot on the May 13 special election ballot talked about the issues.

Willie Bullard, Jr., Barbara Dobb and Terry Sever agreed on many issues — but staked out their own territory on abortion, casino gambling and assisted suicide.

The forum, sponsored by several Republican clubs in the large 11th Senate District, was played out before a standing-room-only crowd May 8 starting at about 7:30 p.m. at U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg's campaign headquarters in Farmington Hills.

Ed Cox, a Northville resident running for the senate, did not respond to an invitation to appear at the forum, said Pat Hardy, Chairwoman of the 11th District Republicans.

See Senate, 2A



Barbara Dobb



Willie Bullard, Jr.



Terry Sever

All about gypsies

George Morow of the Farmington Hills Parks and Golf Maintenance Department will speak on "The Gypsies: Myth and What We're Doing About It" at a meeting of The Council of Homeowner Associations at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, in the lower level conference room of the Hills Branch of the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile Road.

The event is open to the public. For more information about COHA activities, call Dick Steiger, group secretary, at 470-1822.

Lanigan's good-bye

It'll be "Al Lanigan Day" in the Larkshire Ele-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

mentary School area Thursday, May 23, as Lanigan, longtime Larkshire principal, retires.

There'll be an open house to honor Lanigan at 8 p.m. that day at the school, 23800 Tuck Road, Farmington Hills. Presentations begin at 6:30 p.m.

Applause for her!

Lee Piquette has been named Botsford Con-

tinuing Health Center's "Applause Applause!" winner for May.

Piquette, a Farmington resident, has been a housekeeping assistant for the long-term care facility since 1984. "She is always courteous and is polite to everyone," said a resident who nominated her for the award.

Botsford Continuing Health Center is a 179-bed nursing facility in Farmington Hills. A BCHHS employee is honored each month.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9792; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literature, the Internet E-mail address: pucky@earthline.com.