

Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

IT'S Wassail Feast time.
Three Farmington Hills residents are among the Wayne State University students who will perform at the traditional medieval English dinner Wednesday in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, Grosse Pointe Farms.
The event will benefit the Men's Glee Club on WSU's Detroit campus. The fare will include costumed singers, dancers, musicians, mimes, jugglers and a court fool reminiscent of the medieval period.
Feast entertainers will include WSU Chamber Singers tenor Derek Hood and Glee Club singers Lee Ekstrom and Larry Wik. Hood also is in the Glee Club.

KUDOS are in order.
Stephen Nash of Farmington Hills was named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America for 1985.
The Alabama-based program solicits nominations to recognize achievements and abilities of men between the ages of 21 and 38.

A NEW assignment.
Sgt. Carol Lance of Farmington Hills graduated from the Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership School at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.
She's now a telecommunications control specialist with the Airlift Information Systems Division at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

HE'S honored.
Daniel Singer of Farmington was among those inducted into the Schoolcraft College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor fraternity. Schoolcraft is in Livonia.

ON tour.
David Tupper will tour with the Capital University Chapel Choir during a five-day tour in northern Ohio Dec. 13-17.
Tupper is a senior majoring in education on the Columbus, Ohio, campus.

MUSIC talk.
April Arabian, a 1979 North Farmington High School graduate, is director of the Gold Company, an internationally regarded jazz show vocal entertainment ensemble at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

One of seven vocal ensembles at WMU, members are selected by audition.
With 16 singers and a jazz combo, Gold Company performs in every style, from vocal jazz and show tunes to the hits of today. It performs throughout the United States and Canada.

Arabian, a five-year Gold Company veteran, joined the School of Music faculty this fall after earning both a bachelor's and a master's degree in music from WMU.

Last summer, she was assistant vocal director for all live shows at Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio.

HOLIDAY greetings.
The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will host a holiday mixer 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Jack Canley Chevrolet, 7020 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield. Bring your business card to exchange with other area businesspersons.
Call the chamber for reservations, 474-3440.

FOOTNOTES: Did you know Farmington Road used to be called Division Street in Farmington? Or that Grand River used to be known as the Detroit-Howell Plank Road?



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Even Scrooge can smile

Scrooge isn't such a bad guy, after all, as "A Christmas Carol" proves, when the crotchety old gentleman (Booth Colman) helps make the season a cheerful one for the Cratchit family including Tiny Tim (J. Luke Huber) and Mrs. Cratchit (Jayne Houdyshell). The Meadow Brook Theatre production of the Charles Dickens'

classic, with music and song, opens Thursday, Dec. 5, on the Oakland University campus, Rochester Hills. See Thursday's entertainment pages for a story about the many family shows offered for the holidays in metropolitan Detroit.

Road work Hills identifies its improvement priorities

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Widening 12 Mile, Orchard Lake and Haggerty roads and Northwestern Highway are some of the suggested county thoroughfare improvements that Farmington Hills officials would like undertaken immediately.

The suggestions are among a list of eight proposed projects included in a recent letter from Mayor Jan Dolan to Oakland County Road Commission Managing Director John Grubba. The letter accompanied a road commission-issued questionnaire designed to determine communities' road improvement needs.

"We thought we would take this opportunity to convey some of our deep concerns about the need for major road

improvements on the county's road system in Farmington Hills and the growing decline and quality of life in our city because of inadequate roads," Dolan wrote.

"In fact, we have determined that our most critical and pressing problem is that of improving our major road system and finding the necessary fiscal resources that will permit us to undertake needed improvement projects," she continued.

City and county road officials agree that development in many communities — Farmington Hills, Troy and Southfield — is booming, but the major road system has not been keeping pace.

Please turn to Page 5

Support picks up for help network

By Wayne Peal
staff writer

It was the kind of incident that leaves public safety officials shaking their heads.

The woman had just wheeled into her garage when she noticed a funny smell coming from the family van.

Nearly panic stricken, the woman dialed her husband's work number. He, in turn, told her to call the fire department. But the confused woman couldn't remember which of four nearby departments served her street.

dialed the operator, who — noting her telephone exchange — put her in touch with the Auburn Hills Fire Department.

But there was a problem. The newly hired dispatcher couldn't locate her house.

Despite her telephone number, the woman didn't live in Auburn Hills. She lived in Rochester Hills — nearly six miles away.

By the time they got a hold of us, 11 minutes had passed, Michael Spangler, assistant fire chief, recalled. "The garage was a total loss."

It could have been worse. No one was injured.

Please turn to Page 2



RANDY BOWEN/staff photographer

Farmington Hills authorized an engineering survey to determine West Farmington Cemetery's legal boundaries. Some graves in the historic cemetery, at 12 Mile and Haggerty, might have to be moved if 12 Mile is widened.

Pupils' scores slightly higher

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Farmington Public Schools students showed a slight overall improvement, with one exception, in 1985 state-mandated achievement tests given annually to all Michigan fourth-, seventh- and 10th-graders.

Farmington's seventh-graders showed a two percentage point decline in math scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) evaluation, where math and reading skills are tested.

Results show a percentage of students passing at least 75 percent of objectives on each test. A pupil must answer two of three questions correctly to pass an objective.

Math objectives total 28 for each grade and include fractions, proportions and geometry. Reading objectives number from 23 to 35 and include vocabulary, comprehension and critical reading.

Of 9,788 total Farmington students, 2,181 were tested during the last week of September and first week of October. Results for southeast Michigan school districts were recently released, with statewide results to follow.

LOOKING AT a four-year trend, fourth-grade scores increased nine percentage points and 10th-grade scores five points, which MEAP District Coordinator Connie Mason considers a "large increase." Middle school scores remained "level" — within one to two points.

Coordinator for five years, Mason was previously Eagle Elementary reading specialist where she worked with MEAP scores. She is currently Farmington's coordinator for gifted programming.

Please turn to Page 4

what's inside

Around Farmington . . .	8B
Classifieds . . . Sections C, D	
Crossword puzzle . . .	5C
Entertainment . . .	4B
On the agenda . . .	4A
Police/fire news . . .	4A
Shopping cart . . .	1-2C
Sports . . .	1-3B
Suburban life . . .	5-7B

News line . . . 477-5450
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