

Lagerfeld leads fashion field, 1C



Gymnasts lauded, 5B

Crop Walk hits stride fighting hunger, 13A



# Farmington Observer

Volume 103 Number 55

Thursday, April 9, 1992

Farmington, Michigan

80 Pages

Fifty Cents

## 3 run for 2 school board seats

Related editorial, 20a

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Three Farmington Hills parents will vie for two four-year terms on the Farmington Board of Education this June, in what promises to be an interesting race.

Incumbent trustee Helen Prutow is vying for her fifth term on the non-partisan board. Board watcher Joseph Svoke will try for his

first term, and Richard DeVries is making his third attempt at a board seat.

The school election is Monday, June 8. One seat is up for grabs this year with the retirement of trustee James Abernethy who will step down at the end of June. The slate of candidates is the smallest school officials can recall when there has been an open seat.

Although six school district residents had taken out nominating petitions this year, only three filed completed petitions at the school district by the 4 p.m. Monday deadline. They have until 4 p.m. today to withdraw from the

race, or their names will automatically appear on the ballot.

THE RACE promises to be an exciting one, with Prutow preparing for a tough race and a challenge to her long-term incumbency. DeVries pledging a more aggressive approach this year using more money than in years past, and Svoke ready for the challenge after several years of board watching and parental involvement.

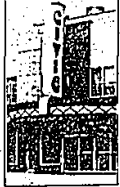
Prutow believes her longevity on the board is a strength, and said education should be "everybody's business."

"It's our future," she said. "Even with the tough times, public education can achieve what it is we're all looking for. There's a way to do it — and we're going to find it."

Prutow, 51, has served on the board for 16 years and is currently president of the Oakland County Intermediate School Board and president-elect of the Michigan Association of School Boards. She is chairwoman of the Multicultural Community Council which serves both Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Please turn to Page 4

### FARMINGTON



### FOCUS

**M**OST HAPPY fella, that Thomas E. Smith... most lucky fella, as well.

Smith, a Farmington resident and a retiree from Fisher Body, is the owner of a new Buick Skylark thanks to a sweepstakes promotion launched by Bill Cook Automotive Group in Farmington Hills.

Over the past two months, the auto dealer has been mailing sweepstakes numbers to residents in surrounding cities. Smith, who was in the market for a new car, brought in his number on March 28. Luckily for him, his number came up that day.

"I usually don't follow these sweepstakes things and thought they were kidding me when they told me my number was the winner," he said.

Last January, the dealership gave away a new Skylark to Farmington resident Warren Ringold in the promotion.

**I**T'S BEING described as "a whale of a sale" in the press release. Really, it's the annual garage and bake sale to benefit the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills.

The event will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 11, at the Swedish Club, 22399 Ruth Street at Freedom Road.

**E**ASTER is a-coming... and the Easter Bunny isn't skipping downtown Farmington.

The Easter Bunny, laden with jelly beans for the youngsters, will visit downtown from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, on Grand River near the Civic Theatre. He'll then hop over to a nearby day care center.

The event was organized by Debi Hettler and Penny Jones of the Why USA real estate office on Grand River.

**D**ANCE FOR HEART, a fund-raiser for the American Heart Association, will take place across the nation — including Farmington — beginning April 27.

Exercise enthusiasts from the Farmington area and all over metropolitan Detroit will participate in the week-long event. Locally, Nielsen's Total Fitness in Farmington will be a site.

"Exercise enthusiasts will participate in any form of exercise to raise money to fight heart disease and stroke, the nation's No. 1 killer," said Laura Enzor of Nielsen's Total Fitness.

Participants will be recruiting sponsors to pledge whatever they can, Enzor added. She said she hopes to raise \$3,500.

Anyone interesting in supporting "Dance For Heart" can call Enzor at 478-8393.

**M**EMORY LANE — From the April 10, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Marlene Robinson, Farmington High School junior, was named a delegate to the Wolverine Girls State by the Groves-Walker American Legion Auxiliary. June Turner, another FHS junior, was named as alternate.

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



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Verla Davis of Farmington Hills weaves wheat she's probably the only one in Michigan who, into Christmas' decorations, wall hangings, practices the ancient craft. jewelry and mobiles of birds. She believes

## Wheat weaver reaps harvest of quaint crafts

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

What would you think if you lost your sneaker in your grandfather's truck filled with wheat from the farm? Verla Davis will tell you what she thought when it happened to her.

A bread company wasn't far from where her grandfather would drop off his truckloads of wheat for processing. "Wheat is like quicksand. For years, I expected to be eating my sandwich and find my lost sneaker," the Farmington Hills resident said.

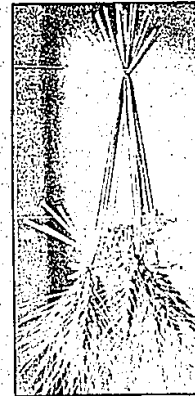
She has a lot of stories about farms, especially wheat farms in her native Kansas. That's why it probably wouldn't be surprising to know that Davis' wheat weaving is sweeping the Farmington area.

Despite Michigan's Midwestern roots, a lot of people have never heard about wheat weaving. But in an attempt to appear knowledgeable, many of those same people say "Yeah, makes sense if she's from Kansas with all the farms and all."

It's true. Davis weaves wheat. It's not something new for Davis. And it's certainly not something new for most of the world. Wheat weaving is an ancient craft and one Davis is rekindling in Michigan.

"As far as I know, I'm the only wheat weaver in Michigan," said the training consultant and mother of four children.

### know your neighbor



This is an example of a wheat woven bird on a perch. Verla Davis soaks the wheat to make it soft and pliable for weaving and plaiting.

Please turn to Page 2

## Hearing adjourned over health spa's license

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

A hearing to decide whether the operator of a Farmington Hills health spa should have her license revoked — after being charged with prostitution-related offenses in February — has been adjourned until May 4.

But three other Korean women, employees

of operator and spa licensee Kim Stokes, lost their licenses after a brief hearing before the Farmington Hills City Council Monday night. The three women did not attend the hearing and are believed to be in Kentucky.

The three women pleaded guilty to prostitution-related misdemeanors at a pre-trial hearing March 30 in 47th District Court. A fourth woman, who does not have a massage license

and is believed to be the spa's janitor, pleaded guilty to loitering. Her plea was taken under advisement, and she was fined \$155.

CITY ATTORNEY Derk Beckerleg recommended adjournment of the scheduled hearing for Stokes, operator of Today's Health Spa, 38255 10 Mile, "as a courtesy and to be fair." The spa's license was suspended March 10 by

city clerk Kathy Dorman, about two weeks after police raided the Freeway Plaza health spa Feb. 25.

The adjournment, however, carried certain conditions required by city attorney John Donohue. Stokes' attorney, Stephen Taylor of Farmington Hills, agreed to those conditions.

Please turn to Page 6

### what's inside

- Building Scene . . . . . Soc. G
- Business . . . . . 12B
- Cable Connection . . . . . 8c
- Classifieds . . . . . Secs. D-G
- Auto . . . . . Soc. G
- Real estate . . . . . Secs. D,E,F
- Employment . . . . . Soc. F
- Creative living . . . . . 1D
- Crossword puzzle . . . . . 7D
- Entertainment . . . . . 7-10B
- Obituaries . . . . . 8A
- Opinion . . . . . 20A
- Police, fire calls . . . . . 11A

CLASSIFIEDS . . . 591-0900  
CIRCULATION . . . 591-0500  
NEWS LINE . . . 477-5450  
SPORTS LINE . . . 953-2139

You supply the camera.

We supply the quarter of a million customers.

Call today and place your three-line private phone classified ad for only \$3.15 a line!

**Observer & Eccentric**  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING  
591-0900

## Golf course owners scratch request for new clubhouse

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

It's not that Copper Creek residents don't want a clubhouse at the Copper Creek Golf Course. They just don't want one that big.

"From what we can gather, this will be a big commercial operation," said Mariette Simon, who lives in the Copper Creek development, north of 12 Mile, between Haggerty and Halsted roads.

Neighbors agreed with Simon. "I am concerned about the size of the proposed development," said resident Joyce Kilger, who asked that restrictions be placed on the clubhouse where owners want to serve liquor. "We want them to have it. But again, we don't want to be abused."

Gary Fedal spoke of the restrictions the nine-hole course that meanders through the residential area places on his home near the 7th green. "Last summer, my wife and I became prisoners," he said, referring to the golf balls that hit his living room window — often coming through his living room window. "It missed my Waterford crystal lamp by two inches."

The Farmington Hills City Council Monday listened to seven Copper Creek residents who said they want a clubhouse that serves liquor if their concerns could be resolved. Then just as the council was about to deny the transfer, golf course proponents withdrew their request.

Richard Cummins, who bought the course and took over operations in 1991, and Tom Langan of Langan's

Please turn to Page 2