



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Pet care

Last week was special for Dr. John Richardson, who celebrated 25 years as a veterinarian during National Pet Week May 5-9. He visited Farmington elementary as part of his service to the community throughout the week. Above, he tells second graders at Wooddale Elementary in Farmington Hills how to take care of their pets. Richardson also donated some children's books about pets to each library branch.

Local news you can use Local news you c

Poppy days

Veterans ready for annual fund-raiser

Poppy Days are coming up Thursday through Saturday, May 15-17, in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Post and auxiliary members of the three local veteran service groups will take part in this nationwide program in memory of those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

Poppy sales originated in 1920. Since then, they have been the primary source of private dollars for helping needy veterans and their families in the community and in hospitals throughout the state.

The familiar red poppy is, handmade in poppy shops run by volunteers. In these shops, disabled and hospitalized veterans make the flowers by hand, petal by petal. It is part of a physical and psychological therapy program by veterans for veterans.

These poppies are purchased from the shop and offered to the public for contributions.

IT IS not necessary to be a member of any veterans group to receive assistance. Needy cases should be called to the attention of the service officer of any veterans post or auxiliary.

Locally, such requests can be forwarded to VFW Post 2289 or American Legion Post 190 in Farmington Hills or Grovers-Walker American Legion Post 346 in Farmington.

The poppy as the memorial flower for American war dead is a tradition that began in the years following the first world war. Veterans returning to their homes in this country remembered the wild poppies that lined the devastated battlefields of France and Flanders. The soldiers of all nations came to look upon this flower as a living symbol of their dead comrades' sacrifice.

A Canadian officer, Col. John McCrae, who was killed during the war, immortalized the flower in his famous poem, "In Flanders Fields." Its opening lines are familiar to millions of people around the world:

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row

RETURNING SERVICEMEN brought with them memories of the battlefield poppies, and the flower soon took on sacred significance. The red blossom became the flower of remembrance for the men whose lives had been lost in the defense of freedom. As a memorial emblem for the war dead, it underlined the plight of those men who did not die, but returned permanently disabled. The poppy soon became a symbol of honoring the dead and assisting the

living victims of the war.

Soon after the Armistice, patriotic organizations in different countries began conducting poppy campaigns. The flowers, made by disabled servicemen, raised funds for relief work among handicapped veterans and their families. Wearing a poppy came to mean honor the dead and help the living.

The homecoming of the 32nd Red

Arrow Division (Michigan and Wisconsin) in Milwaukee in June 1919 marked the beginning of the American poppy program. A coffee and doughnut booth decorated with paper poppies was stripped of its floral ornaments twice; passersby, who took the poppies left contributions on the counter. Several hundred dollars was contributed for the benefit of disabled veterans.

One of the women in the booth proposed that distributing poppies on the streets at the time of Memorial Day would be an excellent way to raise money needed for rehabilitation work. As a result, this group conducted a poppy distribution on the Saturday before Memorial Day, 1920. They netted \$5,500 during the first regularly conducted Poppy Day on record.

Cities' exchange day is expanded this year

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Both Farmington Hills and Farmington this year passed on the blind draw for Mayor's Exchange Day.

Instead, both cities chose to participate in an annual exchange with communities faced with similar problems and concerns.

Farmington Hills will exchange with Rochester Hills in northern Oakland County for four days — Tuesday, May 13, Thursday, May 15, Sunday, May 18, and Monday, May 19. On the 15th and 19th, Farmington Hills will travel to Rochester Hills. On the remaining two days, Farmington Hills will serve as host.

Farmington will exchange with Fraser in Macomb County May 20-21. Farmington will travel to Fraser on the 20th and will host Fraser on the 21st.

The Greater Michigan Foundation — sponsor of Mayor's Exchange Day for the last 20-30 years — gives cities two choices of selecting an exchange partner. Cities of similar populations can choose one another through a blind draw. The second option, and the one chosen by Farmington and Farmington Hills, calls for communities making arrangements with each other.

After several years of curtailing active involvement in Mayor's Exchange Day Farmington Hills is now taking a different approach.

"THIS YEAR, I thought, under my administration, that we had better make it a beneficial day," Farmington Hills Mayor Joe Alkateeb said. "We will exchange ideas and learn and put it into the betterment of the city."

Although the event is designed to be an exchange between elected city officials, particularly mayors, Farmington Hills this year is involving the administrative staff.

"We are trying to make it much more beneficial," Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said. Rochester Hills and Farmington Hills are of similar size, both have

township roots and are fairly new cities, Alkateeb said. Both communities are growing by leaps and bounds and faced with similar problems accompanying that growth, such as traffic.

"They are experiencing a number of similar problems, concerns, positives and negatives," Farmington Hills Director of Special Services Douglas Gayner said. "We're going to spend a day there looking at their operations."

BECAUSE FARMINGTON Hills is just getting started with planning and operating its own park, city officials are interested in learning how Rochester Hills operates its park, as well as its similar computer system.

Exchange of ideas take place with just about any topic, including relationships between councils and other boards and commissions, engineering, and even ordinances, Costick said.

Farmington chose to exchange with Fraser for the same type of reasons Farmington Hills chose Rochester Hills. Both Fraser and Farmington have many similarities, including public safety departments — as opposed to separate police and fire departments — and Downtown Development Authorities (DDA).

"We'll exchange ideas, look at each other's programs — how they do things. We'll learn from each other," Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said.

Students are awarded by the local PTA group

Fourteen Farmington elementary students were rewarded May 5, for their hard work on this year's local Parent Teacher Association Reflections competitions.

The group met before the Farmington school board to be recognized and receive trophies, pins and certificates for their work in the areas of visual arts, literature and music.

The competition was broken down for judging into two groups involving kindergarten to grade three, and grades four and five.

The 1986 project theme, according to organizer and Kenbrook Elementary PTA president Nancy Fuller, was "From Liberty's View." Entries reflecting this theme were submitted in January from five of the six PTA elementary schools — Eagle, Flanders, Gill, Kenbrook and Longacre.

Andrew Wayne's entry, which did not place the 1st level, was sent to the state, where he took first place out of 723 entries, Fuller said. She presented awards in the three

areas to the following students:

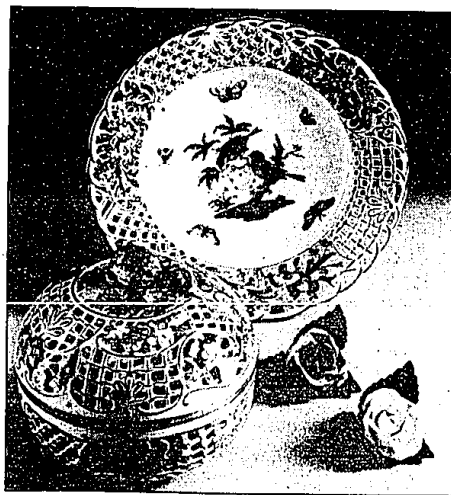
• Literature (K-3): first place went to Alexa Ervasti from Kenbrook, while Kathleen Clnard of Longacre placed second and Marjorie Rudick of Eagle took third.

• Literature (4-5): Rebecca Koning of Longacre, who also placed second in state competition, took first place. In second place from Kenbrook was Heather Stoneman and in third was Brandi Brower from Gill.

• Art (K-3): Two Flanders students placed in this category, Inge-Lise Baedler in first and Matthew Patton in second. Joshua Klemme of Kenbrook placed third.

• Art (4-5): Longacre's Michelle Welsing placed first and Gill's Paul O'Brien placed second.

• Music (K-3): Michael Merenda of Eagle took first place.
• Music (4-5): Both from Longacre, first-place winner was Christopher Temperelli and second place was Stephanie David.



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