

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Commencements coming!

Most Farmington-area high school seniors will head west — to Crisler Arena on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor — for commencement ceremonies. A relative few from Mercy High School will travel north and east for graduation at Oakland University. And a handful from the Farmington Schools' Adult Education Program will stay home — at Farmington High — for the big night.

Some 265 Harrison seniors will walk across the stage at Crisler Arena Wednesday, May 31. The 236 Farmington seniors will follow a day later, Thursday, June 1. North Farmington's 254 seniors will pick up diplomas Tuesday, June 6. All three Crisler graduations begin at 7:30 p.m.

Mercy High's graduating class of 189 girls will take their diplomas at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 2, at Oakland University's Baldwin Pavilion.

Farmington High's auditorium will be the commencement site for 47 Adult Education graduates at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 7.

Grand River to close

Farmington police remind motorists that Grand River Avenue will be closed from Orchard Lake to Gill roads from 9:45 a.m. to noon Monday, May 29, because of the Memorial Day Parade. Shawnee and Freedom roads are alternates.

Repairs on Raphael

Anyone visiting the Farmington Administration Building at 32500 Shawnee should remember that parts of Raphael Street, which gives access to the building, will be closed for repairs through June. The school headquarters may be reached from 10 Mile Road.

Talking trash

Attention Farmington-area residents who would normally put out their trash on Monday, May 29.

Refuse, recycling and compost will not be picked up that Monday because of the Memorial Day holiday. Collections that week will take place a day later than usual. For example, Monday's trash will be collected Tuesday, Tuesday's trash on Wednesday, ending up with Friday's refuse and recycling collected Saturday.

Memory Lane

From the May 26, 1955 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

- Mayor Robert Lindbergh proclaimed a water emergency in the city of Farmington.
- Plans were completed by city, township and state police for the handling of the expected record volume of traffic through the Farmington area over the Memorial Day weekend.
- Short item: "Good manners are shown by being able to put up with poor ones."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address is: pachy@goonline.com.

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THE
Observer
NEWSPAPERS

Lichtman from page 1A

said during Monday's regular meeting that he had begun negotiations with his new firm in April, after the council's final vote on the project.

But some City Council members, and some who opposed the Timbercrest project, were angered by the appearance of a conflict of interest.

To Lichtman, that anger has been a part of a debate over the project that has been emotional, rather than pragmatic.

Lichtman said not only would the council have avoided other problems and delays.

"The inordinate amount of time we spent on Timbercrest delayed or forced the council to give short shrift to other important city business," he said.

Cites 'immature' behavior

Lichtman said negotiations over the project degenerated into personal attacks and "immature" behavior on the part of opponents of the project, making constructive improvements that much more difficult.

"I'm a professional who is used to dealing in contentious situations where people try to intimidate me," he said. "So this (criticism over Timbercrest) did not intimidate me."

The North Farmington and University of Michigan graduate said although his term as mayor, which was "a high honor," and as a council member have not soured him on public service, they have been an eye opener.

"When I was first elected, I was against term limits," he said.

"But I'm for them now. I've seen time after time where someone makes a decision based on getting re-elected."

Lichtman, who earned his law degree from Detroit College of

"I took a position instead of worrying about what was politically expedient. But I felt bad for my wife and my kids. It upset my wife that I was spending all this time on City Council matters and was taking a lot of criticism and personal attacks."

Larry Lichtman

Law, said he will look back on several accomplishments, not the least of which towers over Founders Sports Park.

Backed ice arena

Of the ice arena, which Lichtman championed and voters voted to bond, he said it's something he'll tell his grandchildren.

"They'll know it was dad's idea (his son Nathan, 16, first brought up the idea), and that grandpa made it happen," Lichtman said. "If I hadn't pushed it, I don't think the city would have had something that will provide a tremendous recreational opportunity to the community. And it's something that will make the city money."

Speeding negotiations for buying the Mercy Center and helping with the purchase of property for the Founders Sports Park are also accomplishments the former high school quarterback will look back on with pride.

"Nobody wants to be involved in controversy," he said. "I'm the last person that wants to be in the limelight. I just hope my experience doesn't keep good people from running for public office."



No re-election bid: "I took a position instead of worrying about what was politically expedient," says Farmington Hills Councilman Larry Lichtman.

Cable commission to meet

The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) will meet in public session at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 31, in the council chambers of the Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty St. The meeting is open to the public.

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