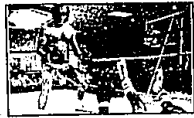


Charity cards shine with yule colors, 1C



The Hit Man, 1B

Verdict reached in fatal fight, 2A

Farmington Observer

Monday, October 13, 1986

Farmington, Michigan

40 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Farmington FOCUS

Schools are undergoing a renovation

By Casey Hays
staff writer

Renovating, upgrading and buying continues as the second phase of capital improvements in Farmington schools begins.

Project estimates range from \$900,000 to \$1.4 million. Projects include items such as lighting changes, gymnasium floors and ceiling television monitors, according to deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan.

"What we hope to do is develop this so you know all the major projects at a glance," superintendent Graham Lewis told the school board Oct. 7 during an administrative presentation.

Each school building, plus several departments, are included in the second phase. The cost estimate does the Farmington High School media center this year, a project that would be paid from the district's capital account.

Individual projects will be sent out for bid and any project of more than \$5,000 — an estimated 90 percent — will return to the board for approval.

This is the second phase of a \$2.5 million capital-needs program ap-

'What we hope to do is develop this so you know all the major projects at a glance.'

— Graham Lewis
superintendent

proved in the 1986-87 General Fund budget last June. It was prompted by the deterioration of many of the buildings in the district, estimated to need more than \$10 million in repairs.

TRUSTEE SUSAN Hennels called the most recent projects "an interesting list. There's a lot of variety of equipment and what they need done."

There was no mention in either the first or second phases of barrier-free work for school buildings; board President Helen Prutow requested a review of these needs.

The first phase included projects requested mainly by building principals, who inventoried their respective facilities to determine needs.

Please turn to Page 6

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.

LENDING a hand to North. Five percent of the total sales Thursday, Oct. 16, at Great Scott, 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, Farmington Hills, will be donated to support North Farmington High School's academic, club, drama, music and sports programs. Store hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Students will provide free grocery carryout. The North Farmington High School Booster Club and Great Scott are co-sponsoring the fund-raiser.

HE'S honored. Charles Damm, a veteran park administrator with 32 years of service at Kensington Metropark near Milford, was recognized at the Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual recognition dinner Oct. 12.

The Farmington resident retired March 15. Damm had been park superintendent at Kensington since 1958. He began service there in 1953.

UP, up and away. Joseph Blaszczak of Farmington Hills took third place in the Michigan Exchange Clubs model airplane championships Sept. 14 at the Ford Motor Co. Ulster Test Track. He placed third in half-a-gas free flight competition.

LEARNING CPR. Employees of the dental offices of Jacob and Solomon Fests took a class in cardiopulmonary resuscitation called "Race for Life" Friday morning.

"Our office is keeping up with the classes needed to ensure the safety of our patients," said employee Sherry Shoff.

ALL aglow. Farmington's central business district will light up for the holidays — for the second year in a row — as most merchants prepare for the season of giving.

The city will be aglow Nov. 15, according to project coordinator and downtown businessman E. Gregory Hohner.

Downtown trees and areas around the Downtown Farmington Center will be decked with 123 strings of miniature lights.

CHANGING posts. Farmington's Downtown Development Authority last week made two appointments and accepted one resignation involving subcommittees.

E. Gregory Hohner will serve as consumer committee chairman, replacing Robert Christ.

As a result, Hohner stepped down as services committee chairman. He will be replaced by Tom Oglesby.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — The American Civil Liberties Union is investigating the Farmington Hills house party ordinance. "We are doing some research to see if there has been a constitutional violation," said Dan Avrunin, legal assistance chairman for the ACLU's Oakland County Branch.



All eyes were airborne during the Farmington Hills Fire Department's National Fire Prevention Week open house Sunday, Oct. 5. One of the major attractions was the rappelling/rope demonstration. Firefighters Rich Lovino (on rope) and Jim Potocki (in bucket) demonstrated how firefighters rappel down a rope from the top of the aerial truck's 85-foot-long ladder. Ropes, knots and supporting gear were explained.

House race reviewed

Troy Democrat Gary Kohut will square off against Republican incumbent William Broomfield of Bloomfield Township in the U.S. House 18th District race Tuesday, Nov. 4.

A U.S. representative serves a two-year term in the lower house of Congress. A candidate must be a U.S. citizen and at least 25 years old. In Oakland County, the 18th District includes: • the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Troy, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Rochester Hills, Rochester, Auburn Hills, Novi, Milford, Wixom, Walled Lake and South Lyon. • the townships of West Bloomfield, Bloomfield, Commerce, Milford and Lyon. • the villages of Wolverine Lake, Franklin, Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills.

See Page 3A for profiles of the candidates.

She battles epidemic of public apathy



Marlene Elwell, Michigan coordinator for the now-defunct Freedom Council, played a prominent role in the state Republican convention in Detroit.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Marlene Elwell can never turn back. She knows too much to return to the days when she found little need to pay attention to the world outside of her home and family.

"Once you become aware, it is hard to turn it off. I can never go back to not paying attention," said Elwell, making headlines in the past year as Michigan coordinator of the now-defunct Freedom Council.

The Farmington Hills resident can't help but wish other Americans would open their eyes to what she sees as the erosion — divorce, premarital sex, drug abuse, abortion — of American society.

Like many raised with the traditional values of the 1940s and 1950s,

people

Elwell was taken back by the tumultuous 1960s.

The traditional family values that had served as a guide for her life and that she was attempting to pass on to her five children suddenly became passe.

While she was busy teaching her children about morality and values that were part of her Catholic upbringing, they were busy living in a world where everything their mother believed was unpopular and old-fashioned, said Elwell, 49.

"I was shocked about the change in mores. Everything that I believed in seemed to be attacked. A lot of

changes and turmoil occurred within my peer group," she said.

THE WOMEN'S movement, for example, caused many conflicts among women raised to believe that being a wife and mother was good. Suddenly, it wasn't the right thing to do, Elwell said.

As time wore on and the '60s turned to the '70s, Elwell grew tired of sitting back and just watching and hoping that all she believed in was not totally lost.

One of the changes that drew Elwell out of the home and into the spotlight was legalization of abortion in 1972. When Proposition B was put on the ballot that year, she dug in her heels, rolled up her sleeves and worked to defeat it.

Though she had no professional

Please turn to Page 6

FBI hunting robbery suspect

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

A convicted bank robber who escaped from a federal prison and is being sought in the robbery of a Farmington Hills bank branch "could wind up" on the 10 most wanted criminal list, a FBI spokesman said.

Robert Alan Litchfield, 38, of Quincy, Mass., is wanted for prison escape and is a suspect in the robbery of a bank in Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 11, and Ormond Beach, Fla., May 2, as well as Farmington Hills. Special Agent Edward Hullinger said.

with the August robbery of the Michigan National Bank branch at 21177 Orchard Lake Road. More than \$73,000 was taken.

In each of the three robberies, the gunman drove up and left in a taxi-cab, was neatly dressed, asked to speak to the person in charge by name, carried an airline pilot map case and either showed or implied possession of a gun and a bomb, Hullinger said.

In two of the robberies, including the one in Farmington Hills, the robber posed as an IRS agent, Hullinger said. KNOWN AS Florida's blockhouse bandit, Litchfield was arrested in March 1985 and charged with seven counts of bank robbery. He was described as a dapper gunman who favored a high lifestyle and expensive cars.

Litchfield was convicted in November and sentenced to 60 years in prison for his part in seven bank robberies in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area between 1983 and 1985. He escaped from the U.S. Penitentiary-Tallahassee in Alabama Feb. 4.

Litchfield became known as the "blockhouse bandit" because he robbed drive-up teller stations in block buildings, Hullinger said. "In some cases, he'd wait in the bushes, then put a gun at the tellers as they walked to their stations carrying money," Hullinger said. Litchfield served about three years in federal prison in the 1970s after being convicted of robbing a bank in St. Louis, Mo., in 1974.

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 2C
- Classifieds Sections B,G,D
- Crossword puzzle . . . 6B
- Entertainment . . . 4C
- On the agenda . . . 4A
- Police/fire calls . . . 11A
- Shopping Cart . . . 3-4B,5C
- Short takes . . . 3A
- Sports . . . 1-2B
- Suburban life . . . 1-2C

- News line . . . 477-5450
- Sports line . . . 591-2300
- Home delivery . . . 591-0500
- Classified line . . . 591-0900

The CLASSIFIEDS

One call does it all!

644-1070

Use Your MasterCard or Visa