

# Historical research

## Digging into Farmington past

The Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest for 1989 is under way. Sponsored by Farmington Historical Society, the contest is named for a former Farmington High School teacher who assigned the students in his advanced English class to submit an original research historically oriented paper.

The intent of the contest is much the same, to get people of all ages digging into their attics, cellars and family records to put together a vignette of life in former times in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Entries may come in the form of audio, video or written materials. The entries can concern people, places or events of all time periods, including the very recent past. Sources for the entries may be personal recollections, interviews, family diaries or letters, old photographs, paintings or sketches.

Entries are to be mailed to: Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest, 33589 Shilohwasee, Farmington 48024.

They will be accepted until April

1. Winners will be announced at the Farmington Historical Society's annual dinner meeting, set for Saturday, May 13.

Prizes range from a \$100 first prize to a "Best-in-Category" prize of \$25. Four categories for entries submitted run from elementary school students through adults.

**THE WINNING ENTRY** for 1988 was a video tape called "A Few Facts About Farmington" submitted by Jason Zdyrski.

Zdyrski's tape reviewed several prominent Farmington historical sites and their markers, a tour of Farmington Historical Museum, and a detailed oral history interview with Edward Thayer, a longtime resident of Farmington.

"Through the preservation of this tape future generations will be able to look back in time," said John Willard, speaking for the society.

"This two-hour video is being edited now for broadcast on our local Metrovision Cable network," he said. Willard suggests that contestants

might research street and place names, the dairy and cheese industries, the flour or lumber mills that once thrived here.

Other suggestions are merchants, the English and German settlements, the orchards, inns, winery, the Detroit United Railroad, the beginnings of schools or churches in the area.

Peel said he had a few suggestions of his own and would be willing to talk about them to anyone who wanted a start on a research project. He can be reached by calling 478-2073.

Peel is the author of "Farmington: A Pictorial History," published in 1970 and the first major work of his kind.

He is a local historian, active in all of many facets of collecting, sorting, filing, the materials that are housed in the History Room of Farmington Branch Library.

Inquiries about the contest are taken by Nancy Leonard, 476-4125.

## club circuit

**WIND BAGGERS TOASTMASTER CLUB** meets at 8:45 p.m. every Thursday in Sweden House, 31650 Grand River. People interested in the professional public speaking group to attain better speaking, presentation and listening skills are invited to contact Pat Herrel, 827-4870, Ext. 310.

**WESTSIDE SINGLES** meet for a dance party at 8 p.m. Friday in Roma's of Livonia. Schoolcraft service drive, west of Inkster Road. The mission is \$5 for singles over the age of 21.

**LAMAZE CHILD BIRTH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF LIVONIA** begins classes Wednesday, Feb. 1, in Novi High School; Thursday, Feb. 9, in Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Livonia; and Monday, Feb. 13, in Newburg United Methodist Church, Livonia.

For class information and registration, call the association, 592-8515.

**EMBROIDERS GUILD OF AMERICA**, Farmington Area Chapter, meets at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, in Faith Covenant Church.

corner of 14 Mile and Drake.

The project for the month is a Victorian lace sampler, taught by award-winning needleworker Carlene Harwick.

Guests are welcome without charge. Inquiries are taken by Elaine Hoogerwerf, 681-2781.

**LARYNGECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP** meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Thursday of every month in St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road. Family and friends of the patient are welcome. Inquiries taken by Jean Purdy, 476-7855.

**BETHANY NORTHWEST**, a Christian organization for separated, divorced and widowed people, hosts

a Mardi Gras Dance at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, in Our Lady of Sorrows Church social hall, 25515 Power Road. All partygoers are asked to wear a mask, decorated or undecorated, for judging and prizes.

Admission is \$6 at the door for people over 21 years. Inquiries are taken by the group's president, 555-0555.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

## DAR offers free genealogical help

A genealogical workshop will be offered for the public 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile. The workshop is sponsored by Quakertown Chapter of the Michigan Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Conducting the workshop will be Barbara Greene, DAR state lineage research chair, of Birmingham. She will be assisted by Eva Collins, state first vice regent and state membership chair, of Rochester Hills.

Membership in the DAR is based on descent from a man or woman who served as a sailor, soldier, or civil officer in one of the colonies, or states, or as a recognized patriot who rendered material aid to the cause of independence.

Proof of lineage is required. The genealogists will assist those attending on a one-to-one basis. Special assistance will be given to those women 18 years of age and upward who are interested in joining DAR.

The workshop is open to anyone interested in working on family lines. Reservations are not necessary and family work sheets will be provided. There is no charge.

Those planning to attend are asked to bring any helpful data concerning their ancestors such as birth, death, and marriage certificates, baptismal certificates, land records, family Bibles and genealogies, census records, obituaries, cemetery records and newspaper clippings. All interested people from Farmington, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Novi and neighboring areas may attend at any time throughout the day.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Bea Rodocker by calling her at 477-4453 or Rebecca Davis at 477-3956.

## Rx for Happiness offered to seniors

Catholic Social Services of Oakland County is now scheduling "Prescription for Happiness" sessions, offered free to adults over the age of 60. The series of workshops is funded by a United Foundation Venture grant.

The first one of the year scheduled

## Read and study

The National Archives in Washington, D.C., houses the original documents of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights. The Quakertown Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution urges all to read and to study them.

for this area begins Monday, March 6, in American House, open to all interested seniors. Details and registration for the four-week workshop is available by calling American House in Farmington Hills, 471-5469.

"We're scheduling the sessions now throughout the county to be given throughout the year," said Dinna Dirsch of Catholic Social Services. "Any senior group of any size can call us to arrange for the program."

Dirsch can be reached at 674-2203. "Prescription for Happiness" was designed to counter depression, indicated as the number one mental health problem for the elderly according to today's literature concerning geriatric mental health.

The program aims to help decrease depression, increase understanding of happiness and develop skills for a better quality of life for older adults.

The series of workshops stresses increased social involvement, improved communication with family, assertive behavior, appropriate stress management and less dependence on adult children.



## You're number 1

Abigail Grace Jaske is number one in the hearts of her parents, Melody (left) and Kim Jaske of Farmington. And she's number one at St. Mary Hospital, Livonia, where she was the first baby born in 1989. Abigail, weighing 8 pounds 7 ounces, was born at 2:34 a.m. Jan. 1. She was delivered by Dr. Hassan Neal.

## Crafters wanted

Crafters who wish to show and sell their work in Madonna College's "Spring Craft Showcase" are invited to call the college at 591-5155. The sale is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 18, in the college on Schoolcraft and I-696, Livonia.

## Need Help With BUSINESS PROBLEMS?

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**Fashion Panel**  
**MODEL SEARCH**

Aspiring models, male and female, are invited to participate in this exciting new opportunity at Tel-Twelve Mall.

The Fashion Panel will be selected to model in upcoming mall shows, and to participate in a series of fashion-related workshops. The panel's first fashion presentation will kick off our Spring Season March 10.

The Fashion Panel is open to aspiring models, ages 15-86. Please bring a non-returnable photo with you to your interview as follows:

**Monday, February 6** Ages 15-25 Years (only)  
A-L 6 pm - 7 pm  
M-Z 7 pm - 8 pm

**Tuesday, February 7** Ages 26-86 (only)  
A-L 6 pm - 7 pm  
M-Z 7 pm - 8 pm

Meet in Mail Community Room

Telegraph at Twelve Mile, Southfield  
Direct any questions to: Take Time Fashion Services 552-6237