

# Community groups plan Earth Day programs

By A. Girelli Bedford  
staff writer

Several Oakland County school districts and community groups, including Farmington Public Schools, have put together an ambitious, three-day program to commemorate Earth Day and focus on pressing environmental issues.

For Earth Day's 20th anniversary, local community education and business organizations are sponsoring

"Facets of the Future," a program at Cranbrook Institute of Science, Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus, and in various buildings at the Farmington and Birmingham school districts. The program will begin on Earth Day which falls this year on Sunday, April 21.

"We believe all the children, high school students, the business community and adults in general will find the program of interest as we look into the future," said Stephen

Kershner, director of the Baldwin and Bloomfield Township public libraries, who chairs the economic and technological issues committee for the program.

Earth Day began in 1970 as a grass-roots effort to draw people's attention toward appreciating the Earth and taking care of it. That year, it was a day of demonstrations, forums and lectures in small towns on college campuses and in the nation's capital.

PAM O'MALLEY, director of the Farmington district's School/Community Relations Department, said the district will likely encourage participation in Earth Day events, especially those within the district and at nearby Orchard Ridge campus of OCC.

"Each of the three days is different," said Janet Johnson, education coordinator at Cranbrook Institute of Science, "but the whole is appealing to groups of all ages. Some are quite serious, and some are quiet fun."

She said the first day, for adults only, is a way to celebrate the Earth with a fresh approach. It's called Earth Day's Eve, featuring ecologically sound snacks, art from nature and a laser show at Cranbrook. Cost is \$15.

Highlighting the second day will be a NASA presentation by Richard Underwood, who will show photographs taken from outer space displaying damage done to the planet. Underwood is scheduled to visit students in the various districts, and

will likely involve middle school students in Farmington, said O'Malley.

The third day, Johnson said, is for the more serious audiences. A day-long seminar at OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills will focus on the future of business, technology and the environment at a cost of \$15, which includes lunch, of \$7 for students.

For additional information or a program brochure, call Cranbrook at 645-3225 or Oakland Community College at 540-1532.

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## Unsafe buildings to be torn down

Three or four \$200,000 houses will be built when five unsafe, debris-filled buildings on four wooded acres on 11 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Power roads, are demolished by spring.

"We must clean the land and clear it properly," Detroit builder Harvey Plaskov, new owner of the acreage,

After a show cause hearing Feb. 26, the Farmington Hills City Council declared the buildings blighted and unsafe. The buildings — a house, two-story barn, small barn, outhouse and shed — were ordered demolished by May 1.

Whether Plaskov, who purchased the land and buildings Feb. 21, or

former owner Harvey Clapham, will demolish the buildings is uncertain.

"The building and site have been abandoned for many years," city zoning inspector Jo Spencer said. "They (owners) have made an effort to remove some of the blight. The majority of this blight still does remain."

Plaskov said he plans to split the acreage into smaller lots for the new houses.

In case good weather doesn't hold or the ground is too soft for a contractor to bulldoze, city attorney Paul Bibeau said the owner may get an extension on the demolition "for extenuating circumstances."

## 2 board seats up for grabs in C'ville race

Two seats on the Clarenceville school board are up for grabs in the June 11 school election.

The filing deadline is 4 p.m. April 8. The seats are now occupied by trustees Linda Brandemuhl and Daniel Morrison.

Brandemuhl, in her first term on

the board, said Tuesday she will seek re-election to a four-year term.

"I will throw my hat back in the ring. It's a challenge," she said.

Morrison was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

The district, which includes south-east Farmington Hills, is expected to

decide tonight whether to put a Headlee waiver on the ballot.

"I will recommend that we have it. We are not a rich district. But it will be up to the board," said Ralph Skrzeka, finance director.

Candidates who file by April 8 have until 4 p.m. April 12 to with-

draw from the election.

Candidates need the signatures of at least 20 voters from the district on their petitions.

Clarenceville includes northeast Livonia, southeast Farmington Hills, and northwest Redford Township.

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