

Preparing the bird
for the feast, 1C



WLAA
swim, 2B

Goodfellows look
to community, 4A

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.

FILLING positions.
The Farmington City Council reappointed William Bliss to the Board of Review. Bliss, a certified property appraiser, will serve through Dec. 31, 1989.
In Farmington Hills, David Winkler was appointed to the Beautification Commission. He will serve a two-year term until Feb. 1, 1989.

SETTING standards.
Robert Hurd of Farmington was appointed chairman of the American Society for Testing and Materials Natural Building Stones Committee public relations subsection committee.
The society is a voluntary group that establishes standards for all types of industry.
Hurd is president of Robert Hurd Inc., an advertising and public relations agency in Farmington.
He serves as managing director of the Farmington-based Marble Institute of America, a promotional and technical association dedicated to increasing the amount of dimensional stone used in North America.

MIXING it up.
The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce board of directors will hold its next holiday mixer 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16 at Jack Cauley Chevrolet, 7020 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield.
Jack Cauley Chevrolet will host members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Lakes area chambers. The mixer will provide a chance to meet other area business people. Bring your business cards.
For reservations, call the chamber: 474-3440.

DO you have spare time on your hands?
Boisford General Hospital is looking for volunteers of all ages. The Farmington Hills hospital has 40 departments in which volunteers can work.
Call Adele Emmert, Boisford volunteer services director, 471-8882.

SHE'S a money winner.
Sharon Brandt of Farmington Hills has won a \$300 check from Reader's Digest for an anecdote submitted to the magazine's department, "All In A Day's Work."
The contribution appears in the October issue.

PROTECTING your pets.
Dogs and cats are very susceptible to the toxic effects of antifreeze. When ingested, this sweet-tasting liquid interferes with kidney function and frequently results in death.
When changing antifreeze, properly dispose of any that is unused or old. Clean up spills. If a poisoning has occurred, contact your veterinarian, says the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Mothers Against Drunk Driving's Oakland County chapter will conduct a candlelight vigil at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in remembrance of those killed and injured in alcohol-related crashes.

Pupil scores increase overall

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington math and reading scores showed overall improvement in recently released results of state-mandated skills testing done annually in grades four, seven and 10. Only 10th grade scores showed a slight decrease districtwide in these two areas in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program evaluation, which tests an accumulation of knowledge over several years.

New this year was the required test category of science, but results for seventh and 10th grades are not yet finalized, according to Carolyn Mahalak, who coordinates reading, gifted programs and statewide testing programs for Farmington Public Schools. The tests previously tested only reading and math.
Parents of seventh and 10th grade students will not get individualized MEAP results until final science scores are sent to the district, she added, although math and reading scores are complete.

Math scores rose from 89.3 to 90.7 in the fourth grade, 76.7 to 79.2 in the seventh grade, and dropped from 82.9 to 81.3 in the 10th grade, according to results sent to the district. Seventh grade math scores were the only area of decrease in last year's MEAP results.

'We have a very fine caliber of students.'
— Carolyn Mahalak
Farmington Schools

County outlook upbeat

Another story and chart on page 8A.

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Despite General Motors' plant closings, Oakland County's economy will continue to grow into 1988.
Flint, on the other hand, will lose 5 percent of its manufacturing jobs, and the state will see its unemployment rate rise from the current 8.8 percent to 9.5 percent.

"This highlights the need for policymakers to recognize local areas," Donald Grimes, a University of Michigan economic forecaster, told the U-M's 34th annual conference on the economic outlook.
"MICHIGAN IS NOT one economy but a series of local economies. You can't look at Michigan as automotive-dominated," Grimes said.
U-M forecasters in the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations have begun doing market-area predictions for three key counties — Genesee (Flint), Washtenaw (Ann Arbor) and Oakland.
They found Oakland lost 29,000 jobs, including 25,000 in manufacturing, in the recession years 1979-82.
But in the post-recession years of 1983-86, Oakland added 130,000 jobs, including 28,000 in manufacturing —



Will Sharranberg, Tracey Pipgran and Kim Santti, all of Livonia, model the academic letters Clarenceville High School soon will award to students earning a required grade point average.

The red letters feature an Aladdin's lamp of learning. The Clarenceville School District is thought to be the only one in Michigan to honor academic achievement with letters.

Keeping voters informed: that's her goal



Brought up in Detroit where her father was a police officer, local LWV president Linda DePoorter said, "It was unthinkable not to vote. It's important to cast an informed vote."

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

Presiding over the 100 or so members of the West Bloomfield-Farmington Hills area League of Women voters brings Linda DePoorter surprise and satisfaction.
The LWV's greatest visibility is at election time when its non-partisan Voters Guides are widely circulated on national, state and local issues and candidates.
The surprise is how much work that entails and how few people are available to do it, says DePoorter.
"We have a small but mighty board, a real cross-section of homemakers, full-time working women and a student."
"Women aren't at home the way they used to be. Those, like me, who are not working are torn in many directions," said the LWV president, with a zest for the office she took over last April.
TRAINED As a teacher, DePoorter got her bachelor of arts degree at the University of Detroit and a master's in education at Wayne State University. She has taught pre-school through sixth grade and is hoping to do some substitute teaching.
She and her husband, Douglas, a cost-estimating supervisor at Ford Motor, have four children, ages 7 to 27.
The league takes on a staggering number of national, state and local issues for study and action.
But if we're going to be seen more, we'll have to deal with local issues," she said. "People tend to join a single issue group, such as an environmental or zoning matters af-

people

fecting their neighborhoods.
Since 1920, the LWV has advocated citizen participation in government. "Democracy is not a spectator sport" is boldly displayed on its voters' guides.
A Farmington Hills resident for six years, DePoorter said, "We try to alternate presidents" between the two communities — Farmington Hills, a city, and West Bloomfield, a township.

THERE ARE studies and supporting action on issues that may affect

one or both communities. As an example, for several years the LWV advocated cityhood for both. The league was successful in Farmington Hills but not in West Bloomfield. The league renews that position annually.
The league was ready for the coming of cable television with tapes and live programs to inform the public on political issues.
DePoorter says Metrovision of Oakland County, which has the Farmington-area cable TV franchise, has been most cooperative. She has, however, had problems trying to participate in Continental Cablevision, which serves the Greater West Bloomfield area.

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