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Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

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HOME needed.

A host family is needed immediately to receive 16-year-old Leif Oskarsson from Stockholm, Sweden. Plans to host the foreign exchange student, arranged through Farmington Rotary Club, fell through at the last minute and club members are panicked.

"A family with teenagers would be ideal. But that is certainly not necessary," Rotarian Ted Michaels said. "Language will be no problem. He's had eight years of English."

A host family is needed from mid-August until after Christmas. Interested families should call Michaels at 661-2082. Michaels will arrange to meet with families at their convenience.

MEETING again.

Representatives of Farmington Hills' homeowners associations will gather to continue discussing the possibilities of reviving the former Council of Homeowners Association at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11. The meeting will be in the large conference room of the Farmington Community Library's Hills branch, 32737 12 Mile.

SIGNS of the times.

Farmington Hills resident and attorney David Haron told the city council last Monday he would support an ordinance change allowing signs to be posted on private property. Haron was warned recently when he placed a political sign for an upcoming judicial race on his front lawn, and was told by the city to take it down. He called the current ordinance prohibiting signs on lawns an "infringement on freedom of speech" and said the local law has a "chilling effect on the electoral process" by favoring incumbents.

Council agreed to reconsider the sign ordinance matter sometime in August.

RESOLUTION supported.

Farmington Hills City Council lent its support last week to an Oak Park resolution asking Congress to ban domestic manufacture or importation of plastic firearms, which are not detectable by standard security detection devices.

The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has approved the importation of plastic firearms.

CONTINUING agreement.

Farmington Hills will continue its agreement to provide 24-hour emergency dispatch services for the Village of Franklin. But this year the cost of the service will increase from \$1,000 a month to \$1,250. The increased charge parallels a recent salary increase for Hills dispatchers as well as an increase in the number of calls from Franklin, according to Hills officials.

FOOTNOTES:

One year ago this week — A 17- and 16-year-old were the first Farmington Hills residents issued violations under the city's controversial host party ordinance.

Permits for spas sought in Hills

By Joanna Maliszewski
staff writer

The first two applications have been made for permits to operate body massage businesses under Farmington Hills' controversial five-month old massage regulation ordinance.

The first application has been made by Filippo Orlando of Fraser to open a body massage business called Sensations at 39257 Grand River. The second applicant, Roy Hampton of Novi, is seeking to establish a body massage business called Jessica's at 33032 Nine Mile.

"The applications are still being processed," Farmington Hills City Clerk Joan Reynolds said.

Both applicants were unavailable for comment.

As required by the city's massage regulation ordinance, police are investigating both applicants, while building, planning and fire departments are inspecting business premises.

Under the ordinance, the business premises must also be inspected by an officer of the Oakland County Department of Health.

Each of the city departments involved in the application processing is required to recommend to the city clerk whether a one-year operating license should be granted.

"We are currently doing the investigations regarding the applicants. It should be finalized within about 10 days. Then we will make a recommendation to the clerk's office," Police Chief William Dwyer said.

The massage ordinance is designed to regulate massages and the businesses that provide them by requiring an operating permit. Employees of the businesses that intend to provide massages are also required to obtain a permit.

The need for a local ordinance, according to city and police officials, stems from the fact that because of funding cuts, the state is no longer

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By Casey Hans
staff writer

Enhancements to many Farmington school buildings and capital purchases are beginning as the district makes a major thrust to start its \$2.5 million 1986-87 building improvement program.

"We wanted to make this budget come alive," said James Abernethy, trustee and chairman of the board's building and site committee since his election to the school board. The initial improvements list, discussed by the school board July 10, was estimated to cost the district from \$700,000 to \$800,000. Bids are now being taken on some of the items.

In the past, the district spent about \$1 million each year in general maintenance for its buildings, according to information presented during budget sessions.

This year, the board agreed to budget a total \$2.5 million to begin what they believe is a much-needed capital program for deteriorating buildings.

"I visualize we will see more and more of these lists," Abernethy added. "This list represents a combination of things high on the list of building administrators and central office as well."

Discussed at a recent board meeting were several key items on the list, including capital equipment items, making the windows at Harrison High School energy efficient and clearing an asbestos problem, either by encasing or removal, in some of the schools.

OFFICIALS WERE also looking to begin with items visible to the



Beverly Cornell, who ranks swimming as the best exercise and the best therapy, is instructor for as many as she can get into the water. One of her students this summer is Kati Hood, a 5-year-old Farmington Hills resident who takes her classes in Woodbrooke Hills Swim and Tennis Club.

Achiever

She swims her way past obstacles

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

BEVERLY CORNELL HAD a bout with pneumonia last winter and was told to stay out of the water for at least a week. But she returned to Farmington YMCA for her mile-and-a-half swim every day as usual, forced herself to take extra deep breaths, and fought off the malady within three days.

"The bone disease still makes me more susceptible to these kinds of physical restriction that they can problems, but I take responsibility still be an athlete."

"I want to reach the physical impairment stop me from my goals, therapists to let them know we're so I swim right through it without here. I want to let every person with any disability to know they can play anything from pingpong to juggling throwing whatever age they are. I want to reach all the amputees who are hiding in their homes, and particularly those who think they

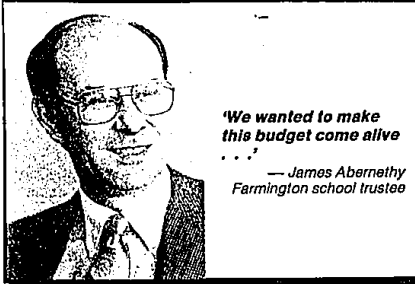
will never swim again," she said. "I want better games, more competition and more sponsorship to send our state winners to the nationals."

THIS SPRING Cornell took three first-place medals in the Michigan SA Masters and was the only swimmer in the competition with a disability. Two week later, again the only swimmer with a disability, she came in for the 10th place spot (in backstroke) in the YMCA National Masters competition.

A month later she took four first place medals in the Michigan Wheelchair games and in those games she's made a total of eight records. Daily workouts at the Y in winter or Woodbrooke Hills Swim and Tennis Club during the summer are supplemented with teaching mother and

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School building fixups begin



"We wanted to make this budget come alive"

— James Abernethy
Farmington school trustee

The school board agreed to budget a total \$2.5 million this year to begin what they believe is a much-needed capital program for deteriorating buildings.

community. "There will be an effort ... to have some things done for September," Abernethy added. But the program is expected to be ongoing throughout the year, officials said.

Building principals, teachers and custodial staff members will give their opinions about needed items for a building before money is doled out for projects, according to superintendent Graham Lewis. He said he

wants employees to have a feel for the total building and the total needs — not just an isolated need such as a piece of equipment.

In previous years, the district allocated money equally between the buildings. "Some of the older buildings may have greater needs," Lewis added. The new approach takes each priority item individually and distributes the money where needed, he added.

"We must take advantage of the people who have to use these buildings," Abernethy added, "and listen carefully to them."

He said the school board seeks an overall awareness of buildings throughout the district, so problems can be corrected in a timely fashion.

ABERNETHY HAS also been selected to chair this year's building and site committee, which is expected to take an active role in monitoring the major capital improvements throughout the coming school year.

His appointment is expected to be formally approved at the upcoming Aug. 5 meeting, according to board president Helen Prutow. Also expected to be named as committee members are trustees R. Jack Inch and Helen Ditzbach.

A specific project's visibility and the dollar amount will determine how involved the building and site committee will become, he said. The committee will oversee major building projects as they are proposed.

Abernethy said he'd "heavily support the idea of investing in upgrading ... existing buildings" instead of building new structures.

Much of the first phase of the capital improvements are items which will be purchased, and not building renovations, Lewis said. "We want to see how the money flows," he added.

The full list of capital improvement items discussed by the school board in July was not made available.

The board is considering a Saturday workshop where district goals — including those needed capital improvements — would be discussed, according to Prutow.

Work options offered

By Christine Rizk
staff writer

Officials in Farmington and Farmington Hills are considering a joint prisoner work program that will send misdemeanor offenders to work rather than to jail.

The Farmington Hills City Council approved the pilot venture last week. Farmington officials are reviewing the program, Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said. The program could begin as early as Aug. 16.

Modeled after a similar program in Livonia — operating since 1971 — the program would save taxpayers money and provide a free labor force for minor jobs, police and city officials in both communities said. The program would be available only to male offenders until the success of the program can be determined.

"I THINK it has the potential to be very effective and beneficial if you take those people who would normally be convicted of non-serious crimes and put them to work," Farmington Director of Public Safety Frank Lauboff said. "I don't foresee any problems with the program."

The program would apply to people convicted of misdemeanors — offenses punishable by 90 days or less in the county jail or up to a \$500 fine.

Individuals eligible for the work program would include those convicted of alcohol-related offenses, malicious destruction of property under \$100, reckless driving and other related offenses, according to city officials.

Participants in the program would be given tasks such as highway trash pickup, cleaning city parks, general maintenance work involving simple repairs or shrubbery planting and those jobs not limited to employees under union contract in either city.

WORKERS WOULD NOT use power tools, a stipulation included in the proposed program to limit liability, Farmington Hills police Inspector Ernest Miller said.

The program was discussed prior to Farmington Hills council approval to determine if enough work could

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