

Designer shows
spring line 3C



Soft fall
season 1B

Home and Garden
section inside today



Farmington Observer

Volume 102 Number 53

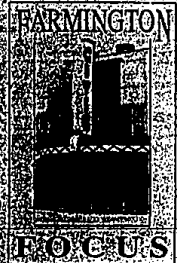
Thursday, April 4, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

92 Pages

Fifty Cents

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ALDO VAGNOZZI, Farmington Hills mayor, left, speaks at a news conference during a city council meeting Monday. Two Roman Catholic sisters were on hand to ask permission to hold a fund-raiser for the St. Thomas More Parish Center in the city.

Vagnozzi approved the council's through its lighter-than-usual agenda, saying, "I promised the sisters they'd get home in time for the church service."

Eventually they got home in time, with permission granted for the fund-raiser.

HOW'S YOUR health? Find out at Project Health-O-Rama to be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at the Motor Center, 11 Mile road, east of Midland.

The annual event is put on by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Commission on Aging.

Cost: free. Health screening is open to anyone 18 years of age or older. Free health tests include: height and weight, blood pressure, hearing, vision, hearing and glucose. A blood test panel of 21 tests costs \$11, and colorectal cancer screening kits are available for \$5.

It is recommended that participants fast — taking only water, plain low-fat plain coffee — for four hours before taking the blood panel test.

Counseling and referral are available, as well as a variety of health education information.

For more information, call the Project Health-O-Rama hotline, 424-5600, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Health-O-Ramas will be held at many sites throughout the Detroit area April 8 through May 3.

TAKE NOTE, Farmington-area residents who have a lot of hazardous wastes around your homes. Mark Saturday, April 20, on your calendars.

You can get rid of that stuff — paint, paint thinner, pesticides, motor oil, drain cleaner and the like — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. that Saturday by taking it to a special collection site in back of the 47th District Courthouse in Farmington.

The collection is for Farmington and Farmington Hills residents. No commercial or industrial wastes will be accepted.

Residents should enter the courthouse parking lot from northbound Rappahel, which runs off Shawwassee.

MEMORY LANE — From the April 5, 1991 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Raymond Jacobson and Carol Frey were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, for the class of 1951 at Claremont High School.

Farmington Township officials were granted pay raises and car allowances amounting to \$400.

Sally Beckley of Farmington was a dance contest winner at the Edgewater Roller Rink.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21258 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

A hands-on experience

Robert Piepenburg, ceramics instructor for the last 21 years at Oakland Community College, believes in educating students of all ages — including the 50 or so youngsters

from Farmington's Highmeadow Elementary who visited his studio recently to learn about ceramics. For a story and more photographs, see Page 3A.

Voters may decide issue of 3rd judge

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters could have the chance to approve an estimated \$1.8 million expansion of the 47th District Court to make room for a third judge by 1992.

"We have to recognize — whether we want to or not — there is an anti-tax movement. It's out there and you can't take for granted (the need for a third judge)," Farmington Hills city councilwoman Jean Fox said.

"We have to realize if we go to voters they may not think this is as critical."

The other option available to the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils is to issue general obligation bonds through a building authority. That's more expensive and the debt would have to be paid out of each city's general operating fund and within each city's charter millage limit.

Going to voters for a bond issue to expand the 13,883-square-foot two-courtroom courthouse on 10 Mile Road means the debt would not have

to be paid out of each city's general fund and is not subject to city charter millage limits.

IF THE TWO city councils agree to add a third judge a decision must be made this year because judicial candidates for the post must file candidacy petitions by April 1992. A third judge would take office January 1993.

Two seats would actually be open at that time because Judge Margaret Schaeffer's term will be up and she cannot seek re-election because of her age.

Judges Schaeffer and Fred Harris Tuesday told the two city councils they need a third judge because of a continually growing caseload and despite help from three part-time magistrates.

"We may have to dismiss cases simply because we can't get through them," Schaeffer said, referring to speedy trial requirements.

The magistrates are doing everything they are allowed under the

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City plants cash to sprout trees

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington city officials went out on a limb Monday, addressing environmental and aesthetic concerns of a downtown condominium association.

But they don't want the problem dug up again.

At the root of the issue is a 8-year tug-of-war between residents of the Wynset Condominiums and members of the city council, who debated Monday night whether to spend \$250 to put two replacement trees in the city's right-of-way in front of the complex along Farmington Road.

The city has unsuccessfully planted three sets of trees there since 1983 and claims the association has "drowned" the trees with too much lawn sprinkling.

Residents wanted the city to replace the two trees again, saying a sewer contractor took out five trees for a project years ago, and did something to the land that caused two of the replanted trees not to flourish. Wynset Condominium Association board president James Hurren said he was basing this most recent request on the city's new tree ordinance, which requires replacement of trees that have been removed.

THE CITY COUNCIL agreed Monday to allocate \$150 for two trees, taking advantage of discounted prices from the Beautification Committee's tree purchasing program, but told residents they didn't want to hear any more about it and

Please turn to Page 2.

Banners raise a flap in Farmington

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Several sets of decorative street banners remain packed away, barred from hanging in downtown Farmington as local officials plead their case to the new head of state transportation.

City manager and Downtown Development Authority member Robert Deadman sent a letter March 19 to Patrick Nowak, the newly appointed director of the Michigan Department of Transportation who represented Farmington Hills in the 1970s as an Oakland County Commissioner.

Nowak, a longtime Jaycee activist, was appointed to the post by Gov. John Engler after serving as deputy county executive since 1977.

According to city officials, Nowak operated a store in the Downtown Farmington Center years ago.

"It is our impression that a banner program with private sponsorship fits squarely into the type of beautification project that MDOT would support," Deadman said. "Actually the state's adopt-a-highway program takes a similar approach when it acknowledges businesses with a sign in the right of way."

Farmington officials have yet to receive a response from Nowak, who was not in his Lansing office to comment this week.

FARMINGTON'S DDA was prohibited several weeks ago from using decorative banners with sponsorship tag lines, after four years of flying them with state and county permission along Grand River and Farmington Road and building up an inventory of such banners with plans to reuse them.

Please turn to Page 2.



Wendy Strip-Sittner

Observer shuffles its lineup, expands local news section

Welcome to some new looks in your Observer.

Our staff has been working to make it easier for you to find the information you want and need about your local community and your lifestyle.

We know you will find the additions helpful. If you have any comments or suggestions, please be sure to give me a call at 953-2100.

With the debut of the changes in today's Observer, readers will be seeing more of what they like and it will be easier than ever to find.

Our local news coverage is being expanded by an entire section: Local sports, entertainment and business will be anchored in Section B. By the way, for your convenience, Business will begin on the back of the B section for easy access.

Classified advertisement readers will note a conven-

ient change. All classified sections will be continuous and led off by an index to help you find the service you most desire.

You no longer will have to hunt and peck your way through the newspaper, looking for the advertisement that will meet your needs. This will be led off by the ever-popular Creative Living section, featuring the best of the arts in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Of course, for those interested in social issues affecting your lifestyle, fashion and society news, you can turn to the Suburban Life section.

Premiering today is news dedicated to the ever-important real estate scene, as well as the ongoing coverage of the commercial construction in Building Scene.

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