

Needed: one van with lift, 1C



Local high school fair always a big draw, 3A



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Controversial flower stand vandalized

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Destruction 'disheartening' — owner

Tuesday morning Ray Hesano went out to finish setting up the flower stand he's had for five years at Northwestern Highway and 14 Mile when he discovered someone had cut the ropes and collapsed his new tent during the night.

"This was not kids who came along and cut them," Hesano said Tuesday morning as work crews tried to raise the tent near Langans Bowling Center, 32905 Northwestern Highway.

Hesano of West Bloomfield wonders if some members of the Farmington-area business community are responsible for the cut ropes sup-

porting his blue and white striped tent because they oppose his seasonal business on that corner.

The tent itself also was damaged as were some of the tables he planned to display his flats of flowers and potted plants. Hesano said he plans to open May 1 as planned.

"Every rope is slit in the same exact spot. I wonder if it has to do with the people who opposed me," he said.

"It's disheartening when legally the city has given me a permit to operate. It was all fair and square, it's disheartening to see how ruthless people can be."

BOB HEINRICH, president of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, said he doesn't believe the business community is responsible for the vandalism. "I feel badly for him," Heinrich said. "I think he was a victim of malicious vandalism. I don't believe anyone in the business community is responsible for that."

Hesano's flower stand is at the center of concern among some members of the local business community who feel he's unfair competition. Officials of the chamber of commerce a week ago asked the Farm-

ington Hills City Council to review the ordinance that allows temporary-use permits for seasonal businesses such as Hesano's.

Heinrich says business owners who are opposed to temporary businesses such as Hesano's are going through the proper channels to voice their concerns.

"I don't believe the business community would resort to that tactic to accomplish their objectives," he said.

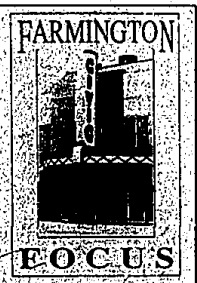
But Hesano says he wishes he had been notified of the discussion at the city council April 22 because he's got

plenty to say, especially in light of the fact that he has city approval to operate his flower stand March 28 to April 2 and May 1 to July 21.

BUSINESS OWNERS complained to the chamber of commerce because they feel businesses such as Hesano's are unfair competition and because they don't have the responsibilities and overhead faced by permanent businesses.

That's not true, Hesano says. "I know most of the business community, the people complaining think it's unfair competition," he said. "But I have expenses too. I usually rent the tent. This year I bought

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HOW'S BUSINESS in downtown Farmington these days? Pretty good, says Harry Wingerter, although his view may be prejudiced.

"I'd have to say that," said Wingerter, with a laugh. "I'm head of the DDA (Downtown Development Authority)."

He's also president and co-founder of the Bon Ton Shoppes, a "gift department store" with Hallmark Cards, which at 30 just may be the oldest retail business in town.

"The Bon Ton ('Good Style' in French) marked 30 years in Farmington on May 1 with gifts and frequent sales promotions. There are also Bon Tons in the Brighton Mall and the Newburgh Plaza in Livonia."

The stores have two divisions — greeting cards and other paperware, and home decorative accessories and personal gifts.

The present facility is more than 6,000 square feet.

The stores are still owned by founders Harry and Stella Wingerter. Son Jerry is vice president in charge of operations, and one of the Wingerter's twin daughters, Janet Autry, is director of window and in-store display.

"We're pleased with business," said Harry Wingerter, who lives in Millford after 30 years in Farmington. "Even with this recession, it's holding up pretty well."

DAVID DUREIKO, a Farmington Hills resident, is being fondly remembered around the 47th District Court in Farmington.

The employed tool and die maker was called, but not picked, for a jury in the local court. The court owns Dureiko \$30.80 for his trouble, but he said forget it.

"I wasn't doing anything any way," he said. "So why take the money? They're probably just deduct it from my unemployment."

A potential juror refusing money he/she had coming is something Marilyn Rotolo has not seen in her 10 years as jury clerk at the 47th.

"He felt that, since he was collecting unemployment, he was already being compensated by the state," she said.

About that \$30.80... it'll probably go to the charity of someone's choice, the jury clerk said.

MEMORY LANE — From the May 3, 1951 Farmington Enterprise:

● Ronald P. Johnson and Gerald White, local sailing pals, boys, joined 28 outstanding young men from Michigan in an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. They were guests of the Automobile Club of Michigan.

● Don O'Keefe established a school record in the shot put (44 feet, 2 1/2 inches) to help Farmington High beat Millford in track.

● Charles Larson was named chairman of the Memorial Day Parade in Farmington.

● Farmington voters were to have gone to the polls May 14, 1951, to elect a five-member council under the terms of the new city charter.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48330, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



Author speaks; resident listens

Nat Rosenberg of Farmington Hills listens as Israeli author Ze'ev Chafets speaks at the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills Monday evening. Rosenberg attended the talk with his wife, Dorothy, and friends. Chafets, who grew up in Pontiac,

authored the controversial "Devil's Night: And Other True Tales of Detroit" which angered many Detroit officials when it was published last fall. For a story and more photographs, see Page 10A.

SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Rennels says she's ready to meet fiscal challenge

Editor's note: Coverage of the 1991 Farmington school board race begins today with a profile of incumbent school board candidate Susan Rennels. Future profiles on challenger Laura Myers and Richard DeVries, and coverage of various election issues will continue throughout May. The election is June 10.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

When Susan Rennels moved to the Farmington School District in the early 1970s, the community was different and so were the schools.

Elementary schools were being closed because of declining enrollments and the district was making do with less money.

"It was a really turbulent time,"

recalled Rennels, current Farmington school board student and incumbent candidate vying for a third term on the Farmington Board of Education. "It was a difficult time for all schools."

Money woes, once again, head the list of concerns here after a decade of building and growth which moved Farmington into a select group of top school districts in the state in the 1980s.

But the 47-year-old Rennels believes she is up for the challenge.

An assistant vice president for and branch manager of First Federal of Michigan's office on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, Rennels is vying for another term because she feels she has a talent for compromising and bringing people together.

"I've learned I can help people reach a consensus," she said.

That could be an important trait as the district heads into a tough budget process, and contract negotiations get underway this year with four of the district's five employee bargaining units.

Rennels faces two challengers in the June 10 school election: Farmington Hills resident and Ford Motor engineer Richard DeVries and downtown Farmington parent, PTA activ-



Incumbent Farmington school board candidate Susan Rennels says she is prepared to handle the tough financial times ahead for the district.

ist and bookkeeper Laura Myers — both candidates in the 1990 election, as well. The three will vie for one, 4

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Parks tax wins support

Our opinion, 18A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

One spoke simply as a resident. Another as a naturalist. Others spoke for youth sports, senior adults, business and artists.

What they have in common is their intention to vote "yes" when they go to the polls May 7 for the Farmington Hills half-mill request for eight years for parks and recreation.

"We challenge to voters: Your support only counts at the polls," parks and recreation chairman Dennis Fitzgerald said at a press briefing in the Heritage Park visitors center Monday afternoon.

"As in the past, residents can expect the money to be spent on specifically designated projects," he said.

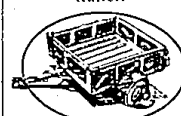
The press briefing, which was public, was designed to show voters the broad support — including those who formally criticized park plans — for the proposed parks and recreation millage.

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Candidate wants change — and caution

As the only incumbent of three candidates running for one seat on the school board this fall, Rennels maintains strong views on the school district's situation.

The current school board president:

● Advocates continued K-12 curriculum revision and updating which has occurred in the district in the past five years. She is pleased there is no longer a "learning division" between elementary and secondary in the district.

● Wants cablecast school board meetings. "In a cost-efficient way," Rennels said that if elected, she would push for this.

● Believes some facilities upgrades should continue, although she does not envision major construction. "Some of the building construction is terrible. It was done on the cheap, and they're falling apart," she said. "I think this is one place we've learned from our mistakes."

● Wants community involvement in district programs. "Non-parents and the business community

need to come together and look at programs," she said. "One reason is for everyone to gain an understanding as to what schools are today, compared with when they went to school. Also, we want to get their ideas. In the long run, it would help set priorities for the district."

● Realizes the board must take a new tack in doing business because of the state financial situation. "Our board has been very apologetic over the years, kind of hoping to stay out of it," she said. "We've learned you can't do that."