

You're never too old  
for romance, 1C

At the  
hoop, 1B

Hills census begins  
this month, 4A

# Farmington Observer

Volume 98 Number 36

Monday, February 9, 1987

Farmington, Michigan

44 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

## 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.

**REMEMBER** to vote. Farmington Public Schools residents will go to the polls from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday to consider a request to renew 4 of the district's 32.5-mill levy for operations.

The 4 mills represent \$5.5 million, or 10 percent of the 10,200-student district's operating budget. District officials say renewal is imperative if the district is to maintain existing programming and staffing. In emergency cases where they'll be out of town Tuesday, voters can vote in person from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Skidaway, Farmington. The district has 57,979 registered voters.

**IT** will go down in history as the Farmington Hills Fire Department's costliest fire in terms of dollar loss.

The Dec. 3 fire at Forge Die & Tool Corp., 31800 Eight Mile, shows a dollar loss of \$5.8 million — \$1.3 million for building loss, \$300,000 for business interruption and \$4 million in machinery replacement, according to the fire department.

There were no injuries in the accidental fire.

**ARE** you a renter with maintenance problems that your landlord won't quickly resolve?

Michigan maintenance laws will protect you.

The Housing Resource Center offers a free leaflet explaining the steps you should take to secure a safe and livable rental unit.

Send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to: Maintenance Leaflet, Housing Resource Center, 300 Bailey, East Lansing 48823.

**GOING** up. To cover increased administrative costs, Farmington will hike the cost of a box of trash can liners.

City residents will see the cost move from \$7.50 per box of 100 liners to \$9.50.

The city council accepted the low bid on 1,000 boxes of heavier, 2 mil bags from Arrow Industries of Dallas, Texas. The bid was \$7,213.

**KEEP** these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5480; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Although no influenza epidemic has been reported by Oakland County health officials, 33 reported cases closed a Farmington Hills private school. A spokesman at St. Paul Lutheran School said 36 of 215 first through eighth graders enrolled were sent home because of the flu.

## Kindergarten plan turns hot

By Casey Hana  
staff writer

**'We want to go in as a positive group. We as parents want to have input to the future.'**

— Diane Harnisch  
Farmington Public Schools parent

Parents concerned with possible changes in Farmington kindergarten class locations will ask the school board to delay a decision on the matter for 120 days.

The group — representing residents from throughout the district — will also suggest formation of a parent committee to research the district to make recommendations to the board, according to information presented at a meeting of about 50 parents Thursday evening.

"We want to go in as a positive group," organizer Diane Harnisch said. "We as parents want to have

input to the future."

The meeting, at Harnisch's Farmington Hills home, was scheduled to log parental concerns in preparation for a Tuesday, Feb. 17, school board study session. At that meeting, an early childhood task force is expected to make a recommendation to move the kindergarten classes from elementary schools to the two current — and possibly one additional — early childhood centers.

The board is not expected to act on the recommendation, but to take it under consideration for a March vote, school officials have said.

Parents said they want time after the task force report is given to respond before the board votes on it.

Many parents said they felt the district was proposing the change because of overcrowding problems in some of the elementary schools, especially on the district's west side. Officials have denied this.

**OTHERS SAID** they had contacted Farmington teachers who were vehemently opposed to such a kindergarten classroom shift, but who were afraid to speak out on the issue. A letter reportedly was sent to teachers by the Farmington Education Association advising them they could attend the meeting and speak out, according to some parents, but no Farmington teachers were present at the meeting.

Harnisch said she received "several calls" from teachers "none of whom would give their names... in fear of being displaced."

"I'm very upset that teachers in our system cannot voice their opinions," Harnisch said.

"There's no regard for the morale of these teachers — that's not good for our kids," Beechview parent Janie Vallett added.

Informational meetings for school staff have been held at several elementary schools, according to information given by the parents. Several teachers told parents they were in favor of the proposed plan. "The

Please turn to Page 9

## Haig eyes '88 race

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

English should be the official U.S. language, but presidential aspirant Alexander M. Haig Jr. said Americans need to learn more foreign languages for their own economic good.

"I'm a strong advocate for teaching foreign languages," the former secretary of state said in a news conference prior to his Saturday evening address to the Oakland County Republicans' Lincoln Day luncheon. "There is a need for citizens in an increasingly global economy, to be conversant in foreign languages," said Haig. He added he is "appalled" at declining academic achievement among American students compared to those in western Europe and Asia.

**HAIG ENDORSED** a constitutional amendment proposed by a man sitting at his left — U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"It should be ratified," Haig said of the Broomfield amendment, which would "prohibit the United States, or any state, from requiring the use of a language other than English."

Broomfield smiled.

Haig called for "a return to basics and family values," rather than federal aid for accomplishing more foreign language instruction at grade

school, high school and college levels. "Too many measure (educational quality) on the volume of taxpayer funds that's a mistake."

"We are extremely generous in allocation of funds for education," said Haig, who spent two years at Notre Dame and three at West Point and earned a master's degree in international relations at Georgetown University.

**THE VISIT** provided many chances for Oakland Republicans to look over Haig as both orator and hands-on leader, and Haig admitted he is "leaning in the direction" of entering the 1988 presidential sweepstakes. He will announce in March.

"It's wide open. Despite the early start in Michigan," he said.

**GOP officials** put ticket sales at \$72, just a little under the \$105 drawn by Vice President George Bush in the by-election year of 1986. In addition, there was a private reception for major contributors in the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills and a second reception prior to the banquet address in Roma's of Bloomfield.

"It's very healthy for the electorate to have a choice," said Haig, saying the Republican nominee must have the ability to attract Democratic and independent voters or the campaign would be "an exercise in futility."

Haig's biography was contained in a press kit from "Committee for America," the kind of committee candidates set up prior to their formal announcement.

**ASKED HIS** position on reinstating the military draft — a subject on which he differed from Reagan, who was opposed — Haig said it isn't needed — "not at this moment."

By the mid-1990s, however, America's population demographics may be such that a draft is needed, he said, and it is becoming increasingly expensive to offer soldiers economic inducements to stay in uniform.

But Haig adamantly opposes the kind of draft used in the Vietnam years of the '60s and '70s because the rich and influential avoided it, and "the kids from the inner cities and farms" were left to do the fighting.

Today's armed services are "manned largely by minorities," he said. If the U.S. became involved in a war and the casualty list showed "only minorities doing the bleeding and dying," he predicted a major political reaction against the war and draft. (Haig himself was wounded in the Vietnam conflict.)

Despite his unwilling departure from the State Department, Haig, now 62, said he finds "a very deep wellspring of support for the president" among Americans in non-metropolitan areas.



C.D. STOFFER/staff photographer

Gon. Alexander Haig fields a question during a news conference in Kingsley Inn, Bloomfield Hills.

## Federal shared revenue ended

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The death of the federal shared revenue program means Farmington and Farmington Hills — like other communities in the state — will have to look elsewhere to offset the loss of annual payments.

The program's demise means Farmington will lose approximately

\$55,000 annually and Farmington Hills about \$205,000-\$225,000. Michigan's local governments are faced with a total loss of \$170 million in federal shared revenue.

Farmington and Farmington Hills will feel the full effect of losing the federal money as officials prepare the new budgets for 1987-88.

But the loss of federal payments is not brand new. Officials in both cit-

ies knew it was coming and planned for it. Both cities received only single payments in 1986-87 as the federal program wound down to its final end on Oct. 1, 1986.

The death of the federal program will be felt more strongly in Michigan communities that failed to plan for the program's end, said William Stuede, Michigan Municipal League legislative counsel. Michigan's local

governments are faced with a total loss of \$170 million in federal shared revenue.

**FARMINGTON AND** Farmington Hills officials are still uncertain how they will make up for the loss. But cutting services seems unlikely in both cities although officials in other communities throughout the state are considering that move.

"We will have to replace (the money) either in tax dollars or take it from other funds," said Charles Rosch, Farmington Hills finance director.

Farmington Hills can rely, in part, on increased tax revenues created by a healthy amount of new construction in the city. A recent reap-

**'We will have to replace (the money) either in tax dollars or take it from other funds.'**

— Charles Rosch  
finance director  
Farmington Hills

praisal of commercial and industrial property — with some assessments increasing 60-80 percent — will help add more tax dollars to the coffers.

Please turn to Page 9

## Civic booster Longtime attorney easing up



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Wendell Brown, who graduated from law school in 1923, enters his 61st year of continuous practice from his Farmington Hills office.

### people

By Loraine McGlash  
staff writer

Wendell Brown completed his 60th year of practicing law in Michigan last December, an event achieved by very few.

"There was no party. The day passed just like any other work day. The bar association always recognizes us on our 50th anniversary, and I didn't get to even celebrate that one because I was in the hospital," Brown said.

Office hours have been cut down now. He misses the chickens he once

### what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 2C  
Crossword puzzle . . . 8B  
On the Agenda . . . 10A  
Entertainment . . . 4C  
Police/tire calls . . . 10A  
Shopping cart . . . 4-6B  
Sports . . . 1-3B  
Suburban life . . . 1-3C

Classifieds . . . Secs. B-D  
Index . . . 7B  
Auto . . . 5D  
Real estate . . . 7B  
Employment . . . 8C

### The CLASSIFIEDS

One call  
does it all!



591-0900

Use Your MasterCard or Visa

Please turn to Page 9