

Group works all week. AVE SEDENTION LE LICEUR DE LICEUR

# Farmington Observer

Monday, April 15, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

Fifty Cents

### FOCUS

stores.

For information about bulk sales of cards, call Donna Damon of the Farmington Beautification Committee at 476-5125.

HE LIGHTS at the Farmington Hills branch of the Farmington Hills branch of the Farmington ton Community Library will blaze later than usual Monday alght. April 18, to help procreationating 'tanpayers, who might be burning the midnight only the state of the state of

Ol.
That library branch, 22737 W.
12 Mile Road, will stay open until
1. pm., although normal book checkout will end at 9 pm. Fedceral and state tax forms will be available on a first-come, firstserved basis. Sets also will be provided for photocopying.
For more information, call the library at 533-0300.

Ilbrary at 553-0300.

The SINIS FITZGERALD, member of the Farmington Hills Park Commission, will be interviewed on the April presentation of "My Voic Counts," a series focusing on voting and aired in Channel 12 on the Metrovision coals TV systém.

Fitigerald will discuss the May parks and recreation millagevoic with bost Richard DeVries. The show can be seen Wednesday at 8 p.m., Thursday at 2 p.m. and most Fridays at 7 p.m.

The May program will feature an loterview with Jim Hexander, chalirman of the Oakland County Republican Party, with host John Akouri. In June, bost Julieann Homerstein William Homerstein Democratic Party.

The programs are designed and presented by the Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation. ENNIS FITZGERALD

Ter Participation.

MAPII 19, 1951 Farmington Enterprise.

The Parmington Enterprise of The Parmington Enterprise.

Township District board of Education voiced the teachers a salary increase. Beginning teachers with respect to 12,280.

High school students should be encouraged to go shead with their future plans despite world conditions. GV. Harrison, Farmington High principal, said in a talk before the Senior Mothers at the high school source and the senior should be senior sh

talk before the Senfor Mothers at the high schools are warmen. The Mender the Block column: "That MacArthur est from Japan was witnessed by a delegate from Farmington in the very first row. We're referring to Corporal Ernest B. Tyler, a Farmington boy who watched the General leave his Tokyo home for the last time. Ernie did a lot of hard and cold work for us in Korea. And it was cold — he was laid up with frestbite awhile."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farm-ington Observer, 21898 Farm-ington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

## Special ed discrimination charged

By Casey Hens stall writer

A U.S. Department of Education ruling that he Farmington School District discriminated hits special education policies brought a par-nt and the school board president to verbal

blows last week.
Parent Lorne Leon read a prepared state-ment to the school board Tuesday, requesting the district respond to a ruling by the educa-tion department's Office for Civil Rights. The federal agency said the district discrim-

inated against atudents with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, sometimes called Attention Deficit Disorder.
"It is only because the federal government is forcing you, that you will now have to obey the law," Leon said.

The Farmington district had taken the position that ADIB and ADD were not recognized by state rules so were not addressed specifically in the local special education program, according to information released in the ruling. Similar rulings have had an impact on some 40-50 districts across the country, according to

a growing, national parent lobby fighting for more specialized education for kids with ADIB — a disorder believed to be hereditary and neurological-biological in nature. The disorder was known for years as "hyperactivity" or "hyperkinesis," even though some of the children show no hyperactivity. LEON HAS TAKEN up the cause locally, as the parent of a child with ADIB. Leon's discourse Tuesday was interrupted by an angry board President Susan Rennels who lold Leon be was "crossing over some lines" involving the privacy rights of students.

"This board cannot comment on matter of ititgation," she added. "You are welcome to pursue whatever remedies are available to you. We have procedures in place. They (the administration) will pursue whatever it is that needs to be done."

needs to be done."

Leon, who has spoken to the board on special
education issues and who has been embroiled
with the district in litigation about his son's
education for several years, responded just as
angrily.

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## Campaign revs up for parks tax

By Susan Buck staff writer

The Say Yes To Parks committee has explained its tance on the May 7 eight year, half-mill tax proposal to

The Say Yes To Parks committee has explained its stance on the May 7 eight year, half-mill tax proposal to the city.

Now committee members, supported by the parks and recreation commission, are ready to campaign for the millage in the community.

Committee members, working out of phone banks, will call residents, primarily a friendly audience, at home between 7-9 p.m. this week to explain the tax. Closer to the election, another round of calls will remind voters to get out the vote.

A press conference will be held at the end of the month to demonstrate support for the millage. Also, speakers are available ro speak before groups, by callingthe parks and recreation department at 473-9570. In addition, the committee will take out a large ad in the Farmington Observer listing the tax supporters, including well-known, influential people.

"With only a half-mill on the line, and a winning use for the money, a lot of people might say, Well, this should pass easily ..., and not take the trouble," said Mike Horner, committee chairman who boated the April 11 meeting at the Farmington Community Center. "That's my biggest concern."

JODY SORONEN, former city councilwomen and honorary committee chairwoman, agreed that "turning out the vote will be the tough part." It think your supporters are probably there, it's getting them out to the polis," she said. The need for the extended length — three years longer — of the millage renewal came about partly because of the Year 2000 committee's recommendations for parks and recreation.

Acquisiting of land now is a must Horner said.

Acquisition of land now is a must, Horner said.

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Longtime Farmington High principal Jerry Potter talks with students during class exchange. Potter, who plans to leave his post in June, says he will miss

the hustle and bustle of the daily school day but is looking forward to new challenges.

## 30 and out

## Longtime FHS principal to leave

For Jerry Potter, it's all a wonderful blur of events and people who have walked the halls and filled the classrooms of Farmington lligh School in the past 30 years.

The 55-year-old educator is leaving his post as principal of Farmington High in June to begin a second career as a visiting lecturer at the University of Michigan through North Central Association, a national accrediting agency, plus some work in real estate and consulting.

The move is something Potter has planned for the past five years, and he is spending his final weeks at the school "savoring the day, the moment, the experiences."

riences."
"I think I'm leaving it a little bit better for the new administration," he said. "I'm leaving feeling very happy, proud and pleased, both personally and professionally,
"The doors are just opening to more doors, and I'm not boxing myself in."
Potter announced his retirement last

'If I had to do it over again, I'd come to Farmington, Farmington High, and do it all over again.'

--- Jerry Potter FHS principal

Tuesday to staff and Wednesday to the student body. He said he doesn't expect to feel the impact until his last graduation ceremony in June, or maybe next fall when it's time, again, for a new school

when it it itme, again, for a new school year.
POTTER STILL recalls the first time is saw the high school, which is housed in the Farmington school district's oldest building, which was recently renovated and now boasts a state-of-the-art media centure.

and now boasts a state-of-the-art media center.
"I remember parking on Shiawassee and walking up that long sldewalk to meet the principal who gave me my job," he said. "That was the longest walk in the world — I still remember that vividly."

He never tooked back.

He never looked back.

The Farmington resident took his first teaching job at the school in 1961 where he taught business and coached tenats, was promoted to assistant principal in 1967, and to the principalship in 1976. He has no regrets.

"It had to do it over again. It come to Farmington, Farmington High, and do it all over again." He said.

Although most of the events of 30 years blied into the days described years blied into the days sexual out.

As the second years with a standout.

As the second years with years and principal in 1967, tenstance, he remembers steping over years the second years and the principal of 1967, tenstance, he remembers steping over short work of the second years and the standout when the second years are policy wow, nothing surprises inc." he added.

held a std-in protesting the school's atten-dance policy. "Now, nothing surprises me," be added. But despite the occasional event or ex-citement, it is the staff, students, fellow administrators and other support which he said have tept the school well-olded to the staff of the staff of the staff of the cently, parental involvement has become one of the keys to the school's success.

### Coming through

Friends of the Parade Association president Bruce Lantto, a Farmington businessman, tries to poke his head through a papier mache potunia at the warehouse where items from the Michigan Thanksgiving Day Parade are stored. For a story and photos about the pa-rade, please see Page 3A.

### what's inside

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## You supply the



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## Gulf War pen pals finally get together

By Susan Buck staff writer

Some pen pals keep al it for years without ever meeting each other personally.

Not so for Barbara Darish, a Farmington Hills resident, and Army Sgt. Jerry Burdock, 23, of Redford Township, who serves in the \$2nd Althorne Division. The pen pals — who got involved thanks to the recent Gull War — finally met April 3 at Metro Airport.

It all started when Darish sent the local Friends of Freedom group a stamped, self-addressed envelope and they forwarded Burdock's name to Darish from a list of 900 enlisted armed services personnel from Michigan—Darish ended up doing volunteer work for Farmington-area Friends of Freedom, too.

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