



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer
Ralph Chapman (left, an elementary principal Johnny Appleseed, to a group of Farmington in Lansing, explains the life of his ancestor, students at Woodcreek Elementary Friday.

Johnny 'Appleseed' tales sown at schools

By Casey Hans
staff writer

With fall upon us, the air grows snappy and the taste of cold apple cider whets our tastebuds.

Ralph Chapman reminded us last week about the simple man who brought one of those fall traditions to our region — Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman.

An elementary school principal from the Lansing area, Ralph Chapman is the great-grandnephew of the man who became known as "the man with the appleseeds" who traveled west from New England, planting seeds along the way.

"He was a very kind man, always helping people," Ralph Chapman told early elementary students at Wood Creek and Flanders. "He learned to love the outdoors,

and he happened to love school, just like you do."

The most important lesson Ralph Chapman gave the Farmington-area students Friday was based on stories about the appleseed man. "Everyday, you are planting seeds," he told the youngsters. "When you plant a seed of kindness, many things grow from that." He suggested they be nice to their parents, teachers and fellow classmates.

OFTEN THOUGHT to be a fictitious character, Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman came from a family of 12 children and always had an interest in animals and other living things. He was an avid reader, taught school for a time, and lived to be 78 before dying in 1845.

As a teenager, he traveled to up-

state western New York, where he realized there were very few trees, and no fruit trees.

He went to Pittsburgh where he gathered apple seeds from cider mill pulp, then carried the seeds back across several hundred miles. He planted seeds himself, and gave bags to westbound travelers passing through for planting in other areas.

Johnny Appleseed is pictured many times as a barefoot man wearing old clothes or a potato sack. He always carried a bag of seeds over his shoulder, a pot for cornmeal mush on his head and a bible in his belt. Ralph Chapman explained that these portrayed the simple life he led.

He was not poverty-stricken, but only needed the basics, Chapman added. "John spent many years, 40 or 50 years, helping people."

Ceremonies planned for academic letters

Academic letter ceremonies for each high school in the Farmington district are being held in September and October.

Harrison High held its ceremony Sept. 19. Farmington High School will hold its on Monday, Sept. 26, and North Farmington High is planning a ceremony for Thursday, Oct. 27.

The awarding of academic letters was approved last April by the school board, after the policy was recommended by members of the Student Round Table, a student group representing each of the schools. Students with a 3.5 grade point average who are enrolled in five classes are eligible to receive the letter.

A first-year recipient will receive a letter with a "lamp of knowledge" in the background. Achievements in later years will be honored with a bronze bar to be pinned on the letter.

Representatives on last year's Student Round Table said honoring academic achievement was a "major point of discussion" during the school year. North Farmington's ceremony will include recipients of the letters and their parents, but will also invite back members of the Class of '88, according to assistant principal Ken Dean.

on the agenda

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

Farmington Hills City Council
Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26

Detroit Edison representative Maurice Vermeulen will speak about the area's electrical outages. The council also is expected to enact a rezoning from LI-1, light industrial to mobile home district, and RA-3, single family residential to mobile home district, on the west and east sides of Tuck Road, just north of Eight Mile.

Council also will adopt a proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month and will consider a proposed office expansion plan for various city departments.

Also to be considered is the follow-

ing consent agenda:

- Adoption of a resolution recognizing the Asphalt Paving Association as a non-profit organization in the city.
- Consideration of Oktoberfest, Elks #1986.
- Consideration of 5-K Fun Run for the Arthritis Foundation.

• Setting Oct. 10 for determination hearing for Robinson sanitary sewer and Broadview/Dohany paving.

- Establishment of payback for Moran water main.
- Approval to issue purchase order for \$11,420 to buy a utility Jeep for special services, parks division.

• Authorization for the city manager to sign contracts for the nutrition agreement with Mercy Center.

• Executive session to discuss pending litigation and land acquisition.

Farmington Board of Education

Schulman Administrative Center
32500 Shilohwasee
6:30 p.m. — Building and Site Committee
7:30 p.m. — Regular Meeting
Monday, Sept. 26

There will be a discussion and update report on the new media center at Farmington High School during building and site committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

On the regular agenda, trustees will discuss options following the defeat of last week's millage proposal, renew contracts for assistant superintendent Judith White and Mary Lou Ankele, award bids for work at Harrison High School, and hold a discussion to clarify tuition policies in the district.

During a study session portion of the meeting, an update on asbestos removal in the schools, and a report on the new Highmeadow Common Campus school are scheduled.

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.

• LIGHTING LAB

Orchard Lighting Center has opened the first lighting lab in the metropolitan area in its Farmington Hills store.

The lab will be used to demonstrate to customers how different types of lighting affect the home and office environment.

A number of test lights, representing different light sources, such as halogen, tungsten and fluorescent types, are housed in a variety of fix-

tures, such as track, recessed and torchier styles. They are used to duplicate all possible lighting situations.

A valuable assistance to anyone planning a lighting scheme, the lighting lab takes the guesswork out of home and office illumination, showing the full potential of light in all its varied forms, said the center's staff.

In addition to the lighting lab, Orchard Lighting maintains a staff of trained lighting designers who may be called in to help plan lighting in the home.

Orchard Lighting Center is at 28801 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

• SUPPORTS PUBLIC SERVICES

Detroit Edison, Michigan's second largest taxpayer, helped support

public services in southeast Michigan last year with nearly \$150 million in property tax payments to about 400 communities.

Of the total, \$559,950 went to Farmington Hills with \$362,510 going to support education.

The company pays taxes on plants, construction projects, distribution towers, poles, lines, stations, substations and customer offices as well as other real and personal property.

Communities where major Detroit Edison facilities are located receive the greater portion of the company's tax payment.

The company's total tax bill was 6 percent above the \$141.4 million paid last year. Only General Motors Corp. pays more taxes in Michigan than Detroit Edison.

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-540)
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, MI 48012. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48012. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3569) to P.O. Box 2426, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 919-0500.

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PTA Council meetings set

The schedule for the Farmington-area PTA Council has been set, with the first meeting of the year slated for 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26, at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, Shilohwasee and Power, Farmington.

Other meetings throughout the year will be held on Wednesdays: Oct. 26, Nov. 16, Jan. 26, March 15, April 26 and May 24. Meetings are expected to rotate between PTA elementary schools.



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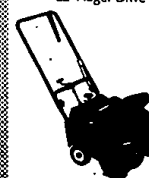
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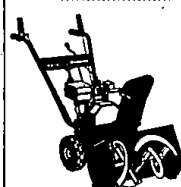
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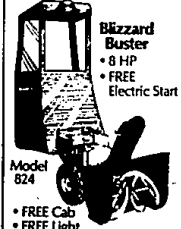
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