

Community Corner

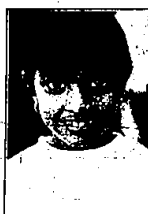
This week's question:

What do you want to be when you grow up?

We asked this question during a school project at the Farmington Historical Museum.



"I wanted to be an oceanographer. When I was in school it was not one of the possibilities (for women)."
— Carol Apol
Highmeadow teacher



"A doctor. It's fun."
— Zaineb Bohra
Highmeadow third grader



"A cartoonist because I like to draw."
— Rachel Fleish
Highmeadow third grader



"A lawyer. I think it's interesting."
— John Trummer
Highmeadow third grader



"A rich scientist. When you create something, it's a lot more fun."
— John Trummer
Highmeadow parent



"A vet. I like to work with animals. I have two dogs and a cat. When they get sick I like to take care of them."
— Candice Sexton
Highmeadow third grader

clarification

The caption under a photograph on the front page of the Oct. 21 Farmington Observer should have identified Wood Creek Elementary second grader Molly Just holding "la cache" (a cow) on a stick.

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-940)
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric News, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric News, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Telephone 644-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(In Oakland County)
One year \$36.40
(Elsewhere in Michigan)
Newsstand per copy, 50¢
One year \$55.00
(Elsewhere in U.S.A.)
One year \$80.00

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Hills council urges postal investigation

Continued from Page 1

Postal Service that the council may adopt.

Bates, who says he's the officer-in-charge of the Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices, seemed as equally astounded Monday by Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi's criticism of the local postal service.

Vagnozzi lambasted Bates for the Saturday, Oct. 11 closing of the post office. The following Monday, Oct. 12, the post offices were closed in honor of Columbus Day.

"I don't know why we can't recognize the needs of this community," Vagnozzi said.

Vagnozzi said he went to the post office Saturday, Oct. 11, to buy some stamps. A postal employee was in the Slocum Street post office lobby accepting items, such as certified mail. But the employee was not selling stamps.

Of the two stamp machines in the lobby, one was jammed, Vagnozzi said.

Another customer was told to return on Tuesday — the next day the office was open — and make a claim. And yet another was told to go to Meijer's for something that needed special handling, Vagnozzi continued.

"This is a community that uses its post office on Saturday mornings," the mayor said.

Bate said he didn't know whether Saturday closings — before Monday holidays — would continue. "We have to operate like a business also or we'll see stamps at 35 and 40 cents," Bate said.

The officer-in-charge — postmaster Ken Harris is on a medical leave — told the council it would have been fair for members to contact

him with complaints about the post office before announcing it on cable television the week before without notifying him.

"I've never spoken to her. I've never gotten a message from her," Bate said, referring to Fox's comments the week before.

At the previous Monday meeting, Fox said, "It is impossible to have any responsibility over there, the staff is upset and I think it is a terrible situation."

Fox also said that the regional post office in Royal Oak, which services Farmington and Farmington Hills, was cited as one of the 10 worst in the United States.

BATE, HOWEVER, took great exception to Fox's comments. "I don't know where she got that," Royal Oak is ranked 15th out of 155 regional offices in the country. "That's a far cry

from the 10 worst," Bate said.

The Royal Oak region also ranks above the national average in service, Bate added.

He told the council that better communication should exist between the council and the post office to avoid public commentaries such as occurred the previous week.

But councilman Terry Sever, who said it didn't really bother him that the post office closed on Saturdays before a holiday, told Bate that he should let the public know when the post office would be closed.

Councilwoman Nancy Bates expressed concern that the post office has discontinued express service for senior adults. Bate responded that attempts are being made to initiate what are called consignments at senior housing complexes. They are sort of like mini-post offices run by sen-

ior adult residents.

"We're pursuing that basically through Royal Oak," he added.

When talk turned to postmaster Ken Harris, whom Bate acknowledged is on a medical leave, he told the council that three administrators, including Harris, face hearings because of unnamed problems. The other two have already had their hearings and have been put in other, lower positions.

"Harris' case has not been heard yet. Everyone is innocent until proven guilty," Bate said.

Meanwhile, Vagnozzi made it clear the council will consider a resolution requesting an investigation into problems with postal service.



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