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Twenty-five cents



Rob Falls

Festival chief vows total involvement

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

The Farmington-Farmington Hills area means something special to Rob Falls, which is why he accepted the all-encompassing job of chairman of the 1983 Founders' Festival, and why he is so sure this year's gala will be a rousing success.

"It (the festival) was very important to the community," said Falls, who grew up in the area and attended North Farmington High School. "I have very fond memories of it. It used to be a lot of fun. This (serving as chairman) is kind of a paying back from me."

Falls, 31, an account executive with the public relations firm of Anthony M. Franco Inc., said total involvement is important to the success of the festival.

"We need tremendous community support from the business and involvement by the community," he said. "We're looking for people who have worked on the festival for a long time, and also looking for new people who have never been involved to come forward."

Falls said he hopes to keep many of the traditional festival events and add new ones, but said he couldn't be specific at this time. The first organizational meeting for the festival is scheduled for Tuesday night.

"We should get a pretty good idea on the direction," Falls said. He added that the public is welcome to Tuesday's meeting, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

FUND RAISING will begin after the budget is decided and a goal is set. Persons interested in participating in the Festival can call the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce offices at 474-3440.

The festival chairman said the general state of the economy could hurt this year's festivities.

"People are concentrating more on their businesses and not so much on the outside interests, as community development," he said. "Raising funds will be a little difficult, but I'm optimistic."

"Out of all the places in the greater Detroit area, Farmington and Farmington Hills seem to have the greatest sense of tradition, sense of history, sense of pride."

He volunteered his services to festival workers after hearing an announcement on the radio that the event needed support and help. He was then offered the chairman post and accepted it.

He sees the chairman's role as that of a coordinator.

"Basically you're coordinating the efforts of all the other chairmen," he said. "It's a very delicate balance of asking and having things done. You're relying on people to come through."

Falls moved back to the area last April after living in Washington, D.C., for two years. He worked as communications director for Congressman Jim Dunn and also as political consultant for Congressional campaigns there.

"When I left Washington I had the car top down and the cherry blossoms were out; when I arrived in Michigan it was having one of the worst snows," Falls said with a laugh.

Making leisure pay is Belanger's charge

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

As the automobile industry struggles to regain its predominance in Michigan's economy, state officials are looking to the leisure industry for relief.

Local activist Marlowe Belanger will have a major role in developing leisure as a Michigan industry.

Gov. James Blanchard has established the Special Task Force on the Leisure Industry. The job of the 13-member task force is to look into the formation of a new state department that would incorporate presently splintered groups related to the arts, recreation and culture.

The department, the 20th in Michigan, would be called the Department of Recreation, Tourism and Culture.

"AGRICULTURE and tourism are the two major revenue-bearing areas in our state, and the state is always taking away from recreational activities," said the Farmington Hills resident, who was appointed to the panel by state Rep. Richard Fitzpatrick. "They felt if it had a section of its own, then perhaps the state would be able to promote our tourism."



Marlowe Belanger

from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

A ONE-PERCENT increase in this market would mean an extra \$125 million in direct travel expenditures and \$10 million in effective state tax revenues, as well as create another 6,100 jobs, according to the association.

"The climate does seem to be right for the formation of the department," Belanger said. "Automotive money isn't what it once was in the state. We have to find a means to accelerate our tourism."

Among its attractions, Michigan has more coastline than any other state, except Alaska, and has the largest fresh water coastline in the world. It has more recreational boats and snowmobiles than any other state.

"It has more sand dunes and diversified seasons. Florida and California have one season only."

MEMBERS ON the task force come from around the state and bring a variety of backgrounds, including recreation and parks, cultural arts and the tourist industry.

The panel began its work in February and is expected to present its recommendations in April. The committee will ask for comment from different segments of the leisure industry, such as zoos, entertainment and the arts, Belanger said.

"Even if a 20th department isn't formed, I think the alliances generated (by the sessions) would be worthwhile."

THOSE IN favor of a new department claim it would be more cost-saving and efficient, as well as provide a central clearinghouse to attract private support and develop public and private partnerships.

On the other side, it is argued that such a department would be costly and could create representation and intragovernmental conflicts.

"At this time, all I can say is that we will research the need of a 20th department. The committee will make its recommendation to that."

Belanger, newly elected chairman for the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association, has been involved with recreation, culture and arts since 1964. He was a member of the Romney named her to the Michigan Council for the Arts.



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Computing counts

For the last few weeks teachers and students from North Farmington High School have been preparing for the Sixth Annual Computer Contest sponsored by the University of Detroit. Among the contest competitors Sunday were (from left) Mike Horner, computer science

teacher; Kevin Hames; Jon Greenberg; Jim Cox, computer science teacher; and Robert Randall. This is the third year that North has offered computer classes. Prizes included a \$500 scholarship.

Vacation anxiety relieved by business that keeps watch

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

Worry over your unattended house is one bit of excess "baggage" you can leave behind when you go on vacation, a new Farmington Hills business claims.

The new firm is called Checkmates, and it offers professional house-watching services for residents who are planning on being away from their homes for a few weeks, a few days or even just a few hours.

"We'll go into homes during the day at different times and keep it looking like someone's living in it," said Farmington Hills resident Carol Barrett, who started the business two weeks ago with her friend Joan Smith. "We'll spend more time in the house and look around."

The services include checking on appliances and pipes, arranging mail and newspaper pickups and making tire tracks in the snow.

Charges range from \$12 a day for one or two days but go progressively

lower the longer the period of time, Barrett said.

"If you're gone for a month or so it would go down to \$7 a visit," she said.

The service also is available for persons attending a wedding or funeral, which are times burglars expect homes to be empty, Barrett said.

"We would notify the police we were going to go in," she said.

It could run as long as necessary. "Maybe they wouldn't want us (to go in)

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Vacationers staying closer to homestead

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

Despite a poor economy and predictions of a drop of up to 11 percent, Michigan recorded its first \$10.1 billion tourism year in 1982, the Automobile Club of Michigan reports.

Budget-conscious travelers taking advantage of economical close-to-home vacations and state promotion campaigns were credited with bringing Michigan's tourism industry to near-1981 levels, when tourism revenues reached \$10 billion for the first time.

"For the third straight year, there was a noticeable trend toward closer-to-home Michigan destinations for the best rates and packages," said James Drury, Auto Club's travel operations manager.

"Michigan tourism last year fell one to two percent below 1981 despite projections that the poor economy would trigger a drop of up to 11 percent."

Requests by Auto Club members for routings to destinations in Michigan rose 2.1 percent over 1981. The number of AAA members from other states served by Auto Club offices in Michigan declined 7.9 percent.

Attendance at 76 state park campgrounds increased 1.4 percent over the previous year.

The Auto Club credited the "Say Yes to Michigan" campaign with helping retain the state's strong tourism activity, despite the recession.

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Woman takes up battle to fight world pesticide danger

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

When pesticides became available, fishermen in Ghana, West Africa, discovered what seemed to be the greatest labor-saver ever. Simply pouring an insecticide called lindane into the lake brought masses of fish to the surface, where they could be gathered easily for salting, smoking or selling.

The largely illiterate villagers never associated the vomiting, convulsions, muscle spasms and liver damage they suffered with their use of the poisonous substance.

Ultimately, lindane was tabooed in the area after an African organization exposed the health risk it threatened.

The World Health Organization estimates that 5,000 people die and a half million more are poisoned by contact with pesticides imported by underdeveloped countries each year.

More than half the fatalities are children. The sale of billions of dollars worth of pesticides banned in the U.S. but freely exported to Third World countries amounts to "a major environmental

problem" that needs stricter monitoring, according to the National Audubon Society.

Farmington's Carol Hansen, a National Audubon Society member, has taken up the crusade against the practice.

"Pesticides used safely by people who realize the hazards is dangerous enough, let alone for the people using them on crops who cannot read and write. You don't give a 5-year-old a loaded gun and say, here, go play—even if you mean for him to do something constructive with it," said Hansen, who has spread the word about pesticide exportation by participating in the Audubon society's mass mailing program.

"It's a devastating problem people aren't aware of, and one the Department of Agriculture certainly isn't going to tell us about."

LINDANE, MANUFACTURED by Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp., an Occidental Petroleum Corp. subsidiary, is one of a myriad of pesticides involved in the \$2.4 billion business. Banned from agricultural use in this

country, DDT still is produced and exported by the U.S.-based Monsanto Chemical Corp. It has been widely used by farmers in Central America, where at least 5,000 pesticide poisonings are reported annually.

In Nicaragua and Guatemala, nearly 400 deaths occurred during a recent one-year period, said Ruth Norris, author of "Pills, Pesticides and Profits," and editor of Audubon Magazine.

"DDT contamination of cow's milk is about 90 times that permissible in the U.S. The level of DDT in the blood of the people in Nicaragua and Guatemala is 31 times greater than that in residents of the U.S.," added Norris, quoting an American Research Industry finding.

A soil fumigant produced by the Shell Chemical Co. and Dow Chemical Co. called DBCP, (short for dibromochloropropane), was prohibited in the U.S. in 1977 after 8,000 workers became sterile after exposure to DBCP. DBCP is still used in Hawaii where pineapple farmers inject it into the ground. In 1980, DBCP was being produced for export by Amvac Chemical Corp.

ALL PESTICIDES sold in the U.S. must be registered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Only after the EPA is satisfied that the product's risks and economic benefits outweigh its risks will it register a pesticide.

The EPA has no authority to register pesticides produced solely for export.

Before 1978, it was possible without informing the EPA to manufacture and distribute pesticides outside the U.S. It also was permissible to export pesticides without warning foreign purchasers of potential dangers.

A law Congress passed in 1978 made it mandatory for exporters to label pesticides and to identify chemicals banned in the U.S.

IN JANUARY, the U.S. was alone in opposing a resolution passed 146-1 by the United Nations General Assembly intended to further control the exporting of pesticides and to provide information about health risks they pose.

The vote was an "international disgrace," said Richard Beamish, communications director for the National Audubon Society.

Efforts to contact Noel Brown, U.S. representative with the United Nations' Environmental Program, were unsuccessful.

The reason for the American nay vote was budgetary, according to a UN summary in the World Environment Report.

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"75-100!"

K. Laurin was ecstatic about the response from the Observer & Eccentric HOME VIDEO GAMES, TAPES, MOVIES classified as placed to sell a video system. "Tremendous response! 75-100 calls and they continued till 11 p.m."

Remember...

One call does it all!



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