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THE Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

Park
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"Some of these maples are at least 150 years old," Derek said. Putting through a path will be a challenge, considering the location of some plants rare to the area, like the blue gentian, and other wildflowers.
But on a crisp October morning, the property is a reminder that Farmington Hills is preserving a woodland for all to enjoy in the middle of the city.
Formerly farm land, the property had been partly owned by the Peltz family and the Michigan Department of Transportation. After a lot of debate, the city decided to buy the property with money from a special parks and recreation tax approved by voters in 1991.
Now, along with Heritage Park, the city will try to maintain Woodland Hills as a natural park.
Some rusted burn barrels, an abandoned campsite and tarps used by "paint-ball combat" enthusiasts remain, but other than the deer, Canada geese and the many other birds who flock to the park, it has remained a beautiful secret.
"We'll have to work around some of these trees," Derek says as he points to a hawk nest high above in a maple, while a gray squirrel passes from tree to tree.
Red back salamanders, who live in logs rather than near water, turkey mushrooms, trillium, badgers, screech owls, red tail hawks, shag bark hickory trees, red fox and horse tail are among the diverse life this park offers.
And that's the way it will remain, Derek says.
"We're trying to decide where a parking lot will go," he said. "You want to provide access, because that's what it is — a park. But I think we'll be able to do this while preserving it."



That's going back: A tall maple tree, perhaps 200 years old, grows in Woodland Hills Park in Farmington Hills.

Dervahanian
from page 1A

programs in colleges and universities as an additional cost and burden because high schools aren't doing the job.
"When I was in business for myself, I had people come in and couldn't fill out an application," he said.
Although he favors tax support for the military, police, fire and roads, Dervahanian said most other programs run by government are wasteful.
Much of the problem comes from programs and grants offered to communities on the condition that the money be spent by that community. If it isn't spent, another community or state will use the money. There is no incentive not to spend, he said.
Dervahanian, the son of immigrants from Armenian Turkey, said he had been a Republican for years, but has seen a willingness by the GOP office holders to spend taxpayer money more freely.
"I'm more of a conservative than Jan Dolan is," he said. "I think she tries to get along and goes along with the boys (in Lansing)."
Dervahanian sees term limits

as a good start and would like to see the state legislature become part-time as a way to reduce government spending and programs.
In his first run for office, Dervahanian said he supports the right to bear arms.
Because the Turkish government controlled weapons and Armenian citizens could not have weapons, citizens became the victims of that government, he said.
"I'm totally against gun control," he said. "My mother was saved by Turkish people, but the government was killing Armenians."
And in keeping with individual rights, he supports a woman's right to an abortion, although he said he would have trouble counseling a woman to get one.
Dervahanian said his main concern is government's increasing intrusion into the private lives of citizens and the growth of taxes in every aspect of American life.
"We are just suffocating," he said. "This is taking your basic freedom because you can never really own your house without the fear that if you fall behind in your taxes, you may lose it."

Raises
from page 1A

Jan Richards, director of Special Education; Bob Coleman, executive director of Personnel Services; Don Cowan, executive director of K-12 Instruction; Sue Zurvalic, assistant superintendent Staff and Community Services; and Judy White, assistant superintendent Instructional Services are also affected.
Assistant Superintendent for Finance Bruce Barrett is leaving to become associate superintendent for Wayne County RESA.
Figures were not available Wednesday. Zurvalic was to meet with employees Thursday. She could not be reached for comment.
The study was done at the urging of the administration, Webb said. "It's just an attempt to make the salary structure for the positions more equitable," she added.
Human resource advisor Mike Goree interviewed employees individually and had them answer questionnaires on their job responsibilities. From there, he established 13 compensable factors, which measure such things as job knowledge, communication and written skills.
Before, administration executives were evaluated in a "broad brush" manner, Webb said.
The general 3-percent increase is similar to a deal reached with the Farmington Association of School Administrators, which represents building principals. FASA's contract called for a 5-percent raise over two years with a 1-percent incentive payment.

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Show features Irish talent
The best of Irish traditional talent from throughout the four provinces of Ireland will appear Saturday, Oct. 22, at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, performing a concert entitled "Echoes of Ireland."
The 6:45 p.m. concert is sponsored by Combaltas Ceoltóirí Eilreann (Musicians Association of Ireland) and the Michigan Ancient Order of Hibernians.
Mercy is at 22000 W. Eleven Mile Road at Middlebelt.
Detroit is one of the 18 North American venues on Combaltas' 23rd annual tour.
The cream of Irish talent will include musicians, singers, dancers and storytellers.
Admission is \$15 for adults, and \$12 for Combaltas members, retirees and students.
Tickets may be reserved by calling (313)255-7877; (810)335-6327; or (313)386-3936.

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