

O&E to launch a new section

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Our readers will find their newspaper more valuable than ever," he said.

The Lakes Area edition will allow The Eccentric to focus more attention on the Walled Lake Schools and their sports teams and on the communities of Orchard Lake and Keego Harbor.

It will also carry the news of West Bloomfield Township and West Bloomfield Schools, which is now part of The West Bloomfield edition.

Phil Sherman has been named editor for the West Bloomfield and Lakes Area editions. Dave Varga, the current editor of the Birmingham and West Bloomfield editions, will now concentrate on the communities covered by the Birmingham-Bloomfield edition of The Eccentric.

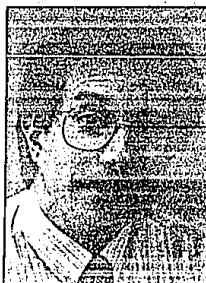
Sherman, 34, holds a bachelor of arts in mass communications, with a major in journalism, from Wayne State University. He was a copy ed-

itor for the Observer & Eccentric for two years, prior to becoming news editor of the Cadillac Evening News, a job he held in 1980-81. He was named managing editor of the northern Michigan daily in 1981, a position he held until 1983.

Since that time he has been publications editor for the external affairs division of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, returned to the Observer & Eccentric copy desk, and has most recently covered Oakland County for the six Oakland editions of The Observer & Eccentric.

"WE THINK people appreciate straightforward coverage that reflects their community, particularly the developing area we'll cover in the Lakes Area edition," Sherman said. "Reporting news is only half the job. The rest comes from listening to residents, learning about the community and then sharing that insight."

"Phil has the strong editing and



Phil Sherman
new editor

reporting background needed to begin the Lakes Area edition — and to continue the coverage and leadership which the West Bloomfield



Doug Funke
business writer

edition provides," said Judith Doner Berne, assistant managing editor for the Oakland County papers.

Council orders work stopped on campus

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Wednesday to review campus changes. Campus officials agreed to attend the Aug. 28 city council meeting to detail changes, Costick said.

Boys Republic is willing to clear up any misconceptions that residents and city officials may have about their services, said Phyllis Griffin, executive director.

"We are still housing the same type of kids," Griffin said. "They are in a different type of program, and that is why they will be separated from the other (open treatment program) boys."

The new service was initiated by the state after the Department of Social Services threatened to stop placing boys there because of excessive truancy.

"WE WANT the direction of Boys Republic to progress in operations and make them a better neighbor, a safer neighbor and pose no threat to the community," Costick said. "We should not allow it to do other than that. We will not allow it."

"I don't see how the boys can be the same if they are going to be fenced in and separated from the other boys," said Maxine Kurzeja,

vice president of the Old Town Homeowners Association.

Each of the two units assigned in the assessment program will hold 20 boys, with five bedrooms on each floor and two boys per room. The boys will be locked in their rooms at night. They are not allowed to roam the campus. An 18-foot-high fence surrounds the basketball court connected to the first unit that will house assessment program boys.

"It seems they are expanding their use to accommodate the state (because of a shortage of juvenile beds statewide)," Kurzeja said. "They are creating a new use and that use should be addressed before the ZBA (Farmington Hills zoning board of appeals)."

THE THREE housing units on campus are being renovated with security window screens, door locks and an audio monitoring system.

Twenty-two other boys will remain in the open treatment program, which requires less supervision. Those bedroom doors won't be locked at night.

The new program will house boys who will be assessed for 30 days before they are placed in a long-term treatment program.

Commissioner backs a wider 12 Mile

Oakland County commissioner Don Wolf has joined Farmington Hills in urging the Oakland County Road Commission to support plans to widen and build a boulevard on 12 Mile, west of Farmington Road.

The Farmington Hills Republican urged the road commission to support the plans as it begins preparing its 1990 budget.

"This is the main east-west corridor in Farmington Hills and immediate improvements are essential to achieving any kind of orderly traffic flow," Wolf wrote in an Aug. 4 letter to the road commission.

THE CITY council supports a conceptual plan calling for a combination of five lanes of pavement and a four-lane boulevard from Farmington Road to 800 feet west of Drake Road.

Preliminary engineering and landscape design work has started on the project, a joint effort of the city, county and state. A task force will coordinate the project.

The county will do an environmental assessment to submit for state approval. A public hearing is planned for September.

TO PAY for the \$6.1 million road improvement project, the city is counting on a \$3.2 million state grant through the Michigan Transportation Economic Development Fund.

The city wants to split the remaining \$2.9 million with the county. That figure includes \$1.1 million for right-of-way acquisition.

"The county's participation is es-

sential to completion of the project," Wolf said.

This proposal is part of a long-range, four-phase plan to widen 12 Mile all the way to Dixie in Novi.

Total estimated cost of the three-mile stretch through Farmington Hills is \$12 million, a figure that doesn't include right of way or relocation costs.

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