

History comes to life through song, 1B



Spartans reign, 1D

Humane society folks pay visit, 4A

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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 3320 Grand River, Farmington 48224.

TEAMING UP. The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce has joined with the Farmington Public Schools in a Partnerships for Education program. It is incumbent upon the business sector of our community, state and nation to foster and to help develop in the young persons attending our public and private schools, a greater awareness and appreciation of the free enterprise system," wrote Nancy Finley, chamber president, in a resolution. The chamber and the schools will have representation on the Farmington/Farmington Hills Partnerships for Education Advisory Council.

MEETING the media. Shortly after learning an arbitrator ruled in his favor and awarded him \$1.85 million to play for the Detroit Tigers this season — \$500,000 more than the team offered — All-Star pitcher Jack Morris stood before the bright lights of the television cameras in Ginopols Restaurant. The Farmington Hills restaurant is one of Morris' favorites.

ACTIVE with the Dems. Seven Farmington-area residents have been elected officers of the Democratic Party's 18th Congressional District, which includes the Farmington area.

At the Michigan Democratic Party State Convention 18th Congressional District Caucus Saturday in Detroit, Aldo Vagozzi was elected recording secretary, Gerald Freedman was elected a vice chairman. Pat Blackard, Mark Steckloff, Steve Hill and Mike Bresigold were elected to the 18th Congressional District Democratic Party Executive Board. Vicki Barnett was elected to the Democratic State Central Committee.

Blackard served on the credentials committee during the weekend convention at Cobo Hall.

CRACKING down. Farmington Hills police made 305 drunk driving arrests last year, 42 more than the previous year. Police Chief William Dwyer pointed out that only one in every 22 accidents last year in Farmington Hills involved alcohol — a rate four times lower than the state average.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0500; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Skin care salons and beauty institutes whose massage therapists are certified members of one of two state massage associations are exempt under a new Farmington Hills massage regulation ordinance.

Kindergarten centers idea hotly debated

By Casey Hans staff writer

The Farmington school board — joined by more than 800 parents and school staff members — met Tuesday to discuss how and where kindergarten children should be educated. At issue with parents was the concept of centralizing kindergarten classrooms in early childhood, or preschool centers, removing them from elementary schools. Farmington Public Schools now has two such centers — Fairview and Alameda — and there has been discussion of adding a third. Board president Helen Prutow and Superintendent Graham Lewis said moves to either centralize kindergarten or to change kindergarten

curriculum would be studied before a change is made.

No change will be made to affect students this fall, officials said. "I'm going to . . . speak for this board and say it's pretty outlandish to think we're going to be ready in September," Prutow said.

"There was no plan, no idea, to rush anything into position by this September," trustee Susan Rennels added.

"We have raised the level of debate," Lewis said. "This program evolved on the basis of need. We need to have some kind of concept as to what we face in the future."

"We've got to get the curriculum to a point where we don't put children into boxes."

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Sisters delete office proposal

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Sisters of Mercy have dropped plans for a 200,000-square-foot office on their complex at 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

The change of heart Tuesday prompted the Farmington Hills City Council to introduce in a 5-1 vote a special zoning district that would accommodate the Sisters' plans for a variety of elderly housing and care and support services on 129 acres now zoned for single-family residences.

The proposed zoning text amendment, which will add the new zoning classification SP-3, is expected to be adopted Monday, March 2. Some of the language in the proposed text amendment will be changed. For example, clinics — a source of opposition by residents — will be excluded from the type of uses allowed in the district.

The council's action opposed the planning commission's recommended denial of the special district.

Councilman Joe Alkateeb opposed

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Mind over matter
Dobby Schultz, 11, a student at Eggle Elementary, writes to begin Ormer to the Rescue competition. That mind test was part of the Ormer Competition qualifying round held Saturday at North Farmington High School. Ormer's goal is to tug on the creative strings in each child's brain. For the story and more pictures, see Page 3A.

RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Expense account approach is varied

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, doesn't have one. State Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, uses it sparingly.

The two Farmington-area legislators are among the few state legislators who shy away from dipping deeply, if at all, into Officeholder Expense Funds (OEF) — campaign money shifted into candidate accounts.

Though political money goes into these accounts, OEF money can be used only for job-related expenses.

For example, if a state legislator sends Christmas cards or gives you a cup of coffee, chances are the lawmaker's private contributors footed the bill. That doesn't mean that lawmakers don't have to account for money spent.

Elected officials who set up the funds have to report once a year on where the money came from and how it was spent. The deadline for 1986 reports was Feb. 2.

"It's a very vague statute," said Christopher Thomas, elections director. "There's not a lot of detail there on what's required. There's no clear guide."

MOST ELECTED officials use the special accounts to pay for flowers, coffee, doughnuts and taking constituents to lunch, Thomas said. This year's OEF reports show that contribution money was spent for pizza, funeral flowers and travel.

Faxon, a Farmington Hills Democrat, doesn't even have an OEF. "I just find it difficult to ask people for money. It just doesn't seem right."

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Hills to conduct census

Training began this week for about 50 enumerators, who will be going door-to-door in Farmington Hills conducting the city's mid-decade census.

Enumerators — or head counters — will be knocking on doors from now until April or May. Enumerators will be state-certified and carry a photo identification bearing the city's name.

Counters will be asking residents two questions — to verify their addresses and to name the people living in the house.

Residents not home when enumerators knock will be left a card — seeking census information — that can be left on the door for an enumerator to pick up or can be mailed to city hall. Residents may also call the necessary information into city hall.

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Farmington Hills City Clerk JoAnn Reynolds swears in the census takers. At right is Pat Ledor, hired by the city to conduct the census training session.

RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Drivers accepting seat belts

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Four out of five Michigan residents favor mandatory seat belt use laws and many say they now buckle up more often.

That's the thrust of a survey of 800 people conducted Nov. 6-11 for the Michigan Coalition for Safety Belt Use.

Farmington and Farmington Hills traffic officers say they can't be sure, but increased seat belt use could well be why local injury accidents dropped so significantly last year.

Eighty percent of those interviewed by Nordhaus Research of Southfield supported laws requiring use of seat belts, 15 percent opposed

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New sections to debut Monday what's inside

Dear readers:

Keeping in touch with your needs and interests is a newroom passion. We constantly are reassessing our newspaper so we remain entertaining, timely and relevant.

Beginning Monday you will see the results of the staff's latest efforts when we launch two brand new sections — Street Scene and Taste.

For weeks now we have been designing, redesigning, debating and reshaping our new products.

STREET SCENE is a weekly section specifically tailored for readers who ask a lot of themselves and expect a lot from the world around

them.

Street Scene is for those who are in pursuit of excellence whether it be in the world of music, sports, fitness, fashion, travel, business or personal relationships.

It is for those people whose interests transcend neighborhood, municipal or psychological boundaries.

Most importantly, it is for your enjoyment.

TASTE is our redesigned and locally produced food and cooking section. We know from regular reader response that cooking is more than ever a great American pastime.

You have asked for more out of our food section, and now we're

ready to give you the best. Suburban Detroit has some of the best chefs in the United States and we will be bringing you hints and tips from those experts.

But more importantly we want you to be a part of this section. You and your neighbor's recipes will play a big part in shaping this suburban Detroit's Taste. Now you can share all those great recipes with your neighbors throughout the Observer & Eccentric area.

So remember, Monday, look for Street Scene and Taste in your Observer & Eccentric.

Good reading.

Steve Barnaby, managing editor

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Reminder

Your Observer Carries
stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.