

Blooming success
growing orchids, 1B



All-Area
tankers, 5D

Increase denied for
housing rehab, 3A

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2300.

In just "You're worth the money you pay you," councilman Ben Marks joked after parks and recreation commission chairman Dennis Fitzgerald addressed the Farmington Hills City Council March 14 about conceptual plans to renovate Heritage Park's historic estate house into a visitors center.

Fitzgerald and his fellow parks and rec commissioners donate their time to the city. They are not paid.

HIE'S Boss of the Year. The Oakland County Legal Secretaries Association has honored a Farmington employer as Boss of the Year. Harry Lapham Jr. is with the law firm of Lapham & Doyle on Grand River. He was honored at a luncheon last month in Pontiac.

TIES to the past. Farmington Hills may be among southeast Michigan's fastest-growing suburbs. But that doesn't mean it has totally lost its links to its rural township days.

It didn't involve rustling, but Farmington Hills police responded to calls involving loose horses near Grand River and Halsted at 2:30 p.m. March 16 and near Power and 10 Mile at 7:50 a.m. March 20.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week: Concerned parents were assured they would have school board support for forming community/parent groups in Farmington Public Schools.

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Life Goes On

SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Stop-work order placed on builder

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Builder Howard Keating wishes he had been there when the Farmington Hills City Council withheld new building permits and inspections for his manufactured houses.

"If there's something going on, I should have been there," said Keating, who wasn't informed of scheduled discussion of residents' complaints about his houses in southeast Farmington Hills.

In response to continuing complaints by residents, the city council Monday night put an immediate hold on new building permits or inspections for existing Keating houses.

The building halt will last until Keating resolves a series of reported ordinance violations and other problems.

"I'm saying to you, that kind of builder doesn't belong in Farmington Hills. His performance has not been good," councilman Joe Alkateeb said

during council discussion.

Specifically, the stop-work orders were placed on Keating following reports of torn-up roads, blocked drainage ditches and roads blocked by construction equipment. Keating also is charged with violating noise ordinances as well as after-hours and Sunday-construction ordinances.

"THERE'S A whole host of things the police department has been involved with," city attorney Paul Bibeau said.

Responding to residents' complaints in the last few months, the city has regraded some of the gravel roads in the Nine Mile-Middlebelt area. It also has issued speeding tickets and parking violations against Keating Community Home workers and customers in the area, assistant city manager David Coll said.

Call told the city council that site cleanup work at the two manufactured houses on Karen Place will be

completed in spring.

Suspensions that the two unoccupied houses on Nine Mile at Karen Place were used as models also prompted ire among residents and city officials, who previously told Keating they felt he was violating city ordinances.

"I think it's time . . . we should issue some type of violation and let the courts decide whether they are using them as models," Bibeau said.

Complaints about downsizing and lot splitting in the city's southeast section are not part of the violations lodged against Keating, Bibeau added.

Keating denies all complaints against his company and his manufactured houses. "I'm dumbfounded," he said from his Bloomfield Hills office Tuesday morning.

He's upset by the "blanket stop-work" orders lodged against him when he's not the only builder in the

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THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

This Keating Community Home is at the corner of Nine Mile and Karen Place, near Middlebelt, in Farmington Hills.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jim, Fred and Janet Hamlin (from left) at Farmington Lanes on Grand River. Jim and Janet are the current owners. Jim's father, Fred, is the former owner.

Farmington Lanes takes to the Hills

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Jim Hamlin, the 28-year-old owner of Farmington Lanes, won't have any time to spare when the bowling alley doors close June 1.

He'll be busy moving his business from its location east of downtown Farmington to Country Lanes in Farmington Hills, where he will officially take over and merge the two businesses Aug. 1.

The 12,000-square-foot Farmington Lanes building is up for sale, along with the bowling equipment inside.

The 42-year-old bowling alley on Grand River near Brookdale has a special history. Jim's grandfather, DeLoe Hamlin, built the eight-lane alley in 1946 and made his mark not only as a businessman, but also as a local politician.

He served as mayor of Farmington from 1942 to 1951, and also was active in Oakland County government, his grandson said.

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School chiefs get pay raise

Farmington's top two school administrators were recently awarded pay raises for the remainder of their contracts, with one receiving an increase of 38.8 percent over two years.

Raises for superintendent Graham Lewis and deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan were approved unanimously by the school board March 15.

Their contracts expire in June of 1990; the district's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Lewis' salary was raised from \$72,000 to \$98,000 this year, and will rise to \$99,999 the following year. Flanagan's salary was raised from \$68,000 to \$78,000 this year, and will

rise to \$85,000 the following year, according to board president Helen Ditzhazy.

Benefits for both administrators will stay the same, said Ditzhazy, who headed a three-member evaluation committee recommending the increase.

"WE TOLD him at the time we hired him that he was a low salary," Ditzhazy said about the first year of Lewis' contract, adding that it was the board's intention to reconsider the salary after the first year. Lewis was hired in July 1986, after serving six months as interim superintendent.

Ditzhazy said the increase for Lewis makes his salary "comparable

to other superintendents in the area," but noted he is still "lowest in the group."

It is difficult to compare operational salaries between districts, Ditzhazy added, because of the varying benefits.

Lewis said he is "very happy" with the raise, which follows two-year contract extensions given to him and Flanagan in July.

The board's evaluation committee, comprised of Ditzhazy and trustees Helen Prutow and Susan Rennels, reviewed the superintendent and made the recommendation for the raises. "All board members were polled and gave support," Ditzhazy said.

School Superintendents salaries

School District	Salary	Enrollment	Budget
Southfield	\$98,500	8,623	\$57m
Bloomfield Hills	\$89,225	6,050	\$43m
Birmingham	\$88,000	7,625	\$49m
Farmington	\$85,000	10,753	\$66m
Plymouth-Canton	\$83,899	15,533	\$54m
Troy	\$80,000	10,795	\$54m
Rochester	\$75,000	10,634	\$45m
Livonia	\$74,970	16,151	\$65m
West Bloomfield	\$69,000	4,586	\$24m

1987-88 school year

Gaining the 'Big Mo'

Saturday's state caucuses might be deciding factor

By Tim Richard
staff writer

You'll have to declare you're a Democrat if you want to vote in Saturday's presidential preference caucus. Otherwise, the Michigan Democratic Party system is much like any primary.

No one wants to guess how many Democrats will turn out for the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. caucusing, but state chairman Rick Wiener says it will be far more than the 135,000 who took part in 1984.

Chief reason is that there will be far more sites — 575 statewide, 51 in Oakland County alone — not in your usual city or township precinct.

"We've doubled the number of

sites," said Mark Livernois, party staff man. "And it will be a secret ballot. Your name will not be on it."

THE BIG QUESTION is whether Michigan's results will continue to show a virtual tie between Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, with Albert Gore Jr., Richard Gephardt and Paul Simon trailing, or whether Dukakis will break from the pack.

Ironically, Michigan Republicans had expected to set the pace with their Jan. 14 district conventions, but those turned into a debacle of split delegations. Michigan Democrats, half-expecting the leader to emerge after the South's March 9 "Super Tuesday," actually have a bigger chance to give one candidate

or another "the Big Mo" — momentum.

With 2,092 needed for a presidential nomination, Dukakis has 504 delegates and 33 percent of a Michigan poll; Jackson, 484 delegates and 31 percent in Michigan; Gore, a Tennessee senator, 353 delegates and 5 percent here; Simon, an Illinois senator, 172 delegates and 2 percent here; and Gephardt, a Missouri congressman, 154 delegates and 10 percent here.

Much may depend on last-minute changes of mind. Michigan Republicans saw one in the final days of the 1988 gubernatorial primary campaign when voters flocked to William Lucas in an ABC effort ("anybody but Chrysler").

HERE ARE THE rules for voter participation:

Go to your caucus spot between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and bring some identification with your age and address — a valid Michigan driver's license, a state ID card or a voter registration card.

You will be asked to complete a sign-in sheet with your name, address, telephone number and a statement confirming that you are either a) a registered voter or b) will be age 18 and registered to vote Nov. 9.

Be ready to sign a statement confirming you are a Democrat.

Then you may vote a preference form listing all qualified Democratic presidential candidates; there also will be space for a write-in; or you may vote "uncommitted."

Place your form in the ballot box. (Separate ballot boxes will exist only where necessary to divide ballots by congressional district.)

There is no procedure for absentee voting.

People with religious objections to Saturday voting may apply for a special form in order to vote earlier. Call Oakland Democratic headquarters at 399-1113 or 334-6971 for the form. The form must be returned by 5 p.m. Saturday to state Democratic headquarters in Lansing where they will be counted.

That is step one of the Michigan delegate selection process.

HOW DOES your vote figure into all the party mathematics?

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