

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Still a mess: the Rouge river remains one of Michigan's most environmentally hazardous sites, according to a DNR ranking./7A

Improving 13 Mile: Improvements are scheduled this summer on a 1.3 Mile section in Farmington Hills with a high accident rate./9A

TRAVEL

Vancouver vacation: Canadian city's natural beauty and mild climate continue to attract visitors and immigrants by the thousands./8A

TASTE

Middle Eastern Cuisine: Light and flavorful, Middle Eastern cuisine satisfies summertime appetites. Learn how to make Tabbouli, Hommous and Shish Taouk (chicken kabobs)./1B

Lebanese wines: Serge Hochar, owner of Chateau Musar, produces fine wines in war-ravaged Lebanon. The winery was founded by Hochar's father, Gaston, in 1930./1B

STREET SCENE

Winning praises: Iris DeMent is winning the praises of many a country star with her distinctive vocals and her debut album, "Infamous Angel," is starting to get airplay on WDET radio. Tinged with gospel and country flavors, she's bringing her music to the Birmingham Unitarian Church this weekend./5B



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SPORTS

Girls golf: The Observer presents its 1992 all-area golf team, featuring two members of the Farmington Hills Mercy team./1B

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Speakers Row" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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Site renamed Woodland Hills



That rugged stretch of parkland south of I-696 and west of Farmington Road used to be known as the Peltz-MDOT land. No more. The city held a contest to name the park and the winning entry was Woodland Hills. Not everyone is happy with the choice.

By Sue Buck Staff Writer

Good-bye Peltz-MDOT. Hello Woodland Hills Park. The Name the Park Selection Committee in Farmington Hills received 160 suggested names for the parkland locat-

ed south of I-696 and west of Farmington Road. The names were submitted without the entrant's name or address.

Now the wooded land — known for years as Peltz-MDOT — has an official name. "The reason I pick this is because

there are trees and land and is in Farmington Hills," wrote Amber Bahr, a Wooddale Elementary student, on her contest entry. "Hope you enjoy this entry."

During tonight's Farmington Hills City Council meeting, Bahr will receive a \$30 gift certificate, courtesy of Ginopolis Restaurant in Farmington Hills, and a \$50 gift certificate to any Farmington Hills recreation program.

Although the contest ended May 1, the Parks and Recreation Commission submitted to council the name Frontier

Park as another choice — even after receiving the contest committee's recommendation of Woodland Hills.

"The commission is not satisfied that the name Woodland Hills is in keeping with the traditional use of historic names that has been established in naming the other parks in the city (Heritage Park and Pioneer Park), and the commission found the name Woodland Hills less than acceptable," wrote Dan Patter, director of the Department of

See SITE, 8A

Community spirit



SHARON LE MUECK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Helping each other: Three people, all with connections to Gill Elementary School, pitch in during a five-day building project at the school, 21195 Gill Road. But the results were worth the many hours of labor by the many people: Gill students now have a state-of-the-art playground at the school. Pictured are three of the folks who helped turn the idea into a reality: Jack Greer (top), Paul Darnbrook, and Rick Womack. It is estimated that about 1,000 people helped. For the story and more photographs, please turn to Page 3A.

'Muffin Mania!' hits Farmington

By Casey Hantz Staff Writer

It might sound like a lot of bull. And the "plop, plop" marketing strategy you hear around town is not promoting a popular antacid tablet.

It's being touted as Farmington's "first ever cow/animal raffle," being sponsored by the city of Farmington's 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Incorporation of Farmington as a Village in cooperation with the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Community leaders are hoping "Mendow Muffin Mania!" will appeal to just about everybody in town.

"It's a lot of fun to talk about — and it always makes people laugh," said Mary Bush, who is chairing the event. Bush saw a similar animal raffle being held up north last summer and "though this would go perfectly with the 125th."

Here's how it works: The raffle will be held on Aug. 22 at 3 p.m. during the Family Day in the Park festivities in Shiawassee Park. Family Day is being sponsored as part of the 125th Celebration.

■ 'It's a lot of fun to talk about — and it always makes people laugh.'

Mary Bush
Mania chairperson

• A cow will be set loose in a fenced area marked with the same number of squares as raffle tickets sold.

• The winning square will be where ever the first cow droppings fall. Following the cow's performance, organizers will pick tickets from a raffle drum, recording them on a form that corresponds with the squares on the ground. A total of 2,500 tickets are being sold for \$5 each prior to the event. The winner will receive \$1,867 in holding with the city's village incorporation date of 1867. The rest of the money will be used for expenses for Family Day and other events being held throughout the year.

See MANIA, 9A

Kids can read, win

Rex and Rita Sauris are back. For the second consecutive year, the literate prehistoric pair are back to challenge children in grades one through eight in the summer Family Reading Challenge.

Sponsored by the Borders Book Shops in Birmingham and Novi, the competition challenges children to hone their reading skills and, at the same time, qualify for a prize drawing on Sept. 2.

To qualify, the children must read at least three books and three newspaper articles between June 15 and Aug. 28 and then discuss them with their parent or guardian.

All children who complete the project will receive a "Readers are Leaders"



bumper sticker and qualify for the drawing. Those whose names are picked in the drawing will win a \$50 shopping spree at the Birmingham or Novi Borders Book Shop or one of 25 \$10 gift certificates.

Look for the entry forms available in this newspaper throughout the summer.

Retiring priest stays a friend

By Sue Buck Staff Writer

The Rev. Stephen Anthony, retiring parish priest at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Farmington Hills, wants people in the community to know that he is retiring as a priest but not from being their friend.

"We (Anthony and wife Helen) figured after 43 years of stress, we deserve a little R & R," Anthony said. Retirement plans are still up in the

CLOSE-UP

air, but the family will remain in the area.

The parish was founded in the 1970 and was located in Southfield until the church in Farmington Hills was completed in 1983.

"I've never had a problem with attendance," Anthony said. "I get pretty good attendance. I'm not one to count

heads. We've had the lean year and we've had the good year. Now we're in the in-between years."

The church has 500 communicants and 200 families.

"The majority of my parishioners are Americans of Greek descent," Anthony said.

The Rev. Dean Hountalas, 39, who comes from New Hampshire, will re-

See PRIEST, 2A



The Rev. Stephen Anthony

Any volunteers?

Young adults in grades 6-12 can gain work experience by volunteering at the Farmington Community Library this summer.

Volunteers will work behind the scenes in all departments during either of two sessions, one running through July 10, the other going July 13 through Aug. 7. At the end of each session, they will be recognized at a party.

For more information, call Janice Ungar at the Farmington branch at 474-7770, or Kent Graham at the Farmington Hills Branch at 553-0300.

That's some story

The Little Professor Book Center in the Grand River/Holset Shopping center will present a children's story time 11-11:50 a.m. on Saturday, June 20. The theme for story time is summertime fun. Chil-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

dren ages 3-7 who attend will participate in "bubble fun." Rich and Paula Herstein, owners of the book store, hold bimonthly storytimes.

Walk through the garden

The Farmington Garden Club will hold its annual Garden Walk 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Heritage Park and other locations in the Farmington area.

In addition to five residential gardens, the garden Visitor's Center will be presented. The Visitor's Center will be the hospitality site where refreshments will be served in a garden party atmosphere reflecting the spirit of Farmington's 125th anniversary. Experts will be on hand to discuss gardening needs

and problems. Garden sculpture and a new garden item, the Honey Hoop, will be available for purchase.

Tickets — available from Garden Club members and at several area businesses — are \$5 in advance, and \$6 on the day of the event. Each ticket will provide directions to the six gardens.

Memory Lane

From the June 19, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

• One youth was killed and 15 persons were injured in five traffic accidents in the Farmington area during the week.

• Attention at the Civic Theater was "A Girl in Every Port" starring Groucho Marx and Marie Wilson.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21183 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.