

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

FARMINGTON  
NOTES

## Talk on sight set

George Bingham of the Greater Detroit Society of the Blind will speak on "Your Future in Sight" at a meeting of The Commission on Aging of the Farmington Area at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

## Money for trees

The city of Farmington Hills was given \$2,500 by Detroit Edison to offset some of the costs of planting trees along Eight Mile and 10 Mile roads and Grand River Avenue as part of the city's spring planting program.

In addition, Global ReLeaf of Michigan received \$2,000 from the same utility to plant trees at the site of the new Salvation Army regional headquarters at 16103 Northland Drive, Southfield.

"The efforts of these organizations," said Al Shelton, Edison's director of lines clearance, "will bring more than 400 new trees to the area. We're pleased to assist both communities in improving their environment."

## A pastor with Merit

The Rev. J. Harold Ellens, a Farmington Hills resident and the current interim pastor of Erin Presbyterian Church in Roseville, was awarded the Legion of Merit, the highest military award in peacetime.

Ellens, a retired U.S. Army colonel and chaplain, received the award for his work on "U.S. Army Reserve Mobilization Plan for the Eventuality of War." The award was presented May 8 at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. Ellens was pastor of University Hills Church in Farmington Hills from 1969-78.



STUDIOS LE MURCOURT PHOTOGRAPHY

**Knowing history:** Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest winners (seated, from left) Erika Beckham and Amy Baxtresser, and (standing, from left) Justin Munter, Andrew Williams and Jill Kraizman relax on the steps of the Historical Museum.

## Local students know history

Students show their enthusiasm for local history with entries in an annual research contest. Winners are announced in the Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest.

Five area youngsters have been named winners of the Farmington Historical Society's ninth-annual Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest.

Titled in honor of Peel, a local educator, historian and author, the contest encourages original research and writing on Farmington-area history.

Because of the continued entry of large numbers of excellent papers, the Honorable Mention awards, introduced in 1991, have been continued in 1992. The winners were announced at a ceremony held at the Farmington Historical Museum on Grand River Road May 19.

First prize was awarded to Erika Beckham, a Power Middle School student, for her paper "History of the Farmington Post Office." She received an award certificate and a check for \$100.

Erika's paper starts with the appointment of Farmington's first postmaster, Dr. Ezekiel Webb, in 1826. She describes how mail distribution was handled through the years and lists the succession of postmasters through the years.

Second prize was given to Justin Munter, also of Power Middle School, for his "Old Cemeteries of Farmington." He received an award certificate and a check for \$50.

His paper includes a section on each

of the five historical Farmington area cemeteries. The founding of the cemeteries surrounding the first few burials held in them.

Descriptions are given of the associations formed to supervise and maintain the cemeteries and the methods used to fund their activities.

Three "Best in Age Category" certificates and prizes of \$25 each were awarded to the following:

• Amy Baxtresser, Power Middle School, for her paper "The History of Maple Woods Farm" which gives an excellent account of the history of an area in Farmington Hills located on Halsted Road just south of Eight Mile.

• Jill Kraizman, O.E. Dunckel Middle School, for her entry "The Farmington Players," which gives some history of the group which has been staging plays in the Farmington area since the early 1950s.

• Andrew Williams, Highmewood Common Campus Elementary School, for his presentation "Hamilton Jones" which gives an excellent Jones family tree and history with beautiful photographs of the relocation and restoration of the Jones' 1871 farmhouse on 12 Mile Road.

See HISTORY, 15A

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