

A gentle, relaxing,
but wicket game, 1C



Harrison
football, 1B

School bells toll for
Farmington kids, 3A



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Fifty Cents

FARMINGTON



FOCUS

SANDRA LEVIN is an artist who doesn't have to travel far from home for inspiration. She just heads for Heritage Park on Farmington Road.

"I do love Heritage Park so much," said the Farmington Hills landscape artist who uses acrylic on canvas, "and I'd hate to see them pave it over."

"I don't mean to get up on my soap box, but I do think it should be preserved."

One of Levin's paintings — "Trilliums in the Woods" from a Heritage Park scene — will be on display at the Our Town art show Oct. 16-20 at the Birmingham Community House, 380 S. Bates.

The works of art may be viewed from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. those days. Levin's painting measures 4 by 3 1/2 feet.

ATENTION YOUNG green thumbs . . . the Farmington Branch Library Garden Club will co-sponsor a Junior Gardener program, running October through May.

Open to children ages 5-6, the program will offer opportunities to gain hands-on experience in planting and growing things, as well as in flower arranging.

The group will meet 4-5 p.m. every other Tuesday at the downtown Farmington branch of the library.

Registration for this and other children's programs begins Tuesday, Sept. 10. In-person registration starts at 10 at the library, 23500 Liberty. Telephone registration begins at noon.

The first 12 Farmington or Farmington Hills youngsters to register will be accepted in the Junior Gardener program. Others will be placed on a waiting list. For more information, call the library's Children's Department at 474-7770.

THERE IS a symphony orchestra based in Farmington Hills, and it's called Group du Jour.

Conducted by Farmington Hills resident Karen Nixon, a former freelance horn player, the orchestra is made up of musicians from across the metropolitan area.

Group du Jour opens its season at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, at the Mercy Conference Center on 11 Mile Road. Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 is on the bill. Tickets at \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students may be purchased at the door.

The group will present four concerts if funds are available, Nixon said.

MEMORY LANE — From the Aug. 30, 1991, edition of the Farmington Observer.

terprise.

• Nine Farmington Township firefighters turned out to battle a grass fire at Colfax and Farmington Road. Several other grass fires were reported in the city and township.

• Regular gasoline was being sold for 25.5 cents a gallon at the Zephyr Super Station, 29372 Grand River at Middlebelt.

• "Bombadier" starring Pat O'Brien and Randolph Scott was the attraction at the Civic Theater.

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

OCC, library officials explore merger

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Community Library and Oakland Community College officials are exploring the possibility of merging a new main library with a college library on the Orchard Ridge campus.

"With the library having the authority for a portion of the Peltz land, we hadn't considered merging with OCC or using that as a location," said Beverly Papai, Farmington Community Library director. "OCC-Orchard Ridge came to ask us if we would be interested in exploring it."

Dan Jakson, president of the Orchard Ridge campus, calls the merger possibility a "real complicated issue" and still exploratory.

"We're still talking: Is it legal? Is there a suitable site? Is there a cost savings? If it's a savings to taxpayers, we owe it to investigate

Officials say community college libraries and public libraries have merged in the past in Montana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas and Florida.

it. We're still generating questions," Jakson said.

The Farmington Hills City Council earlier this year agreed to let the community library reserve a portion of the city-owned Peltz land on Farmington Road, south of I-696, for a new, 80,000-square-foot library.

SINCE THAT time, some critics have opposed the library at that site because of increased traffic on Farmington Road, as well as concern of putting a building on land that — at least in the eight years of the parks and recreation special millage plan — is expected

to remain in its natural state.

That doesn't mean library officials are giving up the Peltz land. Asking voters for tax money to finance construction of a new library is expected in 1992 — regardless of location, Papai said.

"We can't continue to function adequately without making appropriate plans," Papai said, of the cramped quarters in the 38,000-square-foot main library on 12 Mile Road, between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

"We're still operating with increased demand on public seating, housing our collection, and during peak hours, finding places to

park," Papai said, adding that in 1990-91, circulation increased 9.6 percent.

The Farmington Community Library serves about 85,000 people. The OCC library serves approximately 8,000 students, plus referrals from other OCC campuses, Papai said.

OCC officials, meanwhile, are waiting for an educational consultant's report that is expected to discuss problems with the library in the heart of the campus, south of I-696, between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

"It (OCC-Orchard Ridge library) generally speaking, is in need of some improvements," Jakson said.

PAPAI AND Jakson are trying to develop a timetable when certain decisions must be made so both facilities stay on track with individual plans should there be no merger possible.

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SHARON LAM/EXX/staff photographer

One cool play

Keye Smith, one of Harrison High School's back-up quarterbacks, takes a water break during practice in the 90-degree heat Monday. The Hawks' season begins Saturday, Sept. 7, at

the Pontiac Silverdome where they will play prep power Birmingham Brother Rice. For a story and some photos on Harrison's football team, please see Page 1B.

Alternate school

Program aids troubled kids

By Casey Hana
staff writer

Thirty-five Farmington-area students will get specialized attention starting this week in a new alternative high school program.

As yet unnamed, the program is housed in three classrooms at the Farmington Training Center in downtown Farmington.

Students there will pick a name for the fledgling program, designed to help both male and female students, ages 16-19, who have trouble learning in a traditional high school environment.

"A lot of people have thought about it for many, many years," said Terry Kleenear, supervisor of adult and community education for Farmington Public Schools.

After attending a spring conference and getting approval from the state for funding it, Kleenear and school/community relations director Pamela O'Malley decided to put the program together for this fall.

"We looked at a number of programs, and pooled what would work best for Farmington," Kleenear said. "We came back from the conference ready to do it. It meant just plain, hard work pulling it all together."

"They worked all summer," BEING RUN through the district's adult education consortium with

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Fox won't run

But 3 incumbents seek re-election in Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Jean Fox has a lot of interests and projects she wants to pursue. That's one of the reasons she is not seeking re-election to one of the four open seats on the Farmington Hills City Council in November.

After four years on the council, including one year (1989), as mayor, Fox is bowing out of the city council when her four-year term is up later this year.

"I am not anxious to commit to another four years on the city council. There are many other priorities that I have," Fox said.

But the local historian and vice chairwoman of the Oakland County Parks Commission says she believes

that elected officials' terms should be limited.

"In a democracy, it becomes every citizen's duty to share the burdens and successes of self-government. That's why I believe in limitation of terms."

"These four years have been my contribution. Now it's someone else's turn," said Fox, who also served on the Farmington Hills historic district and historic commissions, as well as the Zoning Board of Appeals. Fox was the first woman chair of the ZBA in 1985-86.

Fox is the only Farmington Hills council member whose term is expiring this year who is not seeking re-election. Incumbents Nancy Bates, Terry Sever and Larry Lichtman are all seeking re-election and

filed nominating petitions by the 4 p.m. Tuesday deadline.

OTHER CANDIDATES who also filed by the deadline include Joanne Smith, chairwoman of the Farmington Hills Planning Commission and former council member; Paul Sowerby, a former city councilman, and Ron Oliverio, a former unsuccessful 1989 council candidate.

The six candidates will vie for the four open seats. The top three vote-getters in the Nov. 11 election will earn four-year terms. The fourth-place finisher will get a two-year term. Voters will take office at the first council meeting after the Nov. 11 election, said city clerk Kathy Dornan.

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Jean Fox
not running

Hills to sponsor Edison forum on Sept. 4

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

If you have comments you've wanted to make or questions you've wanted to ask Detroit Edison but never have, your chance is coming up.

The Farmington Hills City Council has invited Detroit Edison representatives to a public informational meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4, in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile. The meeting also will be broadcast live on Channel 12.

"We've had so many people complain," Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said. "I know we've continued to have a problem. So I thought we should have a meeting to let our citizens come in and talk with Edison."

The meeting will allow about one hour for public questions and comments and another hour for comments from Detroit Edison representatives.

The meeting will allow about one hour for public questions and comments and another hour for comments from Detroit Edison representatives, followed by general discussion.

Following a thunderstorm July 1 that knocked out power to more than 1 million residents, in-

cluding those in Farmington Hills, for anywhere from overnight to just less than a week, Costick and Mayor Alde Vagnozzi made presentations to the Michigan Public Service Commission at a special discussion on Detroit Edison and Consumers Power in late July.

AT THAT meeting, Vagnozzi proposed some changes. Utilities should have clear priorities for restoring services, placing hospitals and nursing homes near the top of the list.

Edison should also develop a better system of handling customer complaints as well as provide notification of when power will be restored, Vagnozzi said.

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