

Farmington Observer

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Farmington, Michigan

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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 3200 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

FAREWELL, Lew!
Friday, Jan. 17, will be Lew Schulman Day in Farmington and Farmington Hills in recognition of the Farmington Public Schools superintendent.

Schulman will retire Dec. 31, after nine years as superintendent and 19 years with the district.

He will be honored that night at a banquet in Vladimir, Farmington Hills.

The cocktail hour begins at 6:15 p.m. Dinner, the program and dancing will follow. The cost is \$15 per person. For reservations, call the school district's personnel office: 477-1900.

A NEW hospice is in the works.
Oak Hill Care Center in Farmington Hills has won Michigan Department of Public Health approval to dedicate six of its beds for a hospice program.

The Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeastern Michigan earlier recommended approval.

HE'S a degree winner.
Daniel Clendish of Farmington Hills earned a doctor of philosophy degree from Drew University, Madison, N.J.

NOW on board.
Farmington Hills Fire Department has sworn in nine new probationary members.

Taking the Fire Fighters' Oath Nov. 19 were Norbert Leppanen, Station 1; Alan Ellis, Daniel Lacy, James Potoczki and Christopher Yanosy, Station 2; John Wells, Station 3; and Jeffrey Medbury, Gerald Eizen and Michael Peste, Station 4.

AN HONORS winner.
Junior Michelle Laforet of Farmington Hills was inducted into the National Honor Society's Golden Key Chapter at Michigan State University, East Lansing.
She also was inducted into Alpha Epsilon Delta, an honors society for pre-medical students.

ACTIVE on campus.
Sophomore Tami Horneet of Kalamazoo, formerly of Farmington, was elected social chairman of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
She also was promoted to assistant continuity director of radio station WDR-FM, Kalamazoo.

GAINING a first-hand look.
Junior Sara Cline of Farmington Hills is studying in Guadalajara, Mexico, as part of the off-campus studies program at Albion College, Albion.

MAKING music.
David Troiano of Farmington Hills sang at the Choral Tour Benefit for Marygrove College in Detroit Dec. 6.
The Marygrove graduate majored in music.

FOOTNOTES: It's fairly well known that Philip Power, publisher of the Observer & Enterprise Newspapers and a descendant of Farmington pioneer Arthur Power, introduced the Farmington Observer in 1907.
But only two history buffs probably know who founded the Farmington Enterprise, which Power purchased and merged with the Observer.
Edgar Holton Bloomer published the first issue of the Enterprise on Nov. 2, 1898. Bloomer died in 1909 at age 64.

Group home ruling draws reaction

'It (group home placement) is not the purview of the city. But that doesn't mean there aren't areas that can't be improved.'

— Jan Dolan, Hills mayor

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Local officials were not surprised by the state Supreme Court ruling that upheld lower court decisions on placement of group homes for mentally retarded and mentally ill people in residential neighborhoods.

"I was not surprised. It was almost expected," Farmington Hills Mayor Jan Dolan said.

"What it tells me is that all we can do is make sure there is 1,500 feet be-

tween them (group homes) and then there is no violation of the state law."

State law, as upheld by the high court, does not restrict placement of group homes in residential neighborhoods in any way other than not allowing facilities to be within 1,500 feet of each other.

"Other than that, it (group home placement) is not the purview of the city," Dolan said. "But that doesn't mean there aren't areas that can't be improved."

DOLAN CALLS for more open com-

munication between mental health agency representatives and residents and city officials. Mental health officials could be more understanding and sensitive to residents' fear, apprehension and concern about group home placement, Dolan said. "They should work with the community," she said.

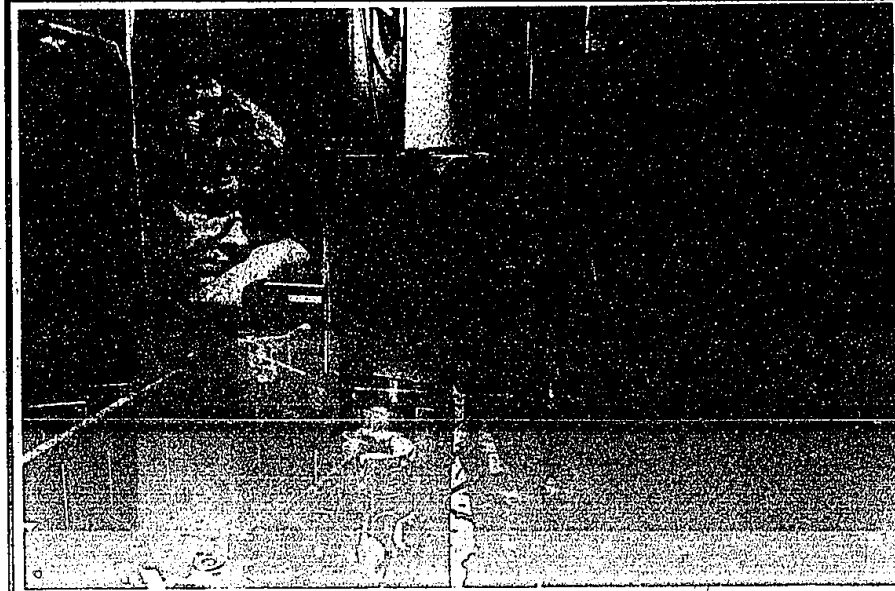
Eight group homes are in Farmington Hills.

Farmington Mayor William Hartsock said his opinion of the high court ruling could not be specific because he had not yet read it. But the city's two

group homes did not solicit overwhelming outcry from the public. "I think we are a pretty open-minded community," he said.

State Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, called the ruling "almost anti-climatic." That's especially true, he said, when considering the Supreme Court consistently refused to review similar appellate court cases. The high court justices probably decided to review the group home issue and

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Laser coordinator Mel Drumm gazes at the laser that beams colors to the planetarium for the museum's laser-light show.

Most of the equipment, including the laser, is housed in a room beneath the planetarium.

JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Laser-light show lights up the sky

"Ornaments," the holiday laser-light show featured at the Cranbrook Institute of Science planetarium, may be the most powerful color laser show in the country.

That's according to Cranbrook Institute of Science laser coordinator Mel Drumm. He recently installed a new system which has color ranging from the standard red, yellow, green and blue to brilliant purples, hot pinks, crimson, violet and other colors.

An interview with Drumm will be featured in Thursday's Entertainment section.

The show is directed to family audiences, where favorite Christmas tunes — both old and new — come to life in vibrant color. Featured are the Muppets in their unique version of the "Twelve Days of Christmas," Bing Crosby crooning "White Christmas," and old faithful "Frosty the Snowman," back for a second visit.

"ORNAMENTS" WILL be shown at 3:45 p.m. Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout December as well as at 2:15 p.m. Dec. 26, 27, 30 and 31.

Although 3- and 4-year-olds normally are not permitted at planetarium shows, they are invited to attend this special holiday program, sponsored in part by radio station WJR.

The fee for all laser shows is \$1.25.

In addition to the regular museum admission of \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors.

For more information, call 645-3230.

Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills, is a division of the Cranbrook Educational Community, which also includes the Cranbrook Academy of Art and Museum and the Cranbrook School.

Early education Schools turn the spotlight on pilot program

By Casey Harts
staff writer

Graham Lewis acknowledges Farmington is "looking for recognition" from the school district's program at Fairview and Alameda Early Education Centers.

He sees Farmington as a frontrunner in the national education movement for children from birth to 6 years.

"The program is now in its infancy," he said. "The concept is significant. We are building a structure in curriculum."

Lewis is Farmington's assistant superintendent for special education services. Effective Jan. 1, he will become acting school superintendent.

SINCE THE centralization of Farm-

ington's preschool children in 1978, a steady growth has been charted. Today 700 children are served each week in Farmington's Early Education Program, an increase from 181 students in the winter of 1978, Lewis said.

About 100 served today are special education students; this continues to grow also, he added.

The program began at Fairview in 1971, expanding to Alameda when that school was closed in 1982.

Today, the program has reached capacity in both schools, according to Richard Rutter, program supervisor at Fairview.

"What you see is unique," Rutter told board members who met in the Fairview gymnasium. "It is as different from other levels as elementary education is from high school."

The program's philosophy "en-



Robin Howo of West Bloomfield Township helps her 2-year-old daughter, Callin, fingerpaint at Farmington Public Schools' Fairview Early Childhood Center, 25500 Oak Crest Court. A companion center is the Alameda Early Childhood Center, 32000 Alameda. About 700 youngsters are served each week at the two sites in Farmington Hills.

OAKLAND COUNTY Assistant Prosecutor Paul Fischer said he did not

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