

Crowbar, Superchunk  
just making music, 4B



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Women expect ruling  
to limit abortions, 3A

# Farmington Observer

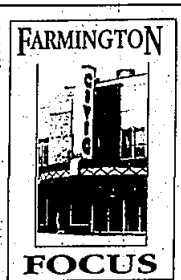
Volume 103 Number 32

Monday, January 20, 1992

Farmington, Michigan

40 Pages

Fifty Cents



**WHAT'S AN "IN" name?** Well, you can scratch Peltz-MDOT as far as some people in Farmington Hills are concerned.

Many have grown tired of the Peltz-MDOT name for city-owned acreage south of I-996 west of Farmington Road. So how to come up with a new name? Let's have a contest!

That's right, a contest just like the one the city sponsored in late 1985 to name Heritage Park.

The Peltz-MDOT name has bothered some members of the Michigan Department of Transportation, from which the city bought the MDOT portion of the acreage.

The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission and Peltz-MDOT Committee have given their blessings to the contest, which would be conducted in much the same way as was the Heritage contest.

No date set, but once it's rolling the city will accept suggested names. Prizes will be given to whoever provides a winning name.

After a short discussion, the city council decided city employees and board and commission members may also suggest names, but would not be eligible to win prizes if their suggestions win.

Plans may include distribution of a flier with an entry form. The contest is expected to be conducted over a month's time.

**LIGHT THE** candles and blow up the balloons... the 200th anniversary of the first 10 amendments of the U.S. Constitution — the Bill of Rights — will be celebrated in Farmington. And the public is invited to the shindig.

The event will be held 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the 47th District Courthouse, 3295 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Farmington Road.

State and local politicians will talk about the Bill of Rights from 6-8 p.m. Refreshments will be served and everyone attending will receive a parchment copy of the Bill of Rights.

The League of Women Voters-Oakland Area, the Women's Bar Association and other county civic organizations are sponsoring the event. Call Shirley Salzman at 539-0811 or 644-8595 for more information.

**MEMORY LANE** — From the Jan. 24, 1992 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Item from the Around the Block column: "Our hat is off to Russell Waack, manager of the C.F. Smith store at Eight Mile and Grand River, for being named the 'Outstanding Store Manager' of the year. Waack received new car last week from H.W. Hart, president of the company, at a banquet held at the Detroit Golf Club."

James Tennant was appointed Farmington city manager by the city council. He had been assistant city manager since Dec. 18.

Thieves entered the office of Farmington High School principal Gerald V. Harrison, broke open safes and took an undetermined amount of money, police said.

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



Students in a Kenbrook program which integrates general ed and special ed children use teamwork in all facets of their day. When Erin Shurloff (not pictured) lost the back of her earring, other children pitched in

to help locate it on the glitter-filled carpet. Pictured are Eric Schmittlek, 11, Susan Facer, 8, and Kathleen Stevens, 7.

photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer



Parent Sally Schmuhi talks with students Courtney Camp and Danielle Herman about the Kenbrook Book Parade program. Many parents volunteer at the school, helping in the media center and in other classes, which principal Carolyn Plesk said is one of the school's strengths.

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## Kenbrook wins 'exemplary' award

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

They made an example of Kenbrook Elementary, and the staff, students and parents there couldn't be more proud.

The Farmington Hills school is the first of the Farmington Public Schools to be honored under a state awards program which selects

schools with exceptional educational programs: Kenbrook is one of 19 public elementary schools in Michigan to be named an "exemplary school."

The state honors elementary schools every other year, doing the same process with Michigan secondary schools in opposite years.

"We were just happy to be the first school (in Farmington) to try,"

said principal Carolyn Plesk. "We're very happy to start this process and are looking for other schools to follow suit."

Ten representatives from the school, including students, staff and parents and school Superintendent Michael Flanagan, will attend a special awards ceremony in Lansing on Feb. 11.

The state picks exemplary pro-

grams based on a record of solid academics, strong leadership, effective working relationships, an orderly atmosphere, and effective resolution of problems during the average school day.

Elementary principals in Farmington met last fall and picked Kenbrook as the district's first school to apply for the honor. It meant hours of work over a two-month period

starting in September and filing of a 47-page application form. Plesk said the process — done by a committee of 23 staff members, students and parents — helped the school do a thorough review of itself.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT for curriculum and staff development, Judith White, said the district

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### Easy sledding

Michelle Lorenz and Kim Seed, 16-year-olds from Farmington, comply with sled hill rules by keeping just two people to a sled. Sledding is fun for area youngsters, but school officials worry about injuries and liability. For a story and more photos, please see Page 8A.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## Voters have month left to declare for primary

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

If you're interested in participating in Michigan's first closed presidential primary in more than a dec-

ade, you've got about a month in which to declare what side of the political coin you're on.

Like voters around the state, Farmington and Farmington Hills voters must declare their political

party preference by Feb. 18 in order to participate in the March 17 closed primary.

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## 'Where's Arthur?' lauds city's founder

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Visitors to downtown Farmington this spring will be asked to find Farmington's founder, Arthur Power, in a take-off on the popular "Where's Waldo?"

While everyone else looks for the bespeckled Waldo character in puzzles and books, visitors to downtown will visit downtown stores, looking for a poster depicting the face of Arthur Power in a sort of local scavenger hunt.

The contest is being sponsored by a Promotions Partnership Committee comprised of representatives from the Farmington Downtown Development Authority and the Down-

town Farmington Business Association.

It is designed to coincide with the 125th anniversary celebration of Farmington's incorporation as a village, which will include activities throughout the spring and summer of 1992.

Winner of the Find Farmington's Founder contest will be drawn from correct entries, with that person receiving \$500 in "downtown dollars" — certificates which can be spent at businesses within the DBA district.

"I'm not expecting thousands of entries," explained DDA executive director Wendy Strip-Sittsamer. "It's something to stir a little excitement.

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## Schools set special events for King holiday

Many activities are planned in the Farmington Public Schools today commemorating slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. A state law requires all districts to recognize the national Martin Luther King Day Jr. holiday, but specifics on the recognition were left to staffs at individual buildings.

Plans include doing plays about civil rights issues, holding discussions on prejudice, hosting special assemblies, and projects like essay writing and making "freedom pins," plus many other events and activities.

"He was a great American," said Judith White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and staff development. "Even today, when I hear his 'I Have a Dream' speech I get choked up."

"For the younger people who don't understand those times, you need to build it for them."

WHITE SAID the district is stressing not only King and his life, but also teaching about the times surrounding King's life and the lessons which can be learned from it. King's life is just one facet.

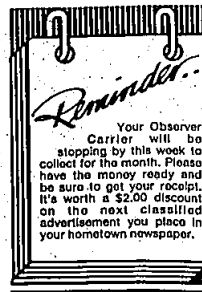
"We don't like to make any one person or event the highlight of our activities for our cultural lessons," she added. "It just makes a much more natural flow of learning."

Various Farmington teachers are also highlighting accomplishments of Afro-American culture on the national King holiday. They are studying other famous Afro-Americans, hosting black history assemblies, studying African art and integrating the learning into social studies curriculum.

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