

Bass player rocks with Bob Seger, 1D



Gymnastic champs, 1B

Cultural diversity gains spotlight, 2A

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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 48924.

VOTERS will go to the polls Monday, June 8 to fill one seat on the Farmington Board of Education.

Current seat holder Susan Rennels said she plans to seek re-election to a second four-year term.

Prospective candidates must be at least 18 years of age and registered voters. Property ownership is not necessary.

Nominating petitions for the non-partisan post are available at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shilawasse, Farmington. They are due Monday, April 6, with the signatures of at least 20 registered district voters.

The last day to register to vote in the school board election is Monday, May 11. Absentee ballots will be available after May 19 at the administrative center.

IT'S postponed. A request from Farmington Hills resident John Rainey for a Class C liquor license for a new seafood restaurant in Farmington was tabled by the city council March 2 at Rainey's request.

The proposed restaurant would be in the new Village Commons shopping center on Grand River.

The license — the only open liquor-by-the-glass license — became available when a dispute with the former Bootleggers bar ownership was settled recently.

RE-ENACTING history.

The Farmington Historical Society and the Farmington and Farmington Hills historical commissions are tentatively planning a fall "Encampment in the Park" in Farmington's Shilawasse Park.

In honor of Michigan's sesquicentennial, the program would involve a 3-day encampment similar to what could have occurred in the early days of Michigan's statehood.

Demonstrations would duplicate clothing and camp supplies used during that time.

Farmington City Council approved use of the park for the program Friday-Sunday, Sept. 11-13.

OVER budget.

The 47th District Court, serving Farmington and Farmington Hills, is running slightly over budget for the 1986-87 fiscal year, according to a recent financial report.

Specifically, expenses in salaries, office supplies and professional services categories "are more than expected at this point in the fiscal year, and there are not many discretionary line-items with unexpended amounts," the report added.

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, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

Expanded library branch eyed

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

'The library board and I cannot in good conscience say we need another library.'

— Beverly Papal
Library director

A larger Hills branch of the Farmington Community Library will be needed by the 1990s if quality services are expected to be continued.

That's the major piece of news Farmington Community Library trustees and director Beverly Papal told the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils Thursday.

A proposed 25,000-square-foot expansion of the Hills branch highlighted the library board's five-year plan of action, requested by the city council,

which finances the two-branch library system.

Whether the proposed \$2.5-\$3 million expansion will ever come about is up to the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils. The plan explains why expansion is necessary but does not detail methods of financing the project.

"The library board and I cannot in good conscience say we need another library. Therefore, the most cost-effective step is to increase the Hills branch," Papal said.

CITY COUNCIL members had

few comments about a proposed expansion. Some acknowledged problems with the Hills branch — seating and noise (mostly from the computers), in particular. But none offered suggestions for financing the proposed expansion.

Whether the expansion would require the creation of an independent library authority capable of levying its own tax for improvements and services has not been addressed in years. The city councils vetoed an independent authority several years ago.

Farmington City councilman Dick

Tupper questioned the involvement of TMP Associates Inc. of Bloomfield Hills, the architectural firm that designed the Hills branch and conducted the new expansion study, in building an addition.

But a TMP representative told the council that the firm didn't "invent or derive" the data on which the proposed expansion was based.

Though the Hills branch, 32737 12 Mile, is already suffering from cramped quarters, operations can continue and services be provided

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DDA to name a full-time director

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A full-time director will coordinate Farmington's downtown renovation project, slated to begin this summer.

The Downtown Development Authority board of directors voted last week to create the position of executive director and ordered the board's three officers to screen candidates, narrowing the field to three.

President Harry Wingarter, vice president E. Gregory Hohler and secretary Robert Deadman, re-elected unanimously Tuesday as the DDA's 1987-88 officers, will do the initial screening.

Finalists for the position — which will pay between \$19,000 and \$23,000 per year — will be interviewed by the total board. The job will also have a benefit package including health insurance and retirement.

"We definitely have to get someone on board before (downtown) construction begins," said Deadman, city manager. "Timing's kind of essential. We should move along on it."

THE PERSON selected will not hold a civil service position, but will report directly to the DDA board. A person with professional knowledge in one or more of the fields relating to retail management, financial management, urban planning, building design or construction, mass communication or public administration, will probably be selected, according to criteria presented Tuesday.

Although the job description is written specifically for Farmington, it is based on a similar job in Rochester, which has a DDA and is a Michigan Main Street Program community.

There are 25 communities in Michigan with a paid, full-time director for either a DDA or a similar program, according to Robert Schultz, Farmington's administrative assistant. He said a "small pool" of candidates, probably no more than 50, would qualify for such a job.

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Bob Sarver works in the editing room of his Farmington Hills home. Sarver and his wife, Norma, are self-made filmmakers.

RANDY DORST/staff photographer

On the move

Educators film the world around them

By Barbara Cassani
special writer

For nearly 20 years, Bob and Norma Sarver have captured adventures with a 16mm Bolex camera.

Bob, assistant principal at Livonia Stevenson High School, is self-taught in the fine art of film making — from writing the script to shooting the scene and editing the shots into a finished film.

Norma, a second-grade teacher at Buchanan elementary in Livonia, is Bob's production assistant and film crew, handling such tasks as logging equipment on location, recording sound and, later, choosing a musical score to accompany the film.

The Sarvers' foray into filmmaking

people

began with short "nature" films done on 8mm film. A camping vacation to Michigan's Isle Royale provided the backdrop for the initial endeavor.

"We paddled canoes all over the north end (of the island) and backpacked 40 miles on Greenstone Ridge. The loons woke us up in the morning and moose practically stepped on us at night," Bob recalled.

LATER, THE Sarvers' interest in filmmaking expanded to 16mm film. It took advantage of sponta-

'Filmmaking has helped us get more directly involved with the world around us.'

— Bob Sarver
Farmington Hills

neous events occurring right in their back yard.

One film, "Backyard Bees," was the result of such an event when a swarm of wild bees landed on the Sarvers' property. Realizing the filming opportunity of the visiting insects, Bob built a glass-walled hive around the bees and proceeded to document their stay into the following winter.

This film was then shown on Jerry Chlapetta's TV show, "Michigan Sportsman," where it was felt that the Sarvers' "non-professional" filmmaking skills were indeed very professional.

The Sarvers were then invited to show another of their films, "Feline at Meadowbrook," on the television.

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Community, parents must address juvenile crime

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A lack of concern for children, deterioration of the family unit and "me only" attitudes have caused juvenile crime to escalate, according to a Wayne County juvenile judge.

"Children are not born bad," Wayne County Probate Judge Y. Gladys Barsman told a group meeting in Farmington Thursday.

"I'm afraid we haven't done a very good job."

Barsman is the presiding judge of the court's juvenile division where she has been assigned since 1975.

"Me only" attitudes leave little room for caring and sharing," she added.

The event was co-sponsored by the League of Catholic Women of Detroit and the League of Jewish Women's Organizations of Greater Detroit.

The topic was "Kids and Crime — What Can We Do?" According to Barsman, parents and individual communities are the key to helping young people stay out of trouble. She advocates community programs such as Youth Assistance, organized throughout Oakland County.

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