

Decisions

Students try hand at governing

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

IF SOME North Farmington and Harrison high school students had it their way, 12 Mile in Farmington Hills would be widened to a boulevard.

And like their adult counterparts on the Farmington Hills City Council, they struggled with building sidewalks and developing a teen center.

The annual Student Government Day, sponsored by Farmington Hills, Farmington Rotary and Farm-

ington Elks Lodge 1886 — gave North Farmington and Harrison high school students a firsthand peek into politics and the ins-and-outs of running the city.

"Generally, they are very impressed when you go into the (city) facilities. They never really realized what running a city was all about," said North Farmington teacher William Brinker, Harrison teacher Dick Steele also was a coordinator for the program.

Much of the daylong program Tuesday involved role playing. Each

of the almost 40 students was given a city position. Adults actually holding those positions — city manager, public services, city engineer, assessor — took student counterparts under their wings for the day.

A LUNCHEON featuring keynote speaker Dennis Archer, associate Michigan Supreme Court Justice, followed morning tours of the city and its facilities.

The mock city council was the moment everyone was waiting for. Students were armed with an agenda of issues that the real Farmington Hills City Council has spent grueling hours discussing — a teen center, sidewalks, widening 12 Mile.

"We should wait until there's an inkling from the public rather than our theoretical debates," Harrison student Jon Whitener said about sidewalks.

Many comments echoed those made over the years by the real seven-member city council. Not only were the debates, imbued with personal criticisms, similar, but so were the surprises.

In the middle of intense debate, an irate taxpayer, impressively played by newly elected councilwoman Jean Fox, descended angrily on the young city council. "I'm a taxpayer in this community and I have a few things to say," Fox shouted into the microphone. "If you go around raising taxes, we'll see you at the next election."



North Farmington High School students Alex Steinbock (left) and Jon Whitener discuss the building of sidewalks as city council members.

In murmurs from the council, one young member could be heard calling for a security guard as Fox lashed the politicians.

SOME OF the audience members, city employees and elected officials, found the students' forthright and non-political attitudes refreshing. Others were amazed at how quick the students fell into their roles.

"Their intensity is amazing," Mayor Ben Marks said. "With these kids, we're still in good shape in this country. They're realistic. They know things cost. These kids are taking this seriously. They're not playing games."



North Farmington High School student Dana Morrison served as senior city engineer.

WELCOME STUDENTS TO THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

North Farmington High School student Brian Seifman served as mayor.



Joan Fox was among the real Farmington Hills City Council members who attended the mock council meeting.

business briefs

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion, are planning a new venture or project, or have information about other business-related happenings — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Observer readers. Send items to: Business Briefs, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

NAMED DIRECTOR

Sharon Stein, author of "Common Cents" and "Shopping," both Detroit News consumer information columns, has been named consumer services director by Great Scott.

Great Scott operates 22 supermarkets in metropolitan Detroit, two in Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Hills resident will write a weekly column in Great Scott advertising circulars. She will make appearances in Great Scott stores and will be available for speaking engagements.

"My job is to help the Great Scott shoppers," she said.

"My column will be designed to keep consumers up on what's happening in the world of groceries, new items and couponing and to help solve shopping problems. I'll be offering weekly tips to make grocery shopping easier and more enjoyable.

I have a telephone hotline consumers can call with their shopping questions or problems."

That number is 477-6673. Write Sharon Stein, c/o Great Scott, P.O. Box 3399, Farmington Hills 48333.

With the appointment of Stein, Great Scott becomes the first supermarket chain in the Detroit shopping area to offer customers the assistance of a consumer affairs expert.

She started her career in consumer affairs in 1980. That led to appearances on television shows such as "Morning Magazine" and "Kelly & Co."

TREE PURCHASE

Farmington Hills City Council has authorized the purchase of trees for \$18,100 to line the new Heritage Park entryway.

"This will basically put the finishing touches and give us a very pleasing aesthetic effect to this newly established entrance way," said Dan Potter, Farmington Hills special services director.

NEW BACKHOE

Farmington Hills City Council has authorized the purchase of a 3-point hitch compact utility backhoe from William F. Sell & Son Inc. in Taylor for \$4,290.

The tractor equipment will be used by the Department of Special Services to dig trenches and holes and do other landscape tasks.

NEW OFFICE

Dr. Roman Franklin, a board-certified specialist in internal medicine, hematology (blood disorders) and oncology (cancer), has opened a medical practice office at 23770 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

Franklin is program director of medicine at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac. He is on the medical staff at St. Joseph, Mercy, William Beaumont, Hutzel and Harper-Grace hospitals.

He holds a clinical assistant professorship of medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine, where he also received his medical degree.

In practice since 1973, Franklin also has an office in Bloomfield Hills.

To make an appointment, call 855-0718. He accepts house calls and participates in all major insurance plans and health maintenance organizations.

JOINS GROUP

Dore Companies of Farmington Hills has joined the Independent Insurance Agents of Michigan (IIAM), headquartered in Lansing.

Michael Dore is president of Dore Companies.

Through his affiliation with IIAM, he subscribes to a professional code of business ethics. He receives the benefits of membership in Michigan's largest organization of insurance agencies representing 1,050 agencies and 6,000 insurance professionals statewide.

NEW IN TOWN

There's soon going to be more space in Farmington Hills, as the completion of a new Your Attic self-storage facility draws closer.

The projected opening date for initial rentals is Dec. 1, said George Field Jr., president. The facility is along one of the most-traveled arteries in the Detroit area, I-275.

"Our target market is the business tenant," Field said. "We are choos-

ing locations that offer our customers convenience and top security."

New climate-controlled spaces have been packaged into the multi-story buildings in Farmington Hills. These climate-controlled interior spaces are expected to greatly expand the business tenant market, particularly for file and record storage, Field said.

The Farmington Hills facility is owned by Michigan Attic Partners 84, Limited Partnership. This entity owns five Your Attic facilities in the Detroit market.

Your Attic, a Michigan-based self-storage company, was conceived by Field in 1975. A decade later, the familiar yellow-and-brown storage facilities are growing in number. Your Attic facilities are in Michigan, Florida and New Jersey.

Beach Bound Ltd. in Farmington Hills, which opened in May, makes custom-made bathing suits using a computer.

The customer tries on various styles, then the computer takes measurements and selects the fabric from 140 choices. It also selects cover-ups, shorts, skirts, earrings and visors to match.

Prices start at \$50.

Beach Bound Ltd. is at 31065 Orchard Lake Road in Hunters Square. Call 626-0254. Gift certificates are available for birthday and holiday presents.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



DONNA RICHARD SLEEPWEAR COLLECTION

Informally Modeled
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, November 19
Birmingham

Saturday, November 21
Livonia

Meet the designer and see her elegant gowns, robes, nightshirts, and pajamas. Shown: a ruby polyester fleece robe, P-S-M-L, \$85.



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