

Farmington Observer

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Fifty Cents

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Arts Alive: Area arts supporters make their annual pilgrimage to the state Capitol to meet with lawmakers and hear the Engler administration's arts funding proposal. / 9A

Mental health cuts: Oakland County's Community Mental Health Board and families of the mentally ill plead for the state to retract ordered cuts. / 24A

SPORTS



WLAAs champs: North Farmington won its first Western Lakes Activities Association baseball title Monday with a 14-3 rout of Walled Lake Western. / 1B

City titles: Harrison High was a double winner in the annual city track meets Saturday, taking first place in the boys and girls competitions. / 1B

BUSINESS

Privied information: A Farmington Hills company is posting advertiser messages in stadium restrooms. / 12B

SUBURBAN LIFE

It's karate: Martial arts means the art of self-defense, in Farmington Hills. / 1C

ENTERTAINMENT

Opera: Amateurs work hard, but have a lot of fun performing in Michigan Opera Theatre's presentation of "Samson & Delilah." / 7B

Theater: Jewish Ensemble's "An Evening with Schisgal" a very worthwhile and memorable stage experience. / 8B

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2 candidates say nay to forum

By CARY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Two Farmington school board candidates said they will not participate in a Friday forum sponsored by a group which was formed by a third candidate, Richard DeVries, and of which he is now treasurer.

Four-term incumbent Helen Prutow and first time challenger Joseph Svoke both said this week they will not attend tomorrow night's candidate forum sponsored by Citizens for Quality Schools. Prutow contends that the forum will be partial and slanted towards

DeVries. Svoke offered no reason. Both made their refusals in writing, and sent copies to the Observer.

Meanwhile, Citizens for Quality Schools president Robert Hanney said his group can host a non-biased forum despite DeVries' involvement. DeVries termed his involvement in the 1 1/2-year-old group "minimal" and added that many other groups of which candidates are members hold similar forums.

The CQS forum is scheduled to be held at the Farmington Hills City Hall council chambers at 7:30 p.m. tonight

and is to be cablecast.

DeVries, Prutow and Svoke are vying for two open seats on the Farmington school board in June. The two top vote-getters will earn four-year terms on the non-partisan board.

Prutow detailed her refusal in a two-page letter to Hanney, saying the forum "appears to have been structured to 'showcase' one candidate."

"Your organization . . . appears to have been formed to promote the candidacy of one candidate for the Farmington Board of Education. As best I can

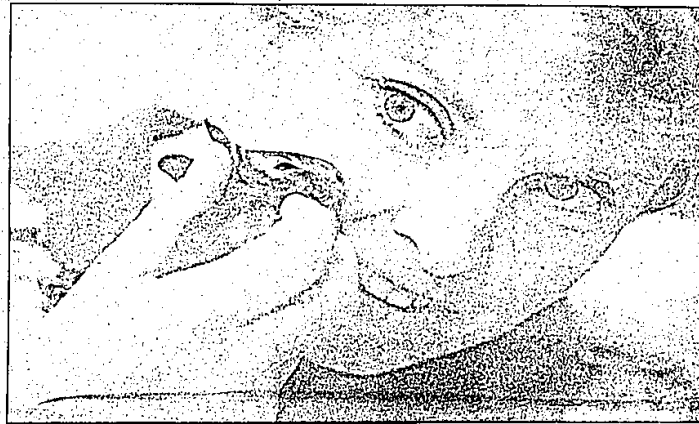
SCHOOL BOARD

determine, your organization's only accomplishment has been to endorse one candidate."

The CQS group was founded in December of 1990 by DeVries, to oppose a school millage election held in early 1991. CQS endorsed DeVries in the 1991 board race, but Hanney said his group did not feel it would be fair to

See CANDIDATES, 2A

A life less littered with critters



Great with animals: Farmington Hills' Bev Cornell cuddles a bunny left in her care. The bunny will be released in the wild in a few weeks with its brothers and sisters.

Bev Cornell, a Farmington Hills woman who is known throughout the community as a friend to abandoned baby animals, will have to cut down on the number of feathered and furry friends she takes in.

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER



The raccoons will miss her. The squirrels will miss her. Not to mention the birds and ducks . . . and the people who have called Bev Cornell in desperation over the years when they've come across abandoned wildlife young.

When someone was ready to hand over two abandoned baby raccoons the week before for Cornell's care, she had to decline.

"Boy, it was hard not to take them," said the Farmington Hills resident, who has been licensed by the state Department of Natural Resources for more than six years to rehabilitate abandoned wildlife young.

For physical reasons, Cornell—who is well-known to those who happen

See ANIMALS, 3A

7 attorneys running for judgeship

Seven Farmington Hills attorneys will compete in the Aug. 4 primary for one open, non-partisan seat on the 47th District Court bench.

The two top vote getters will face a run-off Nov. 3.

The state and county offices will have no primary races this year, according to information obtained after Tuesday's election filing deadline in Lansing and Oakland County.

Candidates vying for a seat to be vacated by retiring District Judge Margaret Schaefer include:

• Steven Gabel, 29, has practiced general law for five years with an emphasis on medical malpractice, filing both plaintiff and defense work. He currently works for the Southfield firm of Thruswell, Choyet and Weiner.

• Kenneth Knappow, 39, is a solo practitioner with a quasi-judicial background. He worked as an administrative hearing officer for the Secretary of

State's License Appeal Board from 1973-79, and currently does civil and criminal work in area district courts.

• John McDonald, 52, an Oakland County Commissioner for 14 years and a former Oakland County assistant prosecutor, is now a sole practitioner in Farmington Hills. He chaired the Farmington Hills Year 2000 study.

• Marla Parker, a 47th District Court magistrate for the past three years who has a general practice in

Farmington Hills. She currently specializes in family law, but is also experienced in criminal and civil work.

• Richard Poehlman, a longtime litigator, also served as a Wayne County prosecutor, assistant attorney general and U.S. attorney and was a municipal attorney for many years. He is active locally with the Optimists and other groups.

See JUDGESHIP, 2A

Co-pastor charged for illegal marriage



John W. Cossin

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

A co-pastor of the Jesus Center in Farmington Hills, which has been at odds with the city since late 1991, faces three misdemeanor charges for performing an illegal marriage.

John W. Cossin, 71, one of two pastors at the Jesus Center, 20911 Inkster Road, pleaded not guilty to three misdemeanor counts at his arraignment Monday morning before 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris. He was released on \$1,000 personal bond. A pre-trial conference has not yet been scheduled.

JESUS CENTER

"We received a complaint from a disgruntled ex-church member," said Det. Charles Hubbard of the Farmington Hill Police Department. "She complained about the minister."

The complaint says that Cossin allegedly illegally married a couple Feb. 5, 1992. The couple now lives out of state. The woman was apparently still legally married to someone else when she and her boyfriend were married, police said.

The second count against Cossin in-

volves his alleged failure to record the marriage properly in a book designated for that purpose, Hubbard said.

The third count stems from the lack of a marriage license for the couple when Cossin allegedly married them. "He didn't ask them for one. And they didn't provide one," Hubbard said.

Cossin's attorney, J. Russell Hughes of Greenhush, MI, says the woman who made the complaint is associated with another woman who filed a lawsuit against Cossin. The case was dismissed.

See PASTOR, 2A

About nursing homes

People faced with placing a relative or spouse in a nursing home need answers to many questions. A few are: How can those responsible for placing relatives in nursing homes avoid financial ruin and feelings of guilt? What steps should be taken to prepare for the cost of nursing home care? How do you choose a nursing home?

Joyce Hunt, of the Area Agency on Aging, may be able to provide some answers at a presentation at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at the Farmington Hills Inn, a nursing home at 30350 W. 12 Mile Road.

The event, open to the public at no charge, is part of the Spring Speaker Series at the Farmington Hills Inn. The final presentation—"The Age-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

ing Process"—will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 20.

Meet Speedy's voice

"Dick Heals may stand only 4-feet-6, but he's been standing tall as the voice of Speedy Allan Seltzer in the radio and TV commercials over the years.

Heals will visit Farmington's Little Professor Bookstore, located in the Grand River/Halsted Shopping center, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, May 22, to sign copies of his new book, "Think Big."

"His book is a motivational essay on how, with the proper attitude, one can achieve lofty goals, even in the face of adversity," said Richard Horstein, owner of the Farmington Little Professor

Memory Lane

From the May 15, 1992 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

A strike of Detroit-area carpenters halted work on the three new elementary schools under construction in the Farmington Township District. Although the strike was confined to carpenters, other construction workers honored the picket lines and refused to work. Affected were the new Ten Mile School and additions to Bond and Middlebelt schools.