

Drug program begins
at elementary level, 1B



Falcons
title, 3D

Area's early years
gain the spotlight, 8C

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.

HELPING keep Michigan beautiful.
Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. awarded top honors to three Farmington entrants in 1985 awards program.
One of five named to the non-profit organization's Hall of Fame was Walter Sundquist, owner of Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home. A Distinguished Service Plaque went to Michigan Bell of Farmington. Senior Girl Scout Troop 1784, also a local group, received a Small Michigan Plaque.

TO help Farmington planning commissioners guide new projects with a theme, a design criteria is being established.
"We're trying to develop an aesthetic yardstick," said Richard Donney, chairman of the Downtown Development Authority beautification committee.
The guidelines will help commissioners when reviewing site plans, he added.

DEBATE nears.
The two contenders for the 15th State Senate District seat will debate at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Michigan Inn, Southfield.
The Fox of WJBK-TV will moderate the debate between state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, and Lathrup Village Mayor Pro Tem Frank Brock, a Republican.
Panelists include Southfield Eccentric editor Sandra Armbruster and Detroit Free Press-Oakland staff writer Jacquelyn Boyle.
Cost for the sitdown breakfast is \$10.
For reservations, call the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce: 474-3440.

STUDYING up.
Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick spent Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 attending the International City Management Association annual meeting in San Diego.
The meeting consisted of educational programs, workshops and seminars dealing with city management. It also focused on general leadership and management strategies.
"I always feel it's worthwhile," Costick said. "I always feel rejuvenated. It provides new information, new ideas and an opportunity to be with municipal administrators from throughout the country."
THIS is No Crack Week, as proclaimed by Gov. James Blanchard.
Straight Inc., a non-profit, privately funded, outpatient program, urges all parents to take an active role at home in eliminating the drug problem, which has reached epidemic proportions in Michigan and throughout the country.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Lewis Schulman's last day on the job will be Dec. 31, 1985, after nine years as Farmington Public Schools superintendent.
With tear-filled eyes and words of goodbye, the Farmington Board of Education Oct. 1 released Lewis Schulman from his three-year contract so he can retire.

'A sense of realism'



Firefighters Steve Norris (left) and Terry Helman demonstrate use of an extrication tool to rip off a car roof.

Drill — learn how not to burn

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

It's midnight on a snowy winter's night.
Suddenly, the smoke alarm blares, awakening all five family members in their two-story house. Coldly rolling out of bed onto the floor, they find flames lapping at the bedroom doors and smoke curling around the door jams.
It's a perfect time for panic to intervene.
Instead, family members carefully crawl to their bedroom windows and climb to safety down portable ladders. The family meets for a head count at the gray mailbox across the street.
In this potential setting, EDITH had come to the rescue.

EDITH — that's the acronym for Exit Drills in the Home. It's in the home where 80 percent of all fires occur. Last year, there were 720,000 house fires in the United States. More than 5,500 people died.
EDITH was played up time and again Oct. 5 during the Farmington Hills Fire Department's open house, the local kick-off to National Fire Prevention Week.
"It's your fire department and we do this for your benefit so you can see what's available to you," Fire Chief Richard Marinucci told the crowd on the first sunny afternoon in a week.

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Mark Gebhard of Farmington Hills and his daughter, Kelly, 2, watch the rappelling demonstration.

65 mph: Higher rural limit on hold

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Armed with statistics, state and local police authorities are convinced the 55 mph speed limit should remain in place.
Politicians and those in governmental agencies are not as convinced.
Though the U.S. Senate has previously voted to allow states to raise the limit to 65 mph on rural interstates, the U.S. House has twice rejected it.
But it appears the issue has a chance of going back to the drawing board. A conflict between the House and Senate last week over raising the national speed limit more than likely aborted chances for passage of a \$52 billion federal highway bill.
The speed limit issue was attached to the federal highway bill.
Yet at least one U.S. senator is expected to fight House opposition by attaching the speed limit provision to another piece of transportation legislation.
Despite politicians' attempts to continue the fight, police authorities remain steadfast in their opposition to any national speed limit increase.



Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Michigan State Police traffic division.

"AT THIS point, we are saying and we believe the 55 mph limit has contributed greatly to the reduction of fatalities and serious injuries since 1974 (when the law was enacted)," said Sgt. Marshall Weeks of the Michigan State Police traffic division.
"We believe the 55 mph limit has made a favorable impact that would unfavorably impact the fatalities. Let's not totally throw out a good thing."
Approximately 2,000-4,000 lives have been saved since the 55 mph limit was established, Weeks said, citing a national transportation report.
Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department's traffic division agrees with the link between safety and lower speeds.
"There is just a tremendous number of statistics that indicate the 55 mph limit has reduced accidents," said Cranston, who supports maintaining the current national limit.

While police stress the apparent link between lives saved and slower speeds, politicians maintain that the 55 mph limit is not alone responsible for saving lives. Other safety improvements — mandatory seat belts, improved auto and highway design — have increasingly contributed to improved highway safety.

THE ONE issue both sides agree on is that, for the most part, motorists today exceed the 55 mph limit.
"There is a tendency of the public

Farmington tuition policy debate begins

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Tuition is the issue.
Farmington school officials are debating how much, if anything, should be charged to foreign exchange students attending Farmington schools.
Also at issue is the district's policy on employees' children attending the schools — who must pay the current tuition rates of \$700 for elementary and \$1,150 for secondary grades. Trustee Janice Holnick requested a study on the question in August saying the policy charging tuition "has always bothered me."
The school board's policy committee met Tuesday night to discuss both district guidelines. No policy changes were made although opinions varied.
After studying other Oakland County school districts, Superintendent Graham Lewis reported Farmington's employee policy is "quite liberal." Other districts charge double the rate or do not allow children of employees to attend school at all, he said.

THE POLICY on tuition for foreign exchange students is key to the district, especially because of this year's unexpected student growth. Officials fear a future influx of foreign students who actually may be staying with relatives to receive an education instead of visiting for a "cultural experience."

"Being a foreign student is not as exotic as it once was," Lewis said. "The world is down the street; it's as close as the nearest airport."
"The potential is looming larger and larger every day."
The district currently accepts tuition students who are children of district employees, those who are moving into the district, those who have families building a house in the district or a senior student who completed junior year in the district and whose parents/guardians have moved away, according to policy.
They also have reviewed individual cases of exchange students, allowing a tuition waiver although the policy does not address it.
"The question is... are they coming for the education or the cultural visit?" Lewis said. "We've had cases where we've had people apply and say they were going to stay four years. I would allow one year as a visit... from another country. At that point, I feel we must charge (tuition) even if they could be living with relatives."

COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN and board Vice President Helen Ditzhazy concurred with Lewis' recommendation that the first year of

school for an exchange student be treated as a cultural visit but that they be charged tuition for additional years.

Ditzhazy has hosted 18 exchange students in her home. Seventeen were sponsored by Youth for Understanding — a known exchange program, for which free tuition has been allowed — and one a private exchange.
"That's the kind of kid I'm worried about," Ditzhazy added, saying some countries do not participate in YFU or other known programs. She does not want to see such exchange students penalized.

The district's policy is further hampered by an Immigration law.

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2-mill levy is sought

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority voted Tuesday to levy a 2-mill property tax on businesses in the DDA district.
The tax is expected to raise up to \$150,000 over seven years for maintenance and administrative expenses for the city's downtown rejuvenation project, according to a plan recently adopted by the DDA board and the city council.
The DDA vote was 8-0. Member JoAnn Soronen was absent.
By state law, the DDA board is empowered to levy the tax and will control money collected from the 2 mills, although the city council ultimately approves the authority's budget.
If timely public notice can be given, the public hearing for the 2-mill increase may be scheduled Monday, Nov. 3 — the same date scheduled for a hearing on the DDA's proposed tax increment financing plan.

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County race examined

Democratic challenger and former Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen and Republican incumbent Jack McDonald will square off for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners 27th District seat Tuesday, Nov. 4.
Spreen is counting on the law enforcement experience, name recognition and new ideas to lead him past the six-term incumbent commissioner.
McDonald is equally confident

because of his years of experience on the board of commissioners and knowledge of continuing issues.
The 27th District includes Farmington and most of Farmington Hills, the exception being the northeast and southeast corners. Oakland County's 27 commissioners serve two-year terms. Commissioners' 1986 base salary is \$16,089.
For a closer look at the 27th District race, see Page 8A.

LIFE
GOES
ON...

SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE