

These writers know their Farmington

The Farmington Historical Society has picked winners of the 13th annual Lee S. Peel Historical Research Contest.

Titled in honor of the prominent local educator, historian and author Mr. Peel, the contest encourages original research and writing on Farmington area history for all ages.

The contest is conducted and judged by senior members of the Farmington Historical Society with prize money provided by the Farmington Area Arts Commission.

This year's winning entries were announced at a ceremony held at the Farmington Historical Museum June 5. The ceremony was preceded by a punch and cookies reception held on the front porch of the museum and by an opportunity for contest winners and their families to visit museum displays.

First prize was awarded to Aaron Muncey, of Power Middle School, for his paper, "The First United Methodist Church of Farmington." He received an award certificate and a check for \$100.

Aaron's paper describes the history of the Methodist religion in Farmington starting from about 1825 to present. He describes the early "circuit rider" service and the founding of the church in 1829. Muncey then tells the story of the building of the first church started in 1830 and its various improvements



Historic moment: Judges John Willyard (left) and Lois Bierens stand with Historical Society winners Aaron Muncey, Devin Hopper, Matt Webb, Mrs. Kelnor, Denyse Guth, Amy Yee, Pamela Ringstrom, Abby Brown and Gerald Lynch.

and prominent pastors through the disastrous fire of 1920. He then describes the building of the new church started in 1921, its design and subsequent improvements through to the present day. Additionally, Muncey also constructed a delightful scale model of the current church building.

Second prize was given to Amy Yee, also of Power Middle School, for her paper and video tape, "Farmington Today and

Yesterday." She received an award certificate and a check for \$50.

In this tape/paper, Yee interviews three area residents in the format of a news broadcast. As news anchor/moderator, she asks her subjects where they were born, how their family earned a living, where they went to school and many other questions about their life as a young student in Farmington. She always con-

trasts the answers with the current situation in Farmington living up to the title "Today and Yesterday."

At one point she interrupts the program for a humorous "message from the sponsor."

The Best in Age Category awards were given for two papers. Each received an awards certificate and a check for \$25.

The Best in Age for middle-schoolers was given to Pamela Ringstrom of Power Mid-

dle School for "The Native Americans of Farmington."

While not the first paper on this topic, this one was unusually well researched and written. She describes the tribes known to have inhabited the area and how they came to settle in Farmington.

Ringstrom also describes their early treaty with the U.S. and the trails they used to travel around in Michigan. She also

talks about what they left behind: trail markers and burial sites.

The Best in Age for adults went to Gerald Lynch for his paper on the Kris Airport of Farmington Hills.

He describes its location and buildings and tells how the main hanger and control tower have been used through the years.

He also gives a brief description of an earlier airport on Grand River.

Ten honorable mention certificates and prizes of \$10 each were awarded. All are Power Middle School students.

■ Katie Bosker for her paper "Farmington's Early Buildings."

■ Abigail Brown, "Warner Mansion."

■ Jeff Frederick, "Getting Around in Farmington."

■ Justin Gerwotowski, "Farmington Schools."

■ Denyse Guth, "It's Hard To Stay Historic."

■ Devin Hopper, "Farmington's Underground Railroad."

■ Tricia Krause, "Farmington Then and Now."

■ Kristen Oleson, "The Masonic Temple, A Farmington Historical Landmark."

■ Meghan Ostach, "The Founders Day Festival Has Fun for Everyone."

■ Matt Webb, "Farmington Merchants."

Movies planned for Hills ice arena

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena will present three family movies on Sunday, June 23.

At 1 p.m., there will be a double feature matinee showing of "Pocahontas" and "Casper." At 7 p.m., "Jumanji" will be featured.

A giant video projection system and surround sound will be installed for the event. Tickets for either the afternoon double

feature or the evening feature will be \$350 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena is located at Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile between Farmington and Halsted roads.

For further information, call 1-810-478-5500.

Longacre concert
The Longacre House on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile will kick off its summer concert series

with "A Tribute to Broadway" at 7:30 p.m. June 21. Tickets are \$15 per family of four and \$4 per person thereafter.

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NEWSPAPERS

Christoph from page A1

to buy."

Christoph describes himself as a longtime Democrat. As a high school student in Milwaukee, he campaigned for John F. Kennedy in the 1960 Wisconsin primary.

He's back into the political swing of things after undergoing a major career change at 40.

Christoph was director of Food Service at Eastern Michigan University when he started law school. He earned his juris doctor from the University of Detroit and has a private practice.

When it comes to state politics, Christoph sounds as much a consumer advocate as an aspiring lawmaker.

Level of state services should correspond with the amount of taxes Farmington area residents pay, he said. Secretary of State offices, in particular, draw

Christoph's ire.

"They take advantage of their monopoly," Christoph said, "and that shouldn't be."

Christoph expounds more on local issues — roads and school funding — than broader ones like abortion.

"I'm driving around Oakland County and dodging potholes and wondering if my car is going to get swallowed by a pothole," he said, "and these people are talking about pre-life and assisted suicide."

"Those are issues, but they are not the whole campaign as far as I'm concerned."

Christoph doesn't feel state aid for schools is commensurate with the amount of taxes being paid. He also concerned about cuts in adult education.

"I'm having a hard time saying let's cut adult ed and get people

off welfare in the same breath," he said. "If adult ed is cut, how is somebody who needs a second chance to get their GED or the education they need to get into a community college? How are they going to get off welfare?"

"The money the state puts into adult ed is going to pay off many, many times over."

The state pays more on corrections than education, Christoph said. "We have to break that cycle," added Christoph, whose wife is a teacher at Longacre Elementary.

Being a trial attorney has offered Christoph insight to the corrections system. He favors boot camps for youthful offenders as long as the punishment is tied in with learning job skills.

"To stand at attention and say, 'No sir, Yes sir' is not a marketable skill," Christoph said.

He thinks the penal system needs an overhaul, too.

He cites a case where it's a

four-year felony if someone steals a used video tape from a rental outlet, but if it's a brand new tape, the penalty is two years.

"I had a case where that happened," he said. "It makes no sense to me that there are these disparities."

Christoph has thought about running for the House seat for awhile. Dolan stepping down.

Signals may have been crossed, Christoph said.

Democrats wanted someone to challenge incumbent David Moffatt on the Oakland County Commission. No one could reach him, Christoph said.

As a result, Moffatt is running unopposed and two Democrats are in a runoff.

"The seat was open, Christoph said. "So, I thought might as well do it."

Hand from page A1

floor. He fled in a waiting taxi.

Farmington Hills police stopped the taxi on Eight Mile and Grand River and the man was captured after trying to flee on foot. The wedding ring, \$2 and the house key were found.

Police said the man admitted the armed robbery during an interview, saying he needed money to pay off a drug debt.

He told police he had entered a residential drug rehab program, Teen Challenge, and "graduated" in May after a year-long stay. The man said he had a 15-year drug problem, including an addiction to crack cocaine.

He knew the Farmington man

through the street ministry and the gentleman offered him a place to stay while he found his own accommodations.

After leaving the Leelanu Street home Friday, he returned to his old westside Detroit neighborhood looking for companionship," police said. He told police he spent all of his \$260 and another \$70 on credit from a drug dealer.

He told police the drug dealer threatened him, which prompted the man to return to the Leelanu Street residence to get some money.

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