

Slovak dancers
begin anew in U.S., 1B

89 athlete
of year, 1D

Exchange students
look at life here, 8A

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NOTE the date. State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, complained to Gov. Blanchard about appointing Fred Harris to a 47th District Court judgeship May 1, even though he didn't take the bench until June 1.

In the interim, Farmington and Farmington Hills had to hire visiting judges during May. Harris drew \$5,000 in judicial pay while wrapping up his law practice and visiting nearby district courts to learn how their judges operate. He said he didn't take a salary from his law practice once the state began paying him.

"The cities had to adopt a supplemental budget to cover the additional funds needed to pay the temporary judges, which disturbed the local officials," Dolan wrote to Blanchard July 13.

"When making judicial appointments, the appointee works closely with the court to determine the appropriate effective date to make the transition as smooth as possible," responded Gregory Morris, Blanchard's personnel director.

QUOTE of the week

It's just going to be a beautiful thing. There's just going to be love. There's no way to stop it now.

— The Rev. Derwin Success, a black minister from Farmington who's planning a fall peace march in the community. Story: 1A.

what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 4B
Business Sec. C
Cable connection . . . 4C
Classifieds Sec. C, E-H
Index 5G
Auto Sec. C, H
Real estate Sec. E-G
Employment Sec. C, G, H
Creative living Sec. E
Crossword puzzle . . . 8E
Entertainment 5D
Obituaries 6C
Opinion 12A
Points of view 13A
Police/fire calls . . . 4A
Recreation news . . . 9C
Sports Sec. D
Suburban life Sec. B

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Winnie Tarrents (standing) and Sylvia Kantor protest Tuesday night outside the Farmington school board offices over the issue of adult education. They live at the American House Retirement Residence in Farmington Hills.

Park could get name change

Group pushes to link park with neighborhood

By Susan Buck
staff writer

The people of Old Town, formally known only as "Section 36" in southeast Farmington Hills, want to reinforce their new identity with a name change for their neighborhood park as well.

The Old Town Homeowners Association has written the city asking for the name change on behalf of the association. The parks and recreation commission has taken the name change under advisement.

Known for years only as "Section 36" because of its location on the old 36-square-mile map of Farmington Township, the homeowners group last year voted to rename their square-mile-area Old Town. Some homes date back 60 years. Sixty percent of the area's 800 homes were represented in the

vote. The area is bounded by Grand River and Nine Mile, Inkster and Middlebelt.

"The name, Waldron, really has no significance to this area," said Massie Kurzeja, director of the homeowners association, referring to the name of the neighborhood park at Waldron and Independence. The city wants to make sure there's no historical attachment to the name Waldron before it approves the name Old Town, Kurzeja said.

So far, Dan Potter, Farmington Hills Department of Special Services director, has not been able to find any "major significance" to the name Waldron.

MANY HOMEOWNERS in this area of close-knit neighbors, like Kurzeja and George Roberts, the new association president, want to assert their presence with an



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Old Town activists George Roberts (left) and Massie Kurzeja survey Waldron Park in their southeast Farmington Hills neighborhood.

upbeat image in the city.

Both Kurzeja and Roberts have lived in the city for almost 30 years.

Having raised her family in the area, Kurzeja, now brings her

Please turn to Page 6

Farmington High opening in limbo

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Farmington High, undergoing a \$3.3 million face-lift, will open on time for the new school year the last week of August if new window frames are delivered by Aug. 15.

If they don't arrive by then from a Wisconsin factory, resumption of classes could be disrupted, Farmington Public Schools officials conceded at a school board meeting Tuesday night.

The president and vice president

of the Farmington High Student Council, Margaret Martin and Jennifer Kiel, told officials the rumor mill is grinding away.

"We've heard a lot of rumors going around about us going to Harrison hall days," Martin said.

"Kids are coming to us. They're worried," she added. "A lot of people have work schedules and activities that they need to do outside of school."

Responding, acting superintendent Michael Flanagan said: "We want to remain positive. But we're not abso-

lutely positive the school will open on time. We're at the mercy of contractors. But we're on target for the dates originally planned, with the exception of the media center."

DELAYS in construction could trigger a backup plan. The plan, similar to one used in Southfield last year when a fire closed Southfield High, involves "two schools in one," Flanagan said.

"There is a definite plan. On the 15th, if necessary, there will be a very specific plan that we intend to

publicize," Flanagan said. "We want to be ready in the event of a problem we have no control over."

But, he said, the construction manager is optimistic. Extra custodial crews will be hired to clear dust and debris before classes resume, he added.

Work continues on doubling the size of what Flanagan said will be "the finest media center in the country." But completion of the \$2.7 million project isn't crucial to opening

Please turn to Page 10

Picketing

Older folks team up to protest key change in adult education

Telesure classes offered, 8A

new elementary school named, 6A

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

Thirty elderly residents picketed the Farmington school board Tuesday to protest Farmington Public Schools' decision to move high school completion classes from senior apartment complexes to a central site this fall.

Carrying picket signs saying, "Oh, no, we can't go" and "What would your parents think?", seniors, some with walkers or in wheelchairs, picketed in hopes of having academic classes reinstated in their retirement homes.

Taking the classes from their six independent living centers would prohibit many of them from participating because of physical handicaps and transportation problems, seniors said.

But administrators said state scrutiny of such programs almost requires the district to centralize the classes or risk losing them. Im-

It's too bad it has turned out this way. I would probably be getting my diploma this year.

— Dorothy Leach
adult ed student

proprieties surfaced in one on-site program in Wayne County, they said. The school board directed administrators to see if a compromise could be worked out.

About 100 elderly residents participate in Farmington's adult education program, which allows seniors to earn a graduate equivalency diploma, similar to a high school diploma.

JEANNIE ALLEN, an adult education teacher since 1975, wasn't satisfied with the school board's response, considering the effort seniors took to protest moving academic classes to the Farmington Community School.

Many seniors were unable to attend the school board meeting be-

cause transportation wasn't available, Allen said.

"This program is badly needed," said Peggy Osterbeck, a Farmington school teacher for 20 years. "There is no way these people can hop on a bus and get to class."

"They may be too frail physically, but their minds are active," she said. "The classes were wonderful," said Dorothy Leach of Farmington Place Apartments and a five-year adult education student. "It's too bad it has turned out this way. I would probably be getting my diploma this year."

"We would have class everyday," said Evelyn Labelle, a Marion Oakland-West resident. "There is just no way we would be able to get there everyday."

"I think the teachers were doing a tremendous job," said 80-year-old Lillian Malony, who took history and English this past year at American House.

IN THE past, six teachers taught adult education programs at seven senior complexes, including Farm-

Please turn to Page 6

Minister plans march

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

There's no turning back.

A fall peace march in the community is a virtual certainty. The hope will be to promote racial and ethnic harmony through the theme, Love Force United.

"It's a movement. We've made people aware and they're already pledging support," said the Rev. Derwin Success, a black minister in a biracial family victimized by racial slurs in their Farmington neighborhood.

He hopes to march alongside local ministers and public officials. But make no mistake, he said, "I want everybody — ministers, groups and individuals."

"It's just going to be a beautiful thing," he said. "There's just going to be love. There's no way to stop it now."

He counts the NAACP among his supporters.

Success will host a Love Force United organizational meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 14, at 31925 Shilwaukee. Interested community members are welcome, he said.

Because bigotry isn't unique to Farmington, Success envisions possibly a series of marches in the Detroit area, wherever acts of discrimination have been documented.

SUCCESS, a minister at Berea St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Highland Park, has said, "We as a community just can't tolerate such hate. It's not a black-white issue. It's a right-wrong issue."

Success, his wife, Dianna, and their two young children have been targets of hate messages since moving to their two-story home on Shilwaukee four years ago. Dianna and the kids are white.

Success said passersby hurl stones, bricks, papers, firecrackers and racial slurs at him almost daily. His family also has experienced late-night doorbell ringing and telephone calls.

"They've endured enough," said Geraldyn Milewski, who lives next door with her husband, Paul, and their three young children.

Success has the Milewskis' support and cooperation.

Please turn to Page 10

Money sought for anti-drug campaign

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

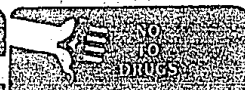
Two community groups have joined forces in search of a thumbs-up from local businesses in the fight against drugs. They hope to raise \$30,000 to promote a "Drug-Free T-Shirt Day" in October.

"Drug abuse is a community problem, not just a parent or police problem," said Betty Nicolay, director of Farmington Families in Action. "Ev-

erybody is affected by the problem, everybody should be part of the solution."

More than 11,000 T-shirts are needed for the "Drug-Free T-Shirt Day" on Friday, Oct. 6. Farmington Public Schools' students, faculty and staff will wear the "Say yes to life (thumbs-up)," say no to drugs (thumbs-down)." T-shirt as part of a drug awareness campaign.

The slogan was used for bumper stickers during the 1988 Farmington



Hills Police Department Crime Prevention Advisory Committee drug awareness campaign.

That committee — in concert with FFIA, Farmington Public Schools,

Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, and Farmington and Farmington Hills police

Please turn to Page 8