

Eight gardens open
for visitors, 5B



All-Star
affair, 1B

Hills parks election
coming Tuesday, 2A

Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

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

A PUZZLING situation. A Farmington Hills couple will try to snap 1,600 pieces into place faster than the nation's best puzzlers during the 1986 American Publishing National Jigsaw Puzzle Championships Aug. 16-17 in Athens, Ohio. Linda Vedder and Ronald Vedder are vying for cash prizes totaling \$11,250 and a chance to break the record doubles time of 1:05.13. The Vedders complete about 20 puzzles yearly.

PAVING'S on tap. Barfield Drive residents will have a newly paved road by summer's end.

Farmington Hills City Council established a special assessment district to finance residents' portion of the project's \$156,588 cost. The city will pay 20 percent. Average cost for a property owner is estimated at \$1,729. The project includes paving Barfield, from Brookplace Court to Fink Street; Brookplace Court, from Duncan Drive to its southern end; Duncan Drive, from Brookplace Court to Creekside and Creekside, from 10 Mile Road to Duncan Drive.

KNOW what number to call. Farmington Hills City Hall and the Farmington Police Department have a new telephone system. The new service began June 14. City hall's main switchboard number, 474-6115, and the police-fire emergency number, 477-0911, remain the same. Benefits include more incoming lines, a smoother system of transferring calls between departments and all-around greater efficiency, city administrators said.

TIME is waning. Friday, July 25, is the deadline to nominate someone for the Senior Citizen of the Year, co-sponsored by the Michigan State Fair and the Office of Services to the Aging. The winner will be honored on Senior Citizens Day, Monday, Aug. 25, at the Michigan State Fair. Submit nominations to Office of Services to the Aging, P.O. Box 30026, Lansing, MI 48909.

HE'S honored. State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, received an American Lung Association of Michigan Public Service Achievement Award. Faxon was the primary sponsor of Senate Bill 198, the Michigan Clean Indoor Air Bill, which would restrict smoking in public buildings to designated smoking areas.

NOTE our hours. The Farmington Observer summer hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. We're at 33203 Grand River, in the back of the Metro Bank building in Downtown Farmington.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington Public Schools will spend almost \$1 million in 1986-87 to cover the costs of purchasing equipment, repairs and maintenance for the district.

Liquor law crackdown begins

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A crackdown on businesses selling alcoholic beverages to minors is only the first in a series of planned efforts by the Farmington Hills Police De-

partment to control teen-age drinking.

"We will be increasing our efforts in the bars. We've been getting complaints about Class C (by the glass) establishments," Police Chief William Dwyer said.

As a result of "Operation Party Blitz" — a 10-day (June 6-15) task force operation targeted for the high-school graduation season — police cited six licensed liquor establishments for either allegedly selling to minors or being open after hours.

"We knew in the past, there have been problems (with drinking) at graduation time. We originally planned on this in conjunction with graduation," Dwyer said.

Also as a result of the operation, police arrested 55 minors in alleged possession. They also arrested seven people for allegedly furnishing alcohol to a person under 21, 16 for allegedly having open intoxicants in a motor vehicle, one for allegedly con-

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Rights of father at issue

By Lorelei McClellan
staff writer

A Farmington man lost the right to visit the child he contends is his son after a June 2 court decision when it was determined someone else was the boy's biological father.

After a divorce trial that took two years and cost Harold James Atkinson \$56,000, Oakland County Circuit Judge Richard Kuhn awarded Terri Atkinson, the boy's biological mother, full custody of the 4-year-old.

Kuhn based his decision on blood tests that proved father and child were biologically unrelated.

Midway through the Atkinson vs. Atkinson trial in Oakland County Circuit Court, Terri Atkinson requested a blood test to prove that someone other than Harold Atkinson was the child's biological father.

"It was the first indication of any kind I had that he might not be my biological son."

"I love my son, and he is my son, that hasn't changed. Nothing is going to change that," Atkinson said.

"I was the one who went through the Lamaze classes. I was there when he was born. I was the first one who held him. From that very first

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Dorothy McQueen, at her desk in her Farmington Hills residence.

Hills volunteer working to aid the mentally ill

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

It has been 11 years since Dorothy McQueen first realized her son, the oldest of her two children, had been stricken with a mental illness.

At a time when she expected her son to be in his final year of college, McQueen was instead approaching Oakland County Probate Court to have her son hospitalized.

"Some people are sick, but they will not recognize that they're ill. They won't go to a doctor. My son was like that. We had to go to the court route," McQueen said in a quiet but firm voice.

"I thought this couldn't be happening to me. You're in a state of shock when that happens. After a couple of years, I began to pull out of it."

McQueen rallied and began to organize a support and advocacy group for families of mentally ill persons. Last month, the Farmington Hills resident was named the 1986 Public Citizen of the Year by the Michigan Chapter-National Association of Social Workers for her work on behalf of mentally ill persons.

people

IN ADDITION to organizing the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Michigan, McQueen has served as president of the Parents and Relatives Association of Clinton Valley Center and is chairwoman of the center's Citizens Advisory Board.

Her work serves a more personal need. "Having to do what I do keeps me on an even keel," she said.

Her particular strength lies in her organizational ability. "I'm not creative. I just want to keep everything moving along," she said.

By 1976, she had put together a group called Relatives of the Mentally Ill. Four years ago, that group incorporated and became part of a national organization.

Today, the Farmington Hills resident is the third president of the 500-member Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Michigan. Her tasks as

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Homeowners revive citywide alliance

This is the sixth and final installment in a series examining Farmington Hills' homeowner organizations and their impact on the city.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

As Farmington Hills steps away from its rural past and into an urbanized future, individual neighborhoods are finding they are not alone in problems they face.

Increasingly, neighborhoods on one side of a major road are contacting neighborhoods on the other side to compare notes, share concerns and gather strength in battling problems that accompany a community's growth — traffic, roads, drainage and zoning.

"I don't think that we alone can accomplish too much," said Jack Joyn, of Springbrook Homeowners Association. "We have good control within the subdivision. But there are times when a problem affects more than one subdivision. Things affect



Neighborhoods

the whole city, and I think we should be heard."

For that reason, Joyn and Springbrook's board of directors are leading a move to revive the former Council of Homeowners — an umbrella group of neighborhood representatives that organized when the city first incorporated in 1973.

SPRINGBROOK DIRECTORS are sponsoring a meeting at 7:30 to night in the large conference room in the Farmington Community Library, 32737 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, to

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Jack Joyn, overlooking the pond in the yard of his Springbrook subdivision residence.

Teen activities center opens

Farmington Youth Assistance will open its Summer Activities Center for area teens on Tuesday at the Shilwasee Center.

Hours on Tuesday will be 4-6 and 7-10 p.m. The drop-in center is in the Shilwasee School, on Shilwasee, between Orchard Lake and Nine Mile roads.

For the ninth year, the center will provide a fun place for teens 12-18 to go on warm summer evenings.

Regular center hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be reserved for field trips.

Many free activities are available. They include sports, video games, crafts, air hockey, pool and table tennis.

Movies, pizza and ice cream parties are often on the agenda.

FIELD TRIPS this year will include horseback riding, canoe trip, a visit to the Oakland County Wave Action Pool, a picnic at Kensington Metropark and an all-day trip to Bob-Le Island.

All teens need to participate is a one-time permission slip signed by their parents.

The center, sponsored by Farmington Youth Assistance, is funded by United Community Services, Farmington Public Schools and the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Sam Shivers, who has worked at the Farmington Training Center, is

the director this year. Assisting him will be four college-age assistants: Becky Ehle, Ken Zisholz, Ann Brown and Mary Beth Balog.

THE CENTER will be open for eight weeks. A dance Wednesday, Aug. 13, will cap the summer program.

The center is designed to meet the restlessness and short attention span of many young teens. Aside from providing safe recreation, it gives young people a neutral place to talk with each other and with a sympathetic adult staff and counselors.

Teens have "their own place" at a time of day when tensions between youngsters and their parents are often at their highest.

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