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Dark horse wins battle as vocational chief



June Kilmer stays on the job all summer finding part-time positions for the students in her marketing co-op program.

By Tom Bear
staff writer

"Does the name Kilmer remind you of the poem 'Trees'?" asked the brochure that Farmington Hills' June Kilmer used last month in her campaign for the presidency of the Michigan Vocational Coordinators Association.

"Let it also remind you of the MVCA election Thursday, June 23," the blurb continued.

Kilmer, a self-described dark horse, won that election, adding to her duties and responsibilities as the Farmington Public Schools' co-op coordinator for marketing and distribution.

Her duties include finding part-time jobs for Farmington-area high school students, who combine classroom learning with on-the-job training as members of the district's co-op program.

A few days after the election, there was more good news from the MVCA. Kilmer was named that organization's Co-op Coordinator of the Year.

Another professional organization, the Michigan Occupational Education Association, honored Kilmer by giving her its Outstanding Service Award for Vocational Education.

"She does a superb job and she certainly deserves those awards," said Earl Baumunk, the director of vocational education for the Farmington district and Kilmer's boss.

"She's one person who goes above and beyond the call of duty. She works until the job is done."

KILMER, WHO HOPED to become a buyer for a department store before settling on a career in vocational education, was excited about the awards.

"It was a pleasant surprise," she said from her office in North Farmington High School. "Your peer group selects you. It's nice to be honored by people who are doing the same things you do."

The Farmington district has four co-op programs — office work, health occupations, trade and industry, and marketing. Each program has a director and a home office.

"We service the students from all three Farmington (public) high schools," Kilmer said.

Co-op students are limited to 15 hours a week at their jobs, but are paid at the same rate as new hires, according to Kilmer.

Surprisingly, jobs for the students haven't been hard to find in the Farmington area.

"We've been in the business a long time and we've worked with the same employers for years," Kilmer said.

"And we're very fortunate here in Farmington Hills. In my field, there's been a great deal of building of new stores, especially along Orchard Lake Road. There's quite a demand for new employees, and a lot of these stores like to work with young people. They feel they're helping them get a start."

Most of the jobs Kilmer finds for the students are in retail stores and super markets, but offices and restaurants are also fair game.

"I'll look anywhere they're selling a product," she said.

UNLIKE MANY people in education, Kilmer stays on the job all summer.

"I do a lot of (job) placing in the

spring," she said. "It carries them through the summer and then they'll be on for the following year."

Kilmer had visions of becoming a buyer following her graduation from Detroit's Mackenzie High School in 1962, but her father scotched that dream by denying her money for college.

"My father didn't believe a woman belonged in that field," she said. "He believed a woman should go into the more traditional fields like teaching. I put myself through school until money ran out."

Eventually, she left school and took a job as a secretary at Ford Motor Co. to put her husband, Joe, a Mackenzie schoolmate, through college.

"He said that if I ever wanted to go back to school, all I had to do was say when," said Kilmer. "So after the fifth child, I went back to Wayne State University to get my bachelor's and master's degrees in marketing."

"But a career in the buying field would mean a lot of traveling... not so great for a mother with five kids. So I looked around for something else."

That something else turned out to be vocational education in the Farmington Public Schools.

KILMER IS PROUD of her five children. The oldest is 31; the youngest is 19.

"They're all graduates of North Farmington, and they've all made careers for themselves," she said.

"I guess they've all tried to live by what my husband and I have tried to teach them through the years. We've felt they should have some work experience baked into their school years."

City sets deadline for filing

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

If you are a Farmington resident interested in vying for one of the three City Council seats up for grabs, you must file a nominating petition Aug. 2-12. Petitions must be filed no later than 4 p.m. Aug. 12.

Candidates will be vying for the four-year terms of council members William Hartsock and Ralph Yoder, as well as William Mitchell's two-year term.

The general election is scheduled for Nov. 8. Because this is an odd-year election, Farmington's City Charter does not require a primary to reduce the number of candidates, said City Clerk Josephine Bushey.

The top three vote getters will be elected to the council with the top two receiving four-year terms and the third winner the two-year term, she said. The new council members will take office Nov. 14, the Monday following the election, Bushey added.

Trip to gas station proves costly

A Farmington Hills man was beaten up and robbed of at least \$160 by three unidentified men as he was walking to a gas station along Eight Mile just before 1:15 a.m. on July 8.

Michael Herren, 28, of 22500 Middlebelt told police he was walking toward the Speedway Gas Station at Eight Mile and Middlebelt to buy some cigarettes when three men in a 1973 Chevrolet stopped him as he was approaching a driveway near West Eight Mile.

One of the men got out of the car and asked Herren for a match. Just as Herren was lighting the match, a second man struck the back of Herren's head, forcing him to his knees.

WHILE ON his knees, Herren said he felt his wallet being taken from his back pants pocket. When he tried to stop his wallet being taken, one of the robbers yanked Herren's arm behind his back and pulled his head back by the hair. Herren said he felt one of the suspects trying to take a ring off of his left hand.

Once Herren got back on his feet, he

hit one of the robbers in the face but a third plowed Herren's arms behind him while the others punched and kicked him. Although Herren denied he had any money with him, one of the men

reached into Herren's pockets and found his wallet containing \$160. Before leaving the scene, the three men hit Herren in the ribs, knocking him to the ground.

Although Herren did not seek medical attention, he suffered cuts and bruises on his face and hands from the attack and from trying to defend himself, police said.

Suspect arrested

Marijuana case is probed

A Southfield man charged with selling marijuana to an undercover Farmington Hills police officer will face a preliminary exam in 47th District Court in late July.

Brian Keith Schnarr, 18, of 25690 Shawwassee, was arraigned on July 7 before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer on a charge of delivering marijuana. Bond was set at \$2,000.

According to police, an undercover officer saw a young man, whom he recognized as the person from whom he

had purchased \$20 worth of marijuana the week before, sitting in a car in the parking lot of Putt-N-Games at 30749 Grand River.

The undercover officer approached the man and asked if he could purchase some more marijuana. The man, police said, reached under the driver's seat and retrieved a bag of marijuana for the officer. The officer then paid for the \$20 bag with two marked \$20 bills bearing serial numbers the police previously had recorded. The officer then left the parking lot about 12:52 a.m.

At about 1:05 a.m., the man left the parking lot and traveled eastbound on Grand River. Two other Farmington Hills officers in a marked car stopped the man on Grand River, just north of Eight Mile near Leo Adler Datsun and arrested him, police said.

Officers said the two marked \$20 bills the undercover officer indicated he had used to pay for the marijuana were found on the man. Police said they confiscated three bags of marijuana from the man.

Rabbits feast on garden delights

By Scott Adler
staff writer

Eh, what's up doc?

It's that time of year again. The local rabbit population has reached its yearly high, turning some Troy gardens into outdoor cafes and gardeners into Elmer Fudd, cursing those "wotten wabbitas."

Chuck Barnes, a naturalist at the Lloyd A. Stage Outdoor Education Center, attributes this year's hare-raising experience to the mild winter. However, there aren't many more rabbits now than there were at this time last year, he said.

"Usually rabbits are prolific, so their population doesn't vary too much," he said. "There aren't many more rabbits this year than last so I would say that people are just noticing them more."

John Wisniewski, animal control officer in Troy, agrees.

"More or them are just out on their own now," he said of the young rabbits.

"During April and May (the rabbits) are sitting tight because they're having their young ones. Now the young ones are just about grown up, so you're noticing them more. There are the same problems as any other year."

"THERE'S NO epidemic or anything like that," Wisniewski said.

With all the young rabbits out feeding for themselves, a nice and green, easy-access garden is one of the first places they'll look for food. But there

are steps gardeners can take before their vegetables are all gone, Barnes advises.

The best thing to do is install a three-foot high, chicken-wire fence around the garden. It's important to be sure that the base of the fence is secured to the ground periodically to stop the rabbits from pushing their way under it, he added.

A chemical available in feed stores that can be sprayed onto the plants tastes bitter to the rabbits and is another way to keep them out of the garden, Wisniewski said.

But for those people who are into more exotic means of saying no to their unwelcome guests, Barnes has methods that are "supposed to work, but there really is no evidence that they do."

Human hair clippings, Barnes has heard, will keep the furry little vegetarians out of the garden, as will blood-meal — a source of nitrogen fertilizer — or a decoy of an attack owl.

"One way that has been very successful is planting a little extra on the side for them," Barnes said. "I've known some people who have roto-lilled a patch of ground near some shrubs and planted a few beans there."

It is best to plant near a shrub or covering because rabbits don't like being out in the open as much as near covering for protection, he said.

LIVE TRAPS, which capture the rabbits, are hard to use because rabbits

don't get trapped very easily, Wisniewski said.

Barnes warned if gardeners decide to use the live traps, they must notify the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, because it's illegal to catch them if the DNR doesn't know about it. A live trap is eight-inches high and two feet long and has doors at both ends with bait in the middle. When the rabbit enters the box for the bait, both doors close and the rabbit is trapped without being hurt.

The 13-lined ground squirrel can also

be a pest, but not to the extent that the rabbit can, Barnes said.

The favorite vegetable for rabbits, according to Barnes, isn't the carrot that Bugs Bunny made so famous, but green beans. Next comes lettuce and then any green, leafy vegetable they can get hold of.

Both Wisniewski and Barnes agree that more than anything, rabbits are a nuisance that gardeners have to live with.

"Afterall," Wisniewski said, "you can't shoot them."



Farmington gardeners are wary of this little fellow and his furry friends. They are unwanted visitors this time of year when they feast on favorite garden vegetables such as beans and lettuce.

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