

Farmington Observer

Hawks chief tapped

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Clayton Graham has been appointed Harrison High School principal. The former North Farmington High principal will replace James Geiger who retired in June after serving the Farmington Public Schools as a teacher and administrator for 35 years. "Mr. Geiger, the former principal, said I will love it," Graham said, of his new position. "I followed him at Farmington High so I expect I will." The final decision was an administrative one," said Superintendent Lewis Schulman, adding district administrators discussed the assignment of high school principals and then notified the board of education. "A good person can fit any school," Schulman continued. "The same qualities of leadership are demanded no matter where the school is."



Clayton Graham

Graham's position at North Farmington will be filled by assistant principal Donald Cowan, who was appointed in April as the district's newest principal. He was principal at North Farmington in late 1983 during a controversy over the religious role groups like Campus Life, a Christian social group, should play in the lives of public school students. School board members later adopted a policy declaring that school districts must be "wholly neutral" in dealing with religious beliefs. Gilbert Henderson, who is returning from sabbatical, and Norm Dickson are the assistant principals at North. Jerry Potter will remain in his post as Farmington High's principal.

Cops enforce new party law for first time

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Farmington Hills' open house party ordinance was used for the first time early Sunday morning. Rod Barcevic, 17, and George Nicholas Barcevic, 18, of Farmington Hills, were issued the ordinance violations, said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer. "They were issued the two notices, with a court date of Aug. 14, 1985." The party ordinance, which went into effect June 10, was enacted in May by Farmington Hills City Council. It was designed to discourage use of alcoholic beverages and drugs at open house parties. The ordinance states that "No adult having control of any residence shall allow an open house party to take place at said residence if any alcoholic beverage or drug is possessed or consumed at said residence by any minor, and where adult failed to take reasonable steps to prevent the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverage or drug." At approximately 1:35 a.m. Sunday, police received an anonymous call from a citizen complaining about a house party at 25761 Lyndon, Dwyer said. "OFFICERS from the department were dispatched to the area." Officers responding saw approximately 10 people in the driveway area, Dwyer said. Beer cans were also seen on the grass

near the driveway, he said. "The parents were away, apparently, on vacation." The two sons were in control of the premises. "They (the officers) observed the 10 individuals in the driveway," the police chief said. "The officers did give them a warning to disperse." Officers returned to the scene approximately 10 minutes after giving that warning, he said. In addition to the two citations under the ordinance, one minor was cited for being in possession of alcohol, Dwyer said. Four individuals were cited for interfering with a police officer. Donald Gordon Hannah, 19, and Matthew Walter Gerrard, 18, both of Farmington Hills, were cited, as were two minors. "They were released after they were issued the ordinance tickets." PENALTY PROVISIONS included in the ordinance enacted Farmington Hills ordinance are: • For the first violation, a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 30 days, or both; • For subsequent violations, a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 90 days, or both such fine and imprisonment. "Of course, previous to this, we did see a tremendous decrease in the amount of complaints we received," Dwyer said. "We've got a good procedure, as far as what we follow here."

Dealers' stock dwindles as truck strike drags on

By Julie Brown
staff writer

The nationwide strike by more than 20,000 members of the Teamsters union hasn't created too many problems just yet for Farmington-area car dealers. Problems could surface, however, if the strike continues for any length of time. The striking Teamsters drive trucks that deliver new cars to dealers. The walkout began at 12:01 a.m. Friday. "At this point, we've got a very large supply of cars," said Bob Sellers of Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC in Farmington Hills. Sellers estimated Tuesday that he had close to 300 cars at the dealership, at 38000 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. "We've got a good supply. Hopefully, they'll get it straightened out, but we're

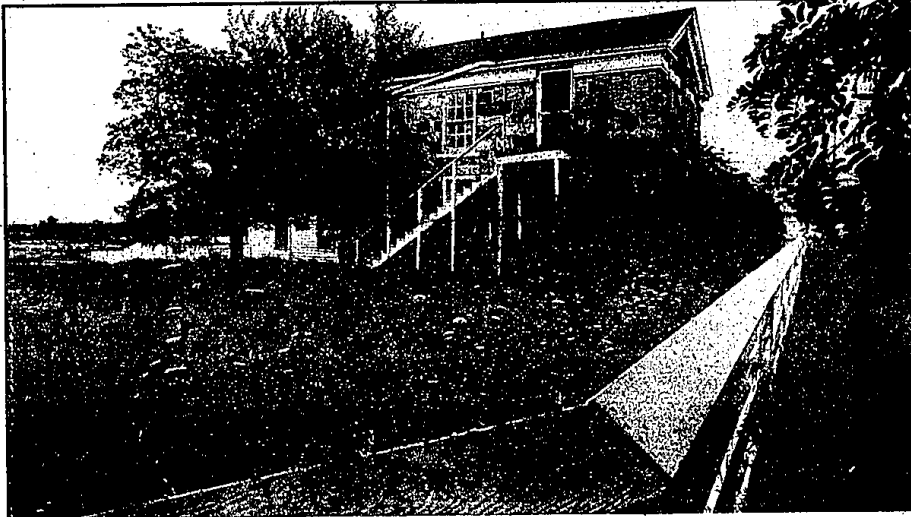
'We've got a good supply. Hopefully, they'll get it straightened out, but we're in good shape for awhile. Thirty days would hurt us, but I anticipate it'll be solved within 30 days.'

— Bob Sellers

from inventory, and we have a good inventory. At this time of year, they're looking for the end-of-year bargains." Most of the 1986 models should begin showing up in September, Sellers said. Bill Cook of Hill Cook Buick agreed the strike's immediate effect hasn't been too great. "Fortunately, we had a lot of inventory on hand in both the Buick store, as

well as our Porsche-Audi store. One or two weeks won't bother us. A month might bother us, it might bother us a lot." Bill Cook Buick is at 37911 Grand River, Farmington Hills, with Bill Cook Porsche-Audi right next door. THE EFFECT OF THE strike would be felt sooner in the Porsche-Audi store, Cook said Tuesday, "particularly with our Porsche product. We're really close on that. There's less availability of product, and the supply lines are longer." Cook estimated he had more than 250 cars available at the Buick store, with a smaller number — fewer than 60 — available among the foreign cars. "July and August tend to be fairly good business months," Cook said. "Business has been good, and I expect

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Landmark

History buff preserves a piece of past

By Lisa Simon
staff writer

Oscar Sealy Harger used to bring out a corked jug of whiskey and toast Old Hickory everytime he planted a new hickory tree on his Halsted Road farm. The family ritual, honoring president Jackson, was well-known by the Hargers' Farmington Township neighbors in the 1800s. From 1837 to 1950, five generations of Hargers lived in the house on

25420 Halsted Road. The Harger family came to the area to pursue dairy farming the same year Michigan became a state. The future of the Harger House, a fine example of Greek Revival architecture is undecided. On Aug. 12, a public hearing before Farmington Hills City Council will be an attempt "to formalize future actions with respect to the Harger House." "We can preserve all kinds of things, but we need a use for them,"

said Jean Fox, chairman of the Farmington Hills historic district commission. At the public hearing, the commission will explore, with the help of city council, possible uses for the Harger House. A semi-public building for use by the community is most desirable to the historic commission, according to Fox.

"OUR PHILOSOPHY has been that we're going to see if we can get private people to live in historic houses," said Fox. Of the 18 Farmington Hills buildings registered, with the Michigan Register of Historic Buildings, the tendency has been to find area citizens who are interested in owning, and taking care of historic buildings. Previously all restoration, preservation and maintenance of historic houses has been privately funded.

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Tax hike sought for special ed

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The remainder of the district's 1,244 special education students are financed in different programs and don't figure in the Oct. 7 vote. "If the millage doesn't go through, the county is going to have to go back three years," said Michael Ptaszgan, Farmington Schools' finance director. The local districts will be assessed for the program's deficit going back to the 1981-82 school year. At present, the program has an approximately \$7-million deficit. "The cost of the center programs (the regional programs) has escalated in recent years (so) that we've had to bill back the districts," Ptaszgan said, adding that districts have already made partial payments on \$1.8 million of the total amounting from the 1980-81 academic year. "We don't like to do it." Ptaszgan continued. "But it costs more to educate an orthopedic handicapped student (one who would attend the regional program), for example, than for a child who is learning disabled (one who would attend a district's local program)." If the millage passes, the additional revenue will be used to balance the regional program's budget starting with the 1985-86 academic year. The deficit from previous years would be absorbed by the Oakland Schools. Ptaszgan said Oakland Schools also receives state aid to help finance the regional program. Providing the millage passes, the Oakland (Intermediate) Board of Education has agreed that excess money

left after balancing the program's budget in the next five years would be shared among the county's 28 districts for other special education programs, he said. WHAT WORRIES LOCAL school officials is that they will have to dip into the general fund budget, used for other educational programs, to pay the regional program's deficit. If the payback plan is continued because of the millage's defeat. "It impinges on the budget in the regular program," said Graham Lewis, Farmington Schools' assistant superintendent of special education. "We expect a high rate of millage."

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