

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

No Goodbyes: One highlight of Clarenceville High School's recent graduation was the senior choir's rendition of "No Goodbyes." /A3

Goodbye, Helen: Longtime trustee Helen Prutow attended her final Farmington Board of Education meeting last Tuesday. /A3

Count 'em again: The recount begins Monday in the Oakland Community College election mixup. /A8

Send money! The Oakland County Board of Commissioners has extended funding for a grand jury. /A7

SPORTS

Diamond dandies: The 1996 All-Observer baseball team includes five standout players from Farmington high schools. /C1

Summer skaters: Hockey might be out of season for some but not those in one summer league. /C1

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Candidates talk up strengths

Farmington-area voters got a chance Wednesday to compare the four Republican candidates in the race for a State House seat in the 37th District. All took part in a Jaycee forum.

BY WILLIAM COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

The four Republican candidates trying to succeed Jan Dolan as 37th District Representative took part in the season's first forum Wednesday at Farmington Hills City Hall. The candidates seemed in good spirits before the debate, and were all able to get across some key con-

cerns and stands. "I'm ahead of the curve," said Linda Jolicœur, who sat on the far side of the council seats.

The forum, sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees gave voters a chance to compare Jolicœur, Andrew Raczkowski, Terry Sever and Cathy Webb, all GOP candidates for the office.

Raczkowski proclaimed himself "the only conservative in the race," and said two-thirds of Republican precinct delegates in the district were supporting him as well as the Farmington Hills police union and Oakland County Sheriff John Nichols.

Webb spoke of her experience including serving two terms on the Farmington Board of Education, serving on the Commission on Children, Youth and Families, and being a former president of the Farmington Area Republicans.

Sever thanked the Jaycees for getting him involved in public service

and sponsoring the debate. The former state Jaycee president said he joined the Jaycees to play softball and has served the community ever since, including the last 11 years as a Hills city councilman.

"I've had a part in building the community into one of the finest in America," he said.

Jolicœur said she began volunteering at 14 as a "Candy Stripper" at the Farmington Nursing Home and has continued the practice. Endorsed by the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce Political

See DEBATE, A2

Taking aim on a fun summer



That's Nature's Way: Paul Carere, a 7-year-old Farmington Hills resident, sights a target during archery class at Nature's Way Camp at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. The camp, one of several operated by the city's Department of Special Services, is a popular summertime activity for local youngsters. For more information, call 473-9870.



Linda Jolicœur

GOP hopeful counting on business skill

BY WILLIAM COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Linda Jolicœur hopes to translate her business expertise and ability to get things done in Lansing into votes in the 37th House District.

Jolicœur, 45, is running in the Aug. 6 primary to win the Republican nomination. She's in a field of

HOUSE RACE

four GOP hopefuls. "I've been working with legislators in Lansing for years — from the outside," she said. "Now I want to use that expertise in office."

Jolicœur brings a lot of business and financial experience to her run for office along with an interest in social programs.

She and her husband Don have raised four children, including a son who is both mentally ill and retarded. She has become familiar with community mental health issues at the state and local level.

"I have fought for the least restrictive environment for the developmentally disabled," she said, adding that people suffering from mental

See JOLICOEUR, A2

Oh, deer! Does lead police on merry chase

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Safety officers report they were led on a chase by two creatures running for deer life on Farmington Road June 17. The pair hoofed it from police, but weren't trying to buck the system: Both were does.

At 1:15 a.m. Monday, Officer Jim Madigan spotted the deer on Farmington Road near Nine Mile. They proceeded north and turned west of Alta Loma and then went north on Liberty Street.

A police dispatcher said she could see the deer running up Liberty Street. Patrol cars blocked traffic on Grand River so the pair could cross, Madigan said.

"It was really odd they stayed on the road as long as they did," said Commander John Coyle, who was also on the deer's trail.

Once they made it across Grand River, the deer ended up on Shiawassee where they were guided to Glenview and into a wooded area.

Deer sightings are coming from all corners of the Farmington area, said Hills Naturalist Joe Derek. Last week, Derek saw a doe in Heritage Park. "Except for car-deer accidents," Derek said, the animals pose no threat. Deer tend to munch on wildflowers and shrubs.

For that reason, the Farmington Hills naturalist doesn't expect the area to become casting ground for "Bambi II." Deer eat a lot, and residential areas provide slim pickings.

"Even for them, it's kind of tedious roaming the suburbs," Derek said.

While staying on the roadway, Farmington police marveled at how the deer remained within the lanes and were mindful of the traffic laws.

"Every time they approached an intersection, one would flick its (hoof) to signal," Coyle said with a laugh.

Longtime school employees call it a career

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The close of the school year has another help wanted sign posted at Farmington School District headquarters.

Some 31 employees — including 22 teachers — are the latest to retire. The number is down from the past two years, but corresponds with a large turnover in district personnel.

In the previous two years, some 48 teachers and 11 administrators have retired.

Students often benefit by a fresh perspective a new teacher or administrator brings. Also, the by hiring replacements at the lower end of the pay scale, the district saves money.

With any retirement, though, the schools lose some of its most experienced educators.

"I think what you got is a nice bal-

ance," said Superintendent James White. "You get enthusiasm and new ideas as a result of someone coming fresh out of college."

"We're also getting a group of people who worked in business and industry and they have decided they want to teach. It's really enriched our district. We're thrilled."

It's difficult losing such stable, quality leadership, White said.

Included in this latest group of retirees is seven administrators such as Larkshire (renamed Langen) Elementary Principal Al Langen, Farmington High assistant principal Ken Dean, and Applied Technology Director Earl Baumunk, whose years in the district combined total more than 100.

Farmington High math and physics

See RETIREES, A2

All bottled up!

Antique bottles found on and under the ground in the Farmington area will be on display at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, through July thanks to the efforts of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission.

The display contains cobalt blue bottles used for medicine and some homemade bottles used for canning. A few have the Heins label. Some date from the turn of the century; others are from the 1920s.

There are milk bottles used by the Farmington Dairy, which delivered milk in glass bottles from 1910 to the 1950s, according to the Historical Commission.

For many years, the Farmington Dairy was operated by Joseph Himmelpoock, who started

FARMINGTON FOCUS

in 1921 with a horse and wagon delivery. Many bottles were collected when Drake Road was paved.

Democrats on display

The Democratic candidates in the running for the 37th District State House race — Steve Dibart and Carl Christoph — will answer questions at a meeting of the Farmington Area Democratic Club at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 27, at the Botaford Inn, 28000 Grand River. The meeting is open to the public.

One Democrat and three Republicans will be eliminated when Farmington-area voters go to the polls for the Aug. 6 primary.

When Hills Council meets

Anyone wondering when the Farmington Hills City Council meets this summer? Four Monday meetings are scheduled for July and August. Dates are July 16 and 22, and Aug. 12 and 19. Meetings, all open to the public, begin at 7:30 p.m. in the council chamber of City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

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 literate, the Internet E-mail address: packy@oonline.com.