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Farmington Observer

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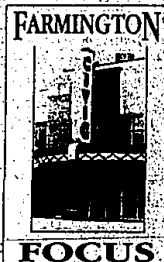
Monday, September 30, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

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FOCUS

THE CARRIAGE house of the Farmington Historical Museum on Grand River will be a garden spot for the Farmington Garden Club Friday and Saturday, Oct. 4-5, when the group holds its annual yard sale.

Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Proceeds will be used to help the Garden Club's projects such as senior citizen programs, youth scholarships and conservation.

ATTENTION all those who get all wound up over the Michigan-Michigan State football game every fall: Boy, has the Farmington Optimist Club got a deal for you.

The local Optimists are sponsoring the inaugural Great Debate between supporters of these universities on the eve of the big game.

Described as "a mid-Atlantic contest," the debate will take place between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, at the Farmington Elks Club, 23666 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

The Michigan-Michigan State game will be settled the following afternoon in East Lansing. "It's a sport type of debate," said Hal Gordon, an Optimist representative. "Three people from each school will debate the merits of the schools... you know, the academics, the sports. It should be lots of fun."

A luncheon will be served at noon and the program will begin as soon as the meal is completed. Cost is \$10 per person and the Optimists would like to sell tables of 10. Sweatshirts from the universities and T-shirts may be purchased at the event.

Proceeds will be used to support Optimist youth activities in the community, said Gordon, a stockbroker who, by the way, graduated from the University of Denver.

For more information, call Gordon at 540-3733 (weekdays) or 851-4097 (evenings).

FOLKS WHO collect stamps, coins and baseball cards should mark Sunday, Oct. 13, on their calendars.

That's the date that Vi's Stamp Services is sponsoring a show at the Marcy Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants should enter through Gate 4 east of Middlebelt.

MEMORY LANE — From the Oct. 4, 1951, Farmington Enterprise:

• Farmington High's football team suffered its first loss of the 1951 season under the lights at Walled Lake, 14-6, Clarenceville lost to Millford, 31-8, on the same Friday.

• Two- and three-bedroom houses in the Eight Mile-Grand River area of Farmington Township were advertised at \$6,250.

• Eight Farmington Senior Girl Scouts from Troop 172 entertained their former leader, Mrs. James Little, at a surprise party at the Boyce residence on Warner.

• Bids were being advertised for the annual fall cleanup of Farmington Township.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21598 Farmington Road, Farmington 48338, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Chris Lock, an officer in Michigan National Corporation's investment banking, volunteered to coordinate providing dinner for the no more than 30 homeless people — mostly men — who stayed at the bank for one week. Employees provided the food for dinner, as well as breakfast and bag lunches. Employees

also gathered 10-20 bags of clothing that will be donated to the South Oakland Shelter, Royal Oak for the homeless. Lock's daughter, Katie, and her friend, Lisa Villemonte, help with dinner.

Bankers' hearts swing open

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Irene uses her vacation to help. Dorothy has seen first-hand the plight of the homeless. And Max knows what it's like to be without a place of his own to sleep and live.

Irene, Dorothy and Max are employees of Michigan National Bank Corp. in Farmington Hills. And they — among 300 bank employee volunteers — spent the week helping and housing the homeless in the corporate headquarters.

"I don't want to be self-centered. I don't have a lot of money or anything else I can give so I take one week out of my life to help," said Irene Wojciechowski, an accountant in the bank's controller's division.

FOR THE second consecutive year, MNB has opened its doors to 30 homeless people as part of the Royal Oak-based South Oakland Shelter program. Bank employees who came up with the idea more than a year ago to house the homeless for seven nights, call the program "Days of Caring."

Wojciechowski coordinates the morning and overnight shifts and the sign-in shifts for the employee volunteers. She's also been doing laundry — in corporate headquarters — for the homeless people.

"I'm giving something back," she

"I'm giving something back. There are people out there who don't have what we have — hot baths, hot food."

— Irene Wojciechowski
Michigan National Bank

said. "There are people out there who don't have what we have — hot baths, hot food."

BUT AT THE corporate headquarters they get both and more. The facility is complete with a cafeteria and kitchen, as well as locker rooms, showers and a large area for beds. The homeless guests are made as comfortable as if it was a home.

"You cannot undertake the program ideally with under 50 volunteers," said Ariadne Magoulas, MNB director of public relations. They didn't have to. Last year about 150 people volunteered. This year that number doubled.

Throughout the week, Sept. 22-29, bank employees have stopped in the cafeteria in the mornings and dropped off meals that can be reheated that night for the homeless. But it's even more organized than that. Each night of the program week features a particular well-balanced meal.

WHEN GUESTS arrive — the majority have been men this year, plus a couple women and a mother and her children — they are greeted and registered by volunteers.

With about 300 volunteers, which include employees who have donated meals as well as clothing that will be given to the homeless through the SOS program, employees are able to work varied shifts throughout the week.

When guests are registered they let volunteers know what time they want to be awakened the next morning. Many of the homeless guests work and must be transported back to the SOS headquarters each morning, Magoulas said.

All bedding and towels are washed and beds made by volunteers. Men and women guests are separated.

VOLUNTEERS ALSO have made personal care bags for both men and women, which include toiletries. Items for babies, such as diapers and baby food, are available for mothers with children.

Between dinner and lights out, there's plenty for the guests to do. Games and television are available. But the truth is, there's more talking going on. And both the employee volunteers and guests seem

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School crystal ball is cloudy

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Two different pieces of state legislation have Farmington's school chief looking to the future with some hope but also with continued concern over financing.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan is looking to the bright side of an expected state mandate for programs of choice, while encouraging local residents to take an active role to deter the impact of a recent school tax shift, which will take more money from the district's coffers in future years.

Also, Flanagan is hoping that a series of town hall meetings scheduled through this school year will encourage public discussion about educational issues — both financial and otherwise — to make decisions about the future of education here.

FLANAGAN MADE comments about the changing face of public education during a recent school board meeting as he updated trustees on the legislation.

A tax-base sharing plan approved by the state last week and expected to be signed into law would take about \$350,000 away from the Farmington district this year and continue taking money in future years, while it phases out the current recapture formula over nine years. Flanagan encouraged residents to write letters to state legislators, suggesting they phase out the recapture more quickly to give districts like Farmington a break.

"Whether it's class size or transportation, these are issues that are ripping at our guts on a daily basis," he said.

Meanwhile, another piece of legislation expected to become law soon would mandate districts like Farmington to offer a broad-based choice program for all grade levels, unless voters determined otherwise. It also would require competency testing and state endorsement on diplomas, offer experimental choice programs

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School district hires evaluation consultant

By Casey Hans
staff writer

An evaluation consultant from St. Clair County Intermediate Schools has been hired to do similar work for the Farmington school district.

Frederica Frost, who has focused on program evaluation and research throughout her 14-year educational career, was selected from 33 applicants, six semifinalists and

three finalists for the new position. Frost is expected to help the district better assess its programs and curriculum.

"The hope of a position like this . . . is a recognition that this has been a void in public education for years," said superintendent Michael Flanagan. And, with more possible cuts coming due to tax reform, such a position could be vital, he added.

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Anti-drug battle intensifies

An annual program for drug and alcohol awareness kicks off this week, as the Farmington area focuses on October as Drug and Alcohol Awareness Month.

This year's theme is "Alcohol Abuse and its Effect on the Family," focusing on what is a legal, but abused, drug.

Some events include:

- Students and the community will pin and tie on red ribbons beginning tomorrow, showing their support for the drug and alcohol information effort. Ribbons can be obtained by calling Farmington Families in Action president Sue Doleah at 474-8815.

Special "say no to drugs" flags will also fly at both city halls, at the YMCA and at all school buildings.

- A community kick-off breakfast Wednesday, Oct. 2, will launch the monthlong effort. The keynote speaker will be television personality John Gross.
- This weekend churches, temples and other religious organizations will recognize the anti-drug effort through special programs



at their services and having drug information and red ribbons available.

OTHER EVENTS will continue throughout October and November, and into 1992.

Some local groups involved in organizing an event are Farmington Families in Action, the Farmington Area Advisory Council, the Farmington Council of Community Resources, Farmington Youth Assistance, Maple Grove Center, and the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

A number of businesses have also set aside special days in which they will donate a percentage of sales to the anti-drug cause.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Homecoming fun

Funky hair was part of Spirit Week at Farmington High School last week, as students geared up for Saturday's Homecoming festivities. Freshman Amy Kliner (top), senior Amani Plater (left) and sophomore Laura McWilliam joined other students and some staffers — for Funky Hair Day at the school Thursday. Other special days included students wearing mismatching and clashing clothes, another for students to wear favorite college sweatshirts, a blue and white day commemorating school colors, a class color day and a pop assembly. The traditional Homecoming parade and football game were Saturday. For details on the game, see the Observer Sports Section.