

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Class of '97: Check the entire list of graduates from 1997 at Harrison High School. /B3

COUNTY

Street smarts: Once the politicians finish figuring out how to get Michigan's roads repaired, Oakland County will likely get short-changed, according to County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. /A5

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Niche marketing: Women's health issues come to the storefront at three unique boutiques. /B4.

ARTS & LEISURE

Arts extravaganza: More than 1,000 artists help create a festive atmosphere in the streets of Ann Arbor, July 16-19. /C1

NOTEWORTHY

On display: Catch the listings for gallery exhibits and receptions in the area. /C3

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Grand style



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Dressed to impress: Stacie Ludwig, 17, foreground, and members of the Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps drum up attention at the Farmington Founders Festival parade Saturday morning. At left, parade marcher Brian Hughes, 6, shows his alias, Squirt the Clown. Floats, bands, cheerleaders and city officials flowed down Grand River on the warm, sun-soaked morning for the traditional event, which drew thousands to downtown. For more on the parade, see Thursday's Observer.



Board to rev bond drive

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Though the date is not official, voters can pencil in a trip to the polls Sept. 16 for the Farmington Public Schools' next bond election.

The board will likely set the date at its next meeting Tuesday, July 22. District officials plan to ask voters — in two separate ballot questions — to approve \$95 million in bonds for facility improvements.

The first ballot question will ask voter approval of \$66 million — .95 mills — for facility improvements. The second question, which is contingent on passage of the first one, requests another \$30 million for building upgrades.

With the .65 mills on the second proposal, both would increase taxes by 1.6 mills. A mill is \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of state equalized valuation, which is half of the property's market value.

If approved, the owner of a house worth \$165,000 would pay an additional \$132 in taxes. Voters have now until at least until Sept. 16 to spend making up their mind.

"I think that's where we're leaning," said Linda Enberg, Farmington schools trustee. "That seems to be the one (date) that has the least objections to it."

In March, voters turned down a request for \$110 million bond issue for building and technology improvements. Board members decided to pare the measure, removing technology altogether.

Officials vowed to sell the need for the bond to the community. So far, it's been a low roar out of district

Please see BOND, A2

Clark display shares 'Father's Legacy'

BY VIVIAN DEGAN
STAFF WRITER

With a name like Junebug you might suspect the artist has led a charmed life, and in many ways, he has.

An only child, raised by two photographers who put a camera in his hands at age 3 because he wanted one, Junebug Clark, 49, of Farmington Hills, continues a second-generation tradition that will be honored by the city throughout the summer.

"A Father's Legacy," a photographic exhibition by father and son team, Joe and Junebug Clark, is the premiere art show featured in the Farmington Hills City Hall Resident's Gallery through Aug. 29.

The Farmington Area Arts Commission will host a public reception for the artist 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 14, at city hall.

"With dad and mom both taking photographs all the time, I pretty much demanded to have a camera of my own," Junebug said of his childhood.

"I remember clearly, when I was about 5, dad stood me up in front of the mirror next to him to show me how to hold my camera. I had asked him why my pictures were crooked, while his were straight. We learned by doing. I knew how to put those big flashbulbs into the camera and I played with the hoses in the dark room."

At 6 years old, Junebug published photographs in the Detroit Times newspaper Sunday magazine. The frames included boys playing in the

street, boy scouts at work, images of his life.

Though the paper's youngest photographer was soon fired "for violation of child labor laws," Junebug said the firing also became a blessing.

The news about the youngest photographer getting canned made it to the national news wire which led to my photographs getting published in Time, Life and Sports Illustrated," he said.

Junebug's young success was not pure coincidence.

His father, Joe Clark, known everywhere including Farmington Hills as the HBSS, Hill Billy Snap Shooter, was well-published in Life Magazine.

Joe Clark grew up in the Cumberland Gap, Tennessee and came to Detroit in the mid 1930s, "when Henry Ford was paying hillbillies \$5 a day to build this town."

Joe ended up working as night watchman in J.L. Hudson's department store, and in those days, the Times's commercial magazine ads were photographed at night when



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH LAMMIX

On exhibit: Junebug Clark with his son and sometime assistant, Wade Clark, pose at city hall. Wade is holding Joe Clark's hat.

the customers were gone.

"Dad was working when the models, photographers and art directors would come in and set up the shoots," Junebug said. "One night, someone threw a camera in dad's hands and told him to take some pictures of those ladies he was always telling about that beautiful Cumberland Gap and his life back home."

From Joe's first three rolls of film, HBSS recorded scenes of his "mountain kin and friends doing the ordinary things he knew," like gathering to chew the fat in the local mercantile, to witness a baptism in the Red Hill Creek, or carry a coffin in a misty mountain rain.

"Of those first three rolls, a Life Magazine editor used 14 of dad's photos in 1938," Junebug said.

Joe's images capture generations of simple life and complex dignity in the fierce, relationships and land's escape of the Cumberland Gap people.

His HBSS photographs extend to the Smithsonian Institute collection and editorial and advertisement pages from Life, Look, Time, Newsweek, National Geographic, Fortune, Playboy and Sports Illustrated.

Joe's "Baptism in Olde Towne Creek, 1938," is published in Dolly

Please see LEGACY, A2

Ice rink aims to complement, not rival city

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The ice age in Farmington Hills could spread if a proposed skating facility becomes reality.

Farmington Hills-based Suburban Hockey wants to operate a training facility that would house two NHL-size 200-by-85 feet rinks in a former indoor tennis facility in the Freeway Park area. If the plan becomes reality, Farmington Hills will have four ice rinks compared to having none five years ago.

The city's Ice Arena in Founders Park opened two years ago and operates around the clock with hockey and figure skaters clamoring for ice time.

Suburban Hockey owner Tom Anastos sees his proposed facility as complementing — not competing — with the city-owned facility.

"It's not designed to be an event type facility," said Anastos, who played professional hockey in the Montreal Canadiens system and was a collegiate player at Michigan State University. "It won't even have bleachers."

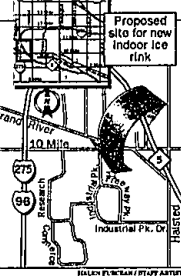
The plan might not be a smooth skate with the Farmington Hills Planning Commission, though. For one reason, parking is limited in the industrial office park area off 10 Mile and Halsted.

Anastos will present his plan 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at city hall. He's seeking special approval for the facility in what is classified as a light industrial district.

The existing facility has a small parking lot in front. Anastos proposes sharing parking with an adjacent building.

"I think the major issue right now will be parking," said Dale Countagun, Hills Planning/Community Development director.

Pleanty of aspiring hockey players in the area are



Please see ICE RINK, A3

Muscular Dystrophy benefit

Clowns will make a special appearance at the Clark Gas Station on Farmington and 9 Mile roads Saturday, July 19 from noon to 6 p.m. to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy patients and research.

The station will host the Fun Fest and offer games, food and the professional clowning around, all for a good cause, according to assistant manager Mickey Newton.

Meg Mallon golf outing

Mercy High School of Farmington Hills, a

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Catholic College Preparatory School for Young Women, hosts its seventh annual Meg Mallon Golf Outing Monday, Aug. 18, at Edgewood Country Club in Commerce Township.

All proceeds from this event will directly benefit the educational programs at Mercy. Sponsor fees are \$1,500 for four tickets, and \$750 for two tickets. Individual tickets are \$225, which includes a continental breakfast; 18 holes of

scramble golf with morning or afternoon tea-times; a buffet lunch; and a cocktail reception and dinner.

For information and reservations, call (248) 476-8020, ext. 253.

Hospice open to applicants

Hospice of Michigan's just opened 24-hour residential facility at 25911 Middlebelt Road in Farmington Hills is now accepting applications. The facility is open to people over 18 who need assistance with daily living, as well as those terminally ill people seeking Hospice Care. For more information, call (248) 555-2722.