

Historical Research contest planned

The Farmington Historical Society announces the eighth annual "Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest," titled in honor of a prominent local educator, historian and author. The contest encourages original research and writing on Farmington and Farmington Hills history.

Due to the submission of an overwhelming number of excellent entries, the Farmington Historical Society had the pleasant duty of awarding two first and five second prizes at the society's annual dinner last May.

First prize awards were given to Kevin Afflebaugh for his paper, "The Spicer Property . . . Our Heritage Park" and to Keely Jones for her paper, "North Farmington High School: A History." Afflebaugh was a student at Power Middle School and Jones attended O.E. Dunckel Middle School. Both received checks for \$100.

Afflebaugh's paper traces the land ownership of the Spicer property from the time of the Indians until the dedication of the park. Detail is also given on the building of the Spicer house and the family that occupied it. He also describes the chain of events that led to the city's purchase of the land and planning of the park. Photographs were also included. Information was gathered from a large number of sources, including an interview with Nicholas Spicer.

Jones' work is a remarkably complete account of the history of North Farmington High School from the initial planning in 1959 to the present day.

The paper is filled with detail and shows the events that have shaped the institution over the years. For her research she relied heavily on newspaper articles, interviews and personal records of people involved in North Farmington High School. Detailed copies of much of the

source material are included to allow the reader access to further detail.

SECOND PRIZE awards of \$50 each were given to five students. To John Abad of O.E. Dunckel Middle School for his paper, "Cheese: One of Farmington's Earliest and Largest Industries." This paper details many nearly-forgotten facts about a surprisingly large number of Farmington cheese factories. Excellent research was done with the aid of the Farmington Branch Library's History Room.

To Sam Gere of O.E. Dunckel for his paper, "A Short History of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington." In depth accounts are given starting with the 1828 beginning of the church and continuing through today. As the son of the present senior minister, Gere brings a unique perspective to this fine account.

To Meghan Leach of O.E. Dunckel for her paper, "The Halsted Family." Her paper gives the Halsted Family tree from 1791 to the present along with many stories of Halsted family life in Farmington over the years. An interview with Dr. Lee Halsted was used as source material along with other articles and books, as well as an interview with the current owner of the Halsted home. Many fine photographs are included.

To Michael S. Olmik of O.E. Dunckel Middle School for his paper, "Orville E. Dunckel." This fine biographical study gives many accounts of Dunckel's life (1886-1970), and his association with Farmington and its school system. Newspaper articles and books were used to complete the study.

To Marlo Walker of Power Middle School for her paper, "Farmington Civic." This paper uses newspaper articles and a personal interview



with the owner of the theater along with a number of fine photographs to tell the story of one of Downtown Farmington's landmark institutions. Much of the original material is also presented for added insight into the long-time operation of this movie theater.

FOUR "BEST in Age Category" prizes of \$25 each were awarded to Don Chamberlain of Power Middle School for "The Stamen Farm"; Melanie Downie of Dunckel for "The Farmington Community Band: Farmington's Major Source of Har-

mony"; Michael Kovah of Power Middle School for "The Hargers"; and Alexa Schubert of Dunckel Middle School for "History of the Farmington Fire Department."

Copies of these papers, along with the previous year's winning entries will be preserved in the Farmington Library History Room.

PEEL, NAMESAKE of the contest, taught English and journalism in Farmington High School for 20 years, retiring in 1980. During his tenure he taught an advanced English class during the decade from

1959-1969. One of the writing options in this class was a research assignment similar to this contest.

Peel is a past president of the Farmington Historical Society and remains active in the society.

He has authored "Farmington, A Pictorial History," originally published in 1970. It was the first major work on this topic. He is currently working on a revision of the book.

The eighth annual Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest is open for entries which may comprise a wide range of audio, visual or written for-

malts concerning original research in Farmington History. All age groups are encouraged to participate and will be judged separately.

The primary intent is to get people to dig into their attics, cellars and family records to put together a vignette of life in old Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Some topics suggested are street and place names; dairy and cheese industries; flour and lumber mills; merchant and town center development; English and German settlements; North Farmington school and churches; Indian history and trails; the winery. Contemporary history is also welcome — stories and recollections of living through or being a part of World War I, World War II and other wars; the depression; various developments where there used to be only farms and orchards.

PEEL HAS A lot of ideas he would like to give to researchers. Interested persons may contact him by mail at 33436 Shawasssee, Farmington 48336 or by phone at 476-2073.

It is important for the researcher to understand that items of historical interest can concern people, places and events of all time periods including the recent past, so newcomers to this area should not feel excluded.

Source for the entries may be personal recollections, interviews, family directories or letters, old photographs, paintings and sketches. Contest entries should be mailed to Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest, 33309 Shawasssee, Farmington 48336. They will be accepted through March 30. Winners will be announced at the society's annual dinner meeting May 17.

She's in the finals

Courtney Kling, the 15-year-old student at North Farmington High School who won Envision Model Management's nationwide Model Search for 1991, has been named a finalist in the 1991 Gitano Model Search.

She was chosen as one of 15 finalists from 5,000 entrants across the country.

The daughter of Ed and Gloria Kling of Farmington Hills, she and her mother will be flown to New York for the last five days of competition in March.



Courtney Kling

Weight loss plan

Tamara Institut de Beaute of Farmington Hills has a new solution to weight problems — Tamara's Medical Weight Management.

The program's emphasis is on education and changing life-style behavior. It combines medical supervision, behavioral counseling, nutrition and dietary education, exercise education and overall guidance.

The program was developed by Dr. Kenneth L. Fink and Keith Levick, a Farmington Hills psychologist. Together they designed the program with one goal; personal success in dealing with weight.

It was devised for individuals who are 20 percent or more over their ideal body weight where weight loss would reduce medical risk. The weight-loss will help in the prevention of hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.

The average weight loss in the program is 40 pounds. Tamara believes that the combination of a medically supervised, supplemented low-calorie diet along with an intensive education and follow-up accounts for the program's success rate.

All clients are screened to determine medical eligibility. Before admission to the program, applicants must attend a free orientation, fill out an application and health history form, and undergo an initial clinical evaluation.

For more information, call Tamara Institut de Beaute at 855-0474.

Foster care needed for teenage girls

Vista Maria is looking for individuals who can provide a teenage girl with a loving, nurturing home environment and assist her in growing successfully toward adulthood. The Vista Maria Specialized Foster Care Program is an innovative approach to providing a family atmosphere to teenage girls, ages 11-17.

The program provides intense

Boy Scouts get grant

Volunteer work became double rewarding for 23 Detroit Edison employees when the Detroit Edison Foundation gave \$20,000 on their behalf to non-profit educational organizations in Michigan.

Farmington Hills resident chose the Clinton Valley Council of Boy Scouts of America to receive a \$750 grant. To be eligible for the award employees must have provided 50 or more hours of unpaid service within the past year.

Hansen is a member of the Pontiac-based council's executive board and has been a volunteer since 1968.

Spring specials listed

"Learn to Draw Cartoons" for students of all ages, a one session workshop, begins at 4:15 p.m. Monday, March 18, which is one of Mercy Center's spring specials this season.

"Exposure to Photography" is a four-session class that begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6.

Science Camp, for youngsters 5-12 years old sponsored by Living Science Foundation, runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 1-5. Extended hours are available.

Spring Vacation Break for youngsters 3-12 years old runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 1-5. The break offers participants swimming, kym and outdoor activities, arts and crafts. Extended hours are available.

Open swimming for the early morning swimmers is set for 6:30 a.m. weekdays and 7:30-9 a.m. Saturdays. Also offered are lap swimming, swimming classes, private swimming lessons, competitive swimming for both adults and children, and Adapted Aquatics.

In both the Stretch and Tone and Trim & Swim classes, for adult senior adults are offered discount rates.

The swimming pool and rooms, within Mercy Center, on 11 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inland Road, are available to rent for private parties.

Inquiries are taken by calling the center at 476-8010.

Parenting classes set

Farmington Youth Assistance is now accepting registrations for its spring parenting classes. Classes will be at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, and at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays starting March 5 and March 7 and run for 10 weeks.

Classes will be given in Ten Mile Community School, 32789 16 Mile Road. There is a \$20 charge per family which includes all materials.

Parenting study classes usually consist of 15 participants and an experienced leader. The emphasis is parents helping parents.

For information or to register, call the FYA office at 489-3434. FYA is sponsored by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, the Oakland County Probate Court, and the Farmington Schools.

Volunteers are called

Farmington Nursing Home needs volunteers to assist in various activities including reading to and talking with residents. Hours are flexible.

Those interested should call Nancy Fees at Farmington Nursing Home, 477-7400.

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