

Quite an achievement

Competing against more than 800 students from around the world, Samantha Anne of Farmington Hills placed fourth at Junior Achievement's International competition, winning a \$200 scholarship.

Anne, an 11th-grader at Farmington High School, attended Junior Achievement's 51st annual International Student Forum in Midland Aug. 6-10 at Northwood University.

During the competition, Anne had to introduce a product, sell it and write up the sale within a specific time frame. Contestants were judged on product knowledge, enthusiastic salesmanship and the ability to close a sale quickly and efficiently.

"We're so proud of Anne," said Tom Dewar, president of Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan Inc. "She worked hard to prepare for the competition, and it paid off."

Family picnic planned

A family picnic for young children and their parents and grandparents will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, at the Farmington Hills Senior Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Tickets bought before Aug. 19 by calling 473-1830 are \$5 per person. After Aug. 19, tickets will be \$3.50. Participants are asked to enter the Senior Center through Gate 4, Door C.

Memory Lane

From the Aug. 10, 1954, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Quick action by two young Farmington boys, Neal Morris and Bill Warner, probably saved the lives of several people involved in a boating mishap on Walled Lake. The accident occurred when a boat, apparently overloaded with 11 passengers, overturned. The local boys, who were in their own boat nearby, rowed over and began pulling survivors into their craft. The boys also called for help and some fishermen arrived. Two of the 11 drowned, however.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Cities scan new voting machines

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Voting in the Farmington area will become a simple scan on Nov. 1.

Farmington and Farmington Hills both plan to have a new optical scanning system in place in time for the general election.

The system is similar to scanned comprehensive tests taken in school. Ballots are marked and fed into a machine, where they are tabulated.

If they're improperly filled out, the reading machine will reject the ballot and a voter can get a new one.

The new apparatus will cut down on lines and ease worries about breakdowns on election night, officials said.

Both city councils OK'd buying new voting equipment at their respective meetings Monday. Through a lease-buying agreement with Oakland County, the cities will pay for it over a six-year period at a low-interest rate.

Farmington Hills spent \$200,000 for their equipment;

Farmington \$51,000.

The biggest sigh of relief might come from the city clerk's office. "I don't know if it will necessarily make a real significant difference with our staff except we'd hope we'd be able to finish up earlier at night," said Farmington City Clerk/Treasurer Patay Cantrell.

Hills City Clerk Kathy Dorman said election results could be ready an hour-and-a-half after the polls close. By comparison, they weren't ready until midnight in the August primary with everything running smoothly.

"Before when the precincts came in, we'd start the ballot processing count then," Dorman said. "With optical scanning, when the precincts close they can press a button and it gives you the total right there."

"We won't be counting ballots after 8 o'clock. I think that will make our lives easier."

City employees will be trained extensively. An open house will take place in October for voters to

become acquainted with the new machines.

In Farmington, it will mark the end of an era. The city's antiquated voting booths — dating back to the 1950s — will be retired.

"They'll be turned over to the Purchasing Department and sold, Cantrell said. If there are no takers, they'll likely be scrapped.

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