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Farmington Observer

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PACs pave way for GOP winner

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Another \$20,000. Terry Sever figures that's how much more he needed in the Aug. 7 Republican primary to beat his victorious opponent Denise Alexander for the Republican State Senate slot in the 15th District.

"The lack of money was reflected in my inability to have a paid campaign (manager and organization)," said the Farmington Hills councilman.

field. She will face Democratic incumbent state Sen. Jack Faxon and Libertarian opponent Steve Silver of Huntington Woods.

Alexander also outdistanced Sever financially. Her successful bid for the Republican slot cost more than \$80,000, including almost \$20,000 in outstanding bills, according to required post-election campaign finance reports due Sept. 8, with the Oakland County Elections Division. She also loaned her campaign about \$6,700.

UNLIKE SEVER and the other two Republican primary contenders, Alexander's financial way to victory was helped in large part with money from political action committees.

"I think the PAC system is very dangerous. The problem is money talks." — Terry Sever, unsuccessful candidate

Silver spent about \$15,000. "Significantly, I raised only \$8,000-\$7,000. The rest was my money or in-kind contributions," Sever said.

According to finance reports, Sever loaned his campaign \$2,575 and used services from his own printing company of \$5,378.

Third-place finisher Ben Marks raised \$37,795 and spent \$50,648.

"He puts in \$13,000 of his own," his campaign treasurer Leslie Rebtov said.

Fourth-place finisher Alfred "Bud" Smith of Northville filed a waiver because he raised and spent less than \$1,000 in the post-primary period.

Alexander wasn't surprised with her election tab. She said she expect-

ed to spend that much. And she already expects to spend \$125,000-\$150,000 in her race with Faxon and Silver.

The contenders spent their money primarily on literature printing, postage and voters' lists.

Both Sever and Marks, who say they support Alexander, agreed that the Republican Party put their forces behind the Southfield city councilwoman. "The party aimed at her, gave her all the support," said Marks, who like Alexander, had a paid campaign manager.

SEVER, WHO ran a one-man campaign, is critical of the PAC system.

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HOPES FOR world peace were soaring at Eagle Elementary School in the Farmington District one recent Tuesday—even though the day's headlines might have said otherwise.

Close to 400 Eagle students celebrated International Peace Day by making yellow paper doves with the "world peace pledge" printed on them. The children then gathered with Superintendent Mike Flanagan in a huge circle in the school's parking lot and read the pledge.

They all sang "I'd Like to Build the World a House" before placing their paper doves in the trees on the school grounds.

"With the situation in the Middle East, we hoped that the children would understand the importance of world peace and the seriousness of the threats to peace today," said Mary Jo Williams, a teacher's aid and member of the school's Spirit Committee, which organized the event.

Eagle, located north of 14 Mile Road in the northeast corner of the district, has an international student population with at least 10 countries represented," said Williams, whose two children attend the school.

The weather was just right for the peace activities. "We locked out," Williams said. "It rained cats and dogs the night before."

HERE'S AN aspirin for the traffic headaches plaguing motorists who travel 12-Mile Road between Farmington and Drakms roads.

Twelve Mile, a major east-west highway through Farmington Hills, is "fast becoming the five-lane boulevard as planned," according to a memo from the city manager's office.

Construction on two eastbound lanes are near completion and will handle traffic both ways so that work can start on the two westbound lanes.

Traffic should be shifted to the new road this week. The exact date will depend on smooth production and favorable weather conditions. The best-case scenario calls for all lanes to be open by the end of November.

HAVE YOUR posture checked and help the Sarah Fisher Home for Children at the same time.

Benefit posture examinations will be given by Dr. Kathy Duncan, a Novi chiropractor, at the K mart store at Grand River and Halsted from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6.

Donations of at least \$1 per person, will go to the Sarah Fisher Home in Farmington Hills. "I hope we'll raise \$500, maybe more," Duncan said. For more information, call 477-2400.

MEMORY LANE — From the Oct. 10, 1940, Farmington Observer:

On Oct. 16, all men between 18-35 years of age in Farmington and Farmington Township were to register under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 . . . Some 416 students were enrolled in Farmington High School, including new students Felice Stevens, Tom Rock and Theo Griffin. . . Ross L. Berry Pontiac Sales & Service opened at 33173 Grand River.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

A foggy day in Farmington town

It was business as usual for the employees of Oak Farms Fruit & Deli in the Uptown Farmington Plaza on Grand River early Thursday morning despite the heavy fog which had rolled into the area overnight. Mike Porter sweeps the walk and lot in the early morning fog.

City to cut volume at outdoor theater

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The sound of music — within decibel limits — will again be heard at the Farmington-Farmington Hills Community Center. But the debut of the 1991 season isn't striking a

harmonious note with the historic facility's immediate neighbors on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

"They (community center officials) are continuously and numerously violating city ordinances without regard to the neighbors' concerns," said Farmington Road resident Donald Stolberg, one

of about four residents who have long complained about noise from the center.

Planning commissioners Thursday approved a special use permit that allows the center to operate its outdoor theater in a residential district.

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OAKLAND COUNTY
644-1070

School enrollments up, but leveling off

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A preliminary fall head count shows an increase Farmington elementary students again this year, but comparisons to past years show enrollments appear to be leveling off.

"The fact it (the student count) is stabilizing a little bit doesn't surprise me," said superintendent Michael Flanagan. "We knew the big bubble was coming through last year. That was the reason for the new school."

Construction is being completed at the new Hillside Elementary, which is scheduled for total occupancy in late October.

Overall, it appears the total enrollment in all grades may be close to last year's figures.

The district counted a total enrollment of 10,637 — 188 less than 1989-90 figures, but not including students from the district's center special education programs. Last year, there were 251 students in those programs, which include Boys Republic, Farm-

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Party sights are on Faxon

Big \$\$ poured into Senate race

Editor's note: General election coverage of the District 15 state Senate race begins today. Future articles will profile each of the three candidates whose names will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot, and cover issues surrounding the race.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Many eyes in Michigan are on District 15, as Republicans pin their hopes and money on beating a 26-year veteran legislator, and Democrats campaign hard to keep him in place.

Facing off on the Nov. 6 ballot are: incumbent Democrat Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills and two challengers, Republican Denise Alexander of Southfield and Libertarian Steve Silver of Huntington Woods.

Combined, the candidates are predicting they will spend upwards of a quarter of a million dollars.

Republican leaders say both the state and national GOP are putting big dollars plus a volunteer network behind their race to unseat Faxon, although they are coy about how much money will be spent. Alexander said she expects to spend between \$120,000 and \$150,000 in her election bid.

More is riding on this race than just one Senate seat, as Republicans carefully eye their current majority there and look to legislative redistricting in the next two years. They believe they have a chance this year because the district has grown heavily in the western end in Farmington Hills and Novi during the past 10 years.

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Michael Flanagan: "We've had space problems for a few years and still need the classrooms."