

# Departing chorus director will miss the fun

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Singing and directing a chorus fascinated Whitten since he was in high school. "I knew I wanted to be a musician and direct a choir. I admired my high school choir director. He gave me my first conducting lessons and allowed me to conduct the high school choir in concert," he said.

Within the discipline of music, Whitten found a new freedom. "I loved the feeling of being in front of a choir and in command of the music. I love watching the singers. I couldn't take a choir who went in just for singing the notes exactly as they were written."

"I'm much less inhibited in front of a choir. I'm doing what I enjoy doing most in the world," he said.

WHITTEN MAJORED in music at Western Michigan University with the idea of someday conducting a school choir. While singing in the university's choir, he met his wife. Married after graduation, they have two sons, Douglas, 13 and Matthew, 10.

Teaching in a grade school didn't strike as sweet a note. After college, during 1974-75, he taught general music to sixth through

eighth graders in an Oak Park public school. A girls and a boys choir met before school. Daily facing classes of students who quipped when they should have sang discouraged him. "I was very frustrated in general music classes. I decided that I wouldn't get used to the things students did in class besides learning music."

For 1 1/2 years after leaving teaching to sell plastics, he lost touch with conducting. "I was beginning to wonder what the future held for me. Then I began to sing in a church choir."

In February 1977, he saw a Farmington

Observer story about the Kendallarks' search for a new director. He auditioned and ended up directing the group for its final three years.

"The Kendallarks were terrific people. People who like to sing are neat people," he said.

IN 1980, faced with problems inherent in a private chorus, the group needed to choose between disbanding or changing its focus. They asked the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Division to support a community chorus.

By fall of that year, nine men and 25 women turned out for the new Farmington Community Chorus. On Dec. 1, 1980 the group gave its first performance at Farmington Hills Harrison High School.

Since then, interest has grown so much the group restricts itself to 75-80 members. Rehearsals take place in a North Farmington High School classroom, light quarters for 80 adults.

For eight years, the group has begun rehearsals and ended concerts with Whitten's favorite song, "Thank You for the Music." His philosophy is embodied in the lyrics: "Without a song or a dance, what are we?"

## Census funds bill needs OK of Senate, governor

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state's general fund rather than revenue sharing fund — that would have reduced other communities' regular payments. Brotherton said.

ACCORDING to an aide for state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, the bill allocating the more than \$3 million has been sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Action on it was expected late last week, according to the aide. Faxon is out of the country and unavailable for comment.

State Sen. Doug Carl, R-Utica, however, said he's confident "the money will remain in the bill, even

throughout the conference committee process."

Anticipating Blanchard's reaction, Costick sent the governor a letter June 21 asking his support of the special census money legislation.

"We respect and agree with your sincere desire to keep the state budget in balance. However, we are aware that the proposed state budget for the coming year proposes new programs which were previously not funded," Costick wrote.

In a telephone interview, Costick said that if the governor is proposing new programs and an additional \$100 million in revenue is now ex-

pected, "he ought to make good on old commitments before taking on new ones."

In his letter, Costick asked the governor favorably review and sign into the law the appropriations for the 38 community districts. "Please remember that each community has pledged that the funds will be utilized to provide for infrastructure needs and demands imposed by growth experienced in our communities."

The 38 communities are eligible, according to state statute, for increased state aid payments because their populations grew more than 15 percent since the last federal census



William Costick encouraged by bill

In 1980. Though some communities expected to pay for the census with the additional payments, Farmington Hills already paid for the more than \$50,000 census out of the city budget.

### on the agenda

Below are highlights from agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

**Downtown Development Authority**  
Farmington City Hall  
23600 Liberty  
8 a.m. Tuesday, July 5

A report on "projecting signs" for downtown businesses, discussion of a Chamber of Commerce Founders Festival survey, and authorization of expenditures for city hall parking lot are all on Tuesday's agenda. Also slated for action is transfer of loan money from the city to the DDA, treasurer's report and approval of payments.

**Farmington City Council**  
Farmington City Hall  
23600 Liberty  
8 p.m. Tuesday, July 5

Recommendation for a Farmington sewer system study is slated for discussion during the council's regular meeting, which was changed to Tuesday because of Monday's holiday.

Also on the agenda is a final order abatement for the Evergreen/Farmington Interceptor, discussion of water and sewer rates, taxicab licenses and a report from the council's gasbo committee. Also to be considered is an ordinance amendment for air conditioners and fences.

**Farmington Board of Education**  
Sculman Administrative Center  
32500 Shawwassee  
7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 7

This meeting is scheduled for a special day and time because officers must be elected before the second Monday of July. The current board, under the direction of outgoing president Helen Ditzhay, will elect a new slate of officers Thursday.

Also on the agenda is finalization of an election date for a fall bond issue. School officials hope to have final approval from the state for 1<sup>st</sup> district's bond application.

## YMCA highlights

These YMCA highlights appear courtesy of the Farmington YMCA, 23100 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call 553-4020.

● **SUMMER CAMPS** — Openings are still available for all sessions of Resident Camp. Olysesa 7-10 years; Nissokone 10-15 years.

● **SUMMER MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL** — The Farmington YMCA will offer its summer membership special for individuals, youth, families and college students. The membership will be good through Sept. 10. Call 553-4020 for more information.

### clarification

Architectural fees for a proposed westside elementary school and early childhood center will be considerably less than reported in a June 30 Observer article. No proposed fee will be higher than \$400,000, according to Farmington school trustee James Abernethy, who heads the board's Building and Site Committee and who recently reviewed architects' applications for the project. The architectural estimate in the article was not only for the new schools, but also for building safety measures proposed on a fall bond issue.

● **POOL PROGRAM** — The YMCA will come to your backyard to offer swim lessons. One minimum enrollment is met, we'll send certified YMCA instructors out to teach the lessons. A most convenient way to ensure a safe summer by your pool. For further information, call Jean Warren, 553-4020.

● **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM** — The Farmington YMCA has developed a corporate membership fitness program for businesses. On-site programming as well as discounted membership programs are available. Call Greg Voss for more information.

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No special control or diet will allow you to overcome the fatigue associated with arthritis. When a profound tiredness develops, you have no choice but to rest. Remember that you are not fighting a "bad attitude or poor nutrition," rather, you are feeling the effect of chemical changes in your body.

In most cases, you are forced to accept fatigue as an invariable companion to your arthritis. Thus, rest needs to be a part of your daily schedule, even on days when in your opinion, you should have no need for respite.

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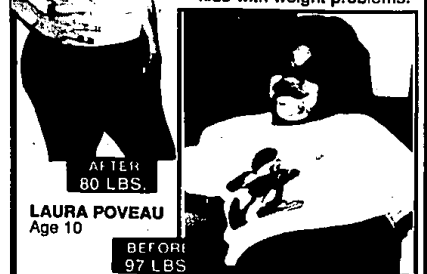
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