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Farmington Observer

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Commission race: Republican incumbent Donn Wolf is facing a challenge from Democrat Kurt Lopez in the 19th County Commission District. /3A

Accident on Middlebelt: A Harrison High student fights for life after being hit by a car Tuesday morning. /3A

Goodbye, Bob: Farmington needs an assistant city manager now that Robert Schultz has announced his resignation. /3A

Courting judgeships: The race is on for bench positions on the Oakland County Circuit Court. /9A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Lasting legacy: Family and friends of a model volunteer have started a memorial fund to raise money for American Cancer Society children's programs. /13A

Welcome aboard: Guest columnist Robin Serb invites new residents to join the Farmington-area Welcome Wagon club. /13A

OPINION

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Farmington's roads: There are a couple of good reasons why Farmington voters should support the road millage on Nov. 8. /20A

LET'S GO!

Personal Scene: Look for your personal people connection. /7B

CREATIVE LIVING

Full figures: New buxom beauties by Birmingham artist Richard Kozlow will be featured in his painting and sculpture exhibit at the Posner Gallery in Farmington Hills. /1D

Hit and myth: West Bloomfield artist Robert Schefman uses the "Odyssey" as metaphors for self-discovery in his show of new paintings at the Lemberg Gallery in Birmingham. /1D

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School execs get pay increase



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Most Farmington Public Schools' executive administrators will get a 3-percent pay increase this year. Some could see more.

They will also see a 2-percent increase in 1995-96 while an additional 1 percent of their salary will be ap-

plied toward a tax deferred annuity. The Farmington School Board approved the raise at its meeting Tuesday.

Also, the board approved a motion that allows six central office executive administrators — including the three assistant superintendents — to enter into separate two-year contracts. Be-

fore, their contracts have been renewed on a year-to-year basis. "I think these are conservative, but competitive, increases for this district," board president Cathleen Webb said.

Both actions mark an overhaul in evaluating non-union administrative executives in the district.

Increases will be based on an elaborate point system, which was compiled as a result of a recent study examining the district's salary structure and responsibilities for non-union executives.

Employees could receive more than the general 3-percent raise under the new system.

The three-month study done by a human resource advisor compared pay with those having similar jobs in the public and private sector.

"We're pleased to report that most are within the acceptable range," said Superintendent C. Robert Macfield.

In all, 30 non-union executives are affected. They include transportation, maintenance and nutrition supervisors, as well as executive secretaries.

See RAISES, 2A

Job keeps him in the woods



STAFF PHOTOS BY ANNE HALL

Park setting: Joe Derek, recently hired as Farmington Hills naturalist, sees first hand what autumn does to the scenery in Woodland Hills Park.



New park preserves Hills' wildlife

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

You can hear the hum of traffic on I-696 and yet be in what otherwise appears to be one of Michigan's great northern forests.

That's what it's like for visitors at Farmington Hills' newest park, Woodland Hills.

Hills city naturalist Joe Derek has been spending a lot of time in the park, painted in hues of red, orange and yellow by autumn's brush.

"You don't see those except when they're migrating," he says, pointing to a group of yellow-rumped warblers.

Derek, who became the city's first naturalist in September, is looking for possible routes for a nature trail through the wooded park on 75 acres on the west side of Farmington Road bordered on the north by the freeway, across from Oakland Community College.

The realization of the property as a passive park has been a dream

come true for several residents, including Derek. Now, opening it up to the public while maintaining it in its passive state will be the challenge.

Derek points to graffiti on an older beech tree as an indication that some people have been here over the years. But several gigantic maples and beech trees, along with black walnuts, muscle trees and other hardwoods grace the park.

See PARK, 2A

Dervahanian: Taxes drown residents

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

What Democrats and Republicans call tax reform is nothing of the sort to Yegor Dervahanian, Libertarian candidate for 37th District state representative.

"I'm disgusted," he says of promises by politicians of both parties to cut or limit taxes. "Proposal A promised a 20-percent property tax reduction. That was a fair start. But we're seeing taxes on everything else being raised. Damned if you do, damned if you

STATE HOUSE

don't, on Proposal A."

For Dervahanian, 53, a Farmington Hills resident, the tax issue not only involves quantity but quality — as in what taxpayers are getting for their tax dollars.

"I understand why parents want to send their kids to private school," he said.

Outcome-based education must take part of the blame, he said. The

educational practice has not produced good results, has proved costly and has concerned itself with student attitudes instead of aptitude.

Dervahanian, a certified optometrist who works as a salesman, said although he believes he received a good public education, that does not seem to be the case for many high school graduates now.

The Detroit Cooley graduate cited the increase of remedial education

See DERVAHANIAN, 2A



Yegor Dervahanian

Dialog on racism set

A weekend workshop, "Dialogue: Racism," will take place Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 21-22, at the Farmington Training Center, 38000 Thomas.

The workshop is free. Participants are expected to attend both sessions, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

"Dialogue: Racism" is a process which helps people become informed about the historic legacy of racism, its complexities and how it is perpetuated. The workshop focuses on developing personal and organizational skills to cure it.

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Institute for the Healing of Racism for Southeastern Michi-

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gan and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multicultural Community Council.

The workshop is limited to 40 participants, and pre-registration is required. To register, call 473-9804.

Question former Tigers

Former Detroit Tigers Jim Price and Gates Brown will answer questions on the current baseball strike from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22, during an open house at the

Farmington Area YMCA on Farmington Road, north of 12 Mile.

They also will sign autographs and give away baseball items. There will be clowns, food and games.

Memory Lane

From the Oct. 21, 1964 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Ray Cranston, a Farmington Township resident who was totally blind, opened a paint and wallpaper store on 10 Mile Road, east of Orchard Lake. His guide dog Cagle helped at work.

"Knights of the Round Table" starring Ava Gardner was the attraction at the Civic Theatre.