

Head-turning looks for summer, 1D



Sandlot action, 1C

They track down friends for class reunions, 3A

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CHANGING sites? Farmington school officials may review having future senior high graduations at Ford Auditorium in downtown Detroit, after a suggestion from resident Lawrence Niblett, who said he was concerned about the cost.

"We would like to have a place closer to home," assistant superintendent Lynn Nutter said.

"I feel we should review it," superintendent Graham Lewis said.

Commitments for the downtown auditorium have already been made for the 1988-89 school year, Nutter said.

Trustee Janice Rolnick said she preferred the indoor facility and would not want graduation at a "limited facility."

Trustee Jack Inch asked for a list of options for the school board to consider.

NO holds barred. The Farmington Area Republican Club will host the four Republican candidates for the 6th state House District seat in a public debate Wednesday.

Mike Bouchard, Jan Dolan, Mike Sarafa and Paul Welay will field audience questions at 7:30 p.m. at the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

The primary is Aug. 2. Democratic contenders for the seat are Ken Murray and John Dolan.

LIGHTING up. Farmington's Downtown Development Authority hopes to have about half of the city's pedestrian lighting installed for the 24th annual Founders Festival.

Although the lightposts are installed and painted, the globes are on back order, DDA executive director Wendy Strip Sittsamer said. She said the plan is to have about 27 of the 54 globes installed for the midsummer fest.

Boys Republic classes on campus

By Casey Hans staff writer

Boys Republic residents will be schooled on campus at the private residential treatment facility this fall, instead of at a proposed commercial site.

The Boys Republic board and Farmington school administrators met recently and decided to educate the students on the facility's grounds, Farmington school officials said last week.

Boys Republic is on Nine Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. It is home to emotionally disturbed youths aged 12-17. The boys are wards of the state or come from broken homes. Some 60 were enrolled in

the school's program at last count in June 1988.

The program is being moved out of the district-owned Shilavasee Center because space is needed for community and adult education programs.

"We have certainly settled on returning to the (Boys Republic) grounds," assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele said. "I see it as a 'forever'."

BOYS REPUBLIC director Phyllis Griffin also appeared pleased with the situation.

"We have initiated some really good negotiations and communications," she said. "This is the beginning of an improved relationship

'This is the beginning of an improved relationship with the school district and Boys Republic. I think it will be good for the community.'

— Phyllis Griffin

Boys Republic director

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Attorneys will meet this week to negotiate final lease arrangements, Ankele said. The building will be repaired over the next few weeks in

preparation for the school year.

In addition, a committee will be formed of both school employees and Boys Republic personnel to discuss the educational program — a concern raised by Boys Republic's Griffin.

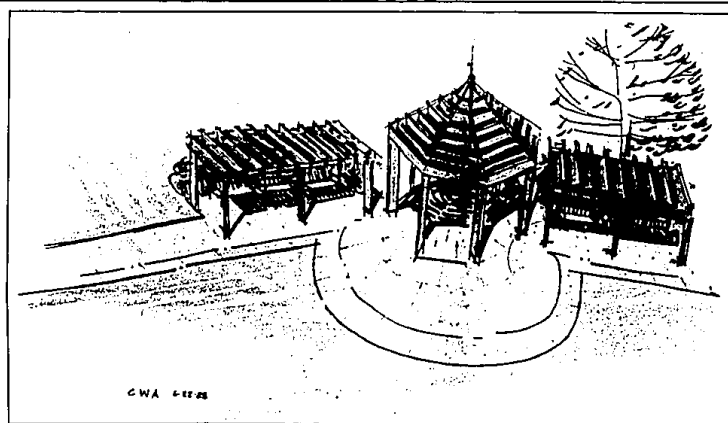
LAST MONTH, the school board approved a tentative three-year lease for commercial space on Indopex Circle in a Farmington Hills industrial park. The space would have been used for the Boys Republic education program.

The district received a letter from those in the industrial park opposing the move, and even school officials were wary of the commercial venture.

Ankele said the lease arrangement on Indopex was restrictive, and they were concerned about working under such conditions.

Boys Republic officials had said

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City planner Christopher Wzaczny's rendering of the planned downtown Farmington gazebo.

Gazebo fund drive to begin

By Casey Hans staff writer

A city-appointed committee will begin raising money this summer to build a gazebo and adjoined seating area for a small parcel of city-owned land in downtown Farmington.

Rough estimates place the project cost at \$42,000. The study committee, chaired by Farmington councilwoman Shirley Richardson, hopes to get donations of money and materials from local civic groups, businesses and individuals.

The land is located on the north side of Grand River between the Farmington Place senior citizen complex and the Village Commons shopping center.

Although the project could be done in phases, committee members prefer to raise the money and complete the work in one phase, Richardson said Monday.

A conceptual plan was approved by the city council after members viewed an artist's rendering.

"It would be a nice addition to the community," councilman Arnold Campbell said.

ACCORDING TO the concept, the 18-foot-in-diameter gazebo would have a slatted roof, allowing sunlight to filter in. Two adjoining seating areas called "pergolas" would have similar but flat roofs, and would have seating areas with benches.

A sidewalk would lead to the gazebo/pergola structure from Grand River; no steps are planned for the structure.

It would also include lighting to match pedestrian lampposts being installed

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Cotton is new board president

Roses and compliments were offered Thursday as Helen Ditzhazy completed her first term as Farmington school board president, passing the gavel to incoming president Jack Cotton.

Elected vice president was Helen Prutow, who completed her most recent term as board president in 1986-87. If tradition continues, Prutow is in line for a third term as president next year. The vice president has traditionally moved into the president's chair, as Cotton did this year.

Trustees Janice Rolnick and Jack Inch will continue as board secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Terms will run through next June.

IN HIS first term as president, Cotton said he expects the district to concentrate on the \$27 million bond issue slated for a September election.

"The major thing's got to be the bond issue and the building of the new school. We're looking forward to that."

"A lot of things are in place," he added. "I have no special project or any agenda of my own."

But Cotton did say he would make a special effort to build rapport with the district's bargaining units, following an exceptionally long year of negotiations. "I would really like to work hand in hand with them," he added.

Upon passing the gavel, Ditzhazy offered each of her peers a rose and her thanks for their support — an effort that was returned with compliments from other board members.



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Work starts on freeway widening

By Joanne Malazewski staff writer

Don't forget! Today is the official starting day for the two year, \$31.5 million widening improvements to I-596 in Farmington Hills and Southfield.

"We are really concerned that people know what's going on," said Jack Pyle, Michigan Department of Transportation communications director.

Though MDOT is running the improvement show, the department has hired the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments to conduct a motorist information program similar to last year's "Lodgeability" program.

"It worked so well that we established a new policy for road construction and put the people side into it," said Pyle, who now conducts seminars for "the technical people" in the department so they "consider the human impact" of construction.

Unlike "Lodgeability," however, the I-596 project doesn't have its own individual name. Rather, it is a part of a series of construction projects this year termed "Mobility '88," Pyle said.

The information program will include distribution of brochures and other literature about the improvements. Motorists can keep pace with construction tie-ups and other information by calling a 567-7896. Civic, community or business groups interested in a public presentation of the construction project may call Bright

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Chaplain helps keep the faith

By Joanne Malazewski staff writer

He can be solemn. And without warning, the twinkles wells up in his eyes; and a measure of humor oozes with honest-to-goodness irony bursts forth.

"Other than the call of God, I can't understand why anyone would want to be a pastor," said the Rev. Richard Kerr, of Northwest Baptist Church, Farmington Hills.

That last day and night are busy for an understatement. Kerr's "faithman's journey" has just begun; he's a pastor with a new church, a new congregation, and a new life.

He's also a pastor who's been in the ministry for 20 years, and he's a pastor who's been in the ministry for 20 years.

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Kaleidoscope of the World

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE