

Farmington Observer

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 111 years

HomeTown
Putting you in touch
with your world

Sunday
April 5, 1998

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 55

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48306-74 PAGES 8 <http://observer.occentric.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1998 HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

TO OUR READERS:

Banks Dishman, publisher of The Observer Newspapers, announced that the home delivery rate for all Observer Newspapers will increase to \$3.95 per month. The change goes into effect with the April collection. Single copies will still be available at newsstands for 75 cents each. Dishman said, "The price has been held down on the home delivery despite increases in cost." Larry Geiger, circulation manager, said carriers will benefit from the adjustment by receiving part of the increase. Geiger noted the home delivery rate will still be 39 percent lower than the single copy price.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY

Spring ahead: Don't forget to push those clocks up one hour - from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. is set for the official time shift.

MONDAY

File now: School board candidates have until 4 p.m. today, April 6, to file petitions at the school board office.

TUESDAY

Talking business: The Farmington DDA meets at 8 a.m. today, April 7, at the city hall.

INDEX

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Agendas/A2 | Obituaries/A8 |
| Arts & Leisure/C1 | Opk. Journal/A6 |
| Autos/J1 | Police, fire/A6 |
| Class. Index/E3 | Rentals/E7 |
| Crossword/E8 | Real Estate/E1 |
| Health/D7 | Service Guide/J3 |
| Jobs/H1 | Sports & Rec/D1 |
| Malls/C8-7 | Taste/B |
| Movies/C4 | |
| New homes/E1 | |
| Real Estate/E1 | |

Maxfield gets top marks from board

Bob Maxfield seemingly can't do a better job than he's doing as Farmington Public Schools superintendent.

During Tuesday's closed-door evaluation, the school board gave Maxfield exemplary marks for his performance during 1997-98. His contract "will certainly be continued," said board Secretary Priscilla Brouillette.

The board will meet in the near future to officially extend Maxfield's contract. Final salary terms might have to wait until after July 1, after non-union contracts are settled, said a spokeswoman in the district's personnel office.

Maxfield, in his fourth year as the district's chief, is earning \$128,450 in salary, plus a car and other fringe benefits. "Ico President Cathy Webb said the annual evaluation enables the board to determine whether to continue renewing Maxfield's three-year contract.

"He really scored the highest at all levels," said Webb Thursday. "We could find no fault with the man. He's an extraordinary educational leader."

Veteran trustee Jack Inch concurred: "He shows every attribute of leadership and team play that you want. He's a manual of what you want a leader to be."

And, Inch added, it doesn't hurt that Maxfield "has a deep, abiding interest in children."

According to Brouillette, the superintendent's strong work ethic and sensitivity to

Please see MAXFIELD, A5

Lights take center stage Tuesday



The Farmington school board faces a \$700,000 question Tuesday: That's what it would cost for a plan to light the three high school football fields for the first time. The board meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Schulman Building.

All the cards finally are on the table for a proposal to install football field lights next year at three high schools in the Farmington district. Now it's time for the school board to deal.

Thursday's public information meeting enabled residents who oppose or

endorse the \$700,000-plus proposal to air their concerns and ask questions of the field lighting committee, chaired by Farmington High School principal Jim Myers. Next up is 7:30 p.m. Tuesday's school board meeting, when the plan might be decided.

Tuesday's meeting will take place at

the Lewis Schulman Administration Building, 32600 Shawwassee. Because the 1998-99 budget is being finalized, the board would probably need to make a decision soon in order for lights to go up for next season.

North Farmington parent Doug Head was at Thursday's meeting and also expects to be present Tuesday night.

"I think it's basically going to pass," said Head, one of about 40 people in attendance Thursday. "They (school board members) are there to do what's good for the community and they think it's not a negative thing."

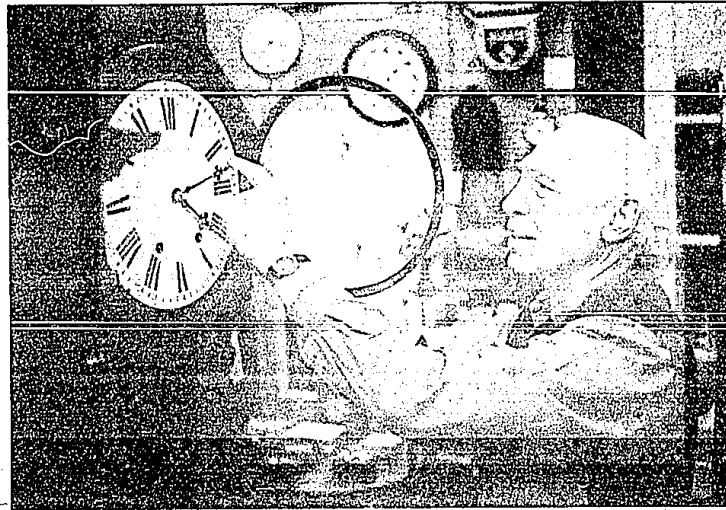
Myers called Thursday's meeting productive. "Everyone had a chance to talk. We answered a lot of questions. We got into a lot more detail than we (committee members) anticipated we would."

Getting answers

Many issues that cropped up during Thursday's 2 1/2-hour meeting at the Farmington Training Center were the same as those identified during a previous resident survey and March 24,

Please see LIGHTS, A5

Timing is everything



Handled: Perry Swartz, owner of Perry's Clock Shop in downtown Farmington's Village Mall, demonstrates how to carefully set ahead your clock. He warns that when we "fall back" in autumn to stop the clock for an hour rather than turn the hand back.

Clock man finds time on his side

Perry Swartz can fix a clock, but he knows a thing or two about beating them as well.

That's why the owner of Perry's Clock Shop - like those of the non-timekeeping ilk - appreciates the extra daylight that starts today. He'll only turn a few of his 60 or so antique clocks ahead for daylight-saving time.

"All that ticking and striking is annoying," said Swartz, 73, whose shop is in the Village Mall in downtown Farmington.

Swartz appreciates quieter moments for another reason. As a U.S. Army scout corporal, he heard his share of exploding bombs and

whizzing bullets in Europe during World War II.

He saw action during the Battle of the Bulge, Battle of the Ruhr and in the German Black Forest. There, he found that lives are not always best measured by timepieces but simply by survival.

After the Germans killed two of three scouts in his artillery unit, Swartz volunteered as a replacement, knowing he'd likely die himself.

That night, Swartz wrote what he believed would be his last letter home. He couldn't sleep, debating whether to send the message.

If he survived, he was afraid the letter might unduly upset his par-

ents. If he didn't send it, his parents would never hear their son say goodbye.

Wrestling with the dilemma, he finally dozed off in the fox hole only to be awakened at dawn by a loud roar.

He looked up and saw U.S. B-17 bombers covering the blue sky. Clear weather allowed the Allies to see their German bombing targets, which made Swartz's impending scout mission unnecessary.

The words are difficult for Swartz when recalling the incident.

"I still get choked up about it," he said.

Please see TIME, A5

Hobbs to interview for job in Boulder

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Manager Dan Hobbs said he wasn't out looking for a new job.

"I told them I'm working for the premier city in Michigan and one of the best in the Midwest," he said.

Nevertheless, he's made the final six in the hunt for a new city manager in Boulder, Colo. And, he won't pass up the opportunity.

"This is a real honor," Hobbs said Friday. "It's one of the top 10 cities" in surveys of best places to live.

Hobbs has been city manager in Farmington Hills since August 1996; He moved to Farmington Hills from Greenbelt, Md. He replaced Bill Costick, who held the job for 16 years.

Hobbs, who has been active in the national city manager's association, was targeted in a candidate search by The Oldani Group Inc. to fill the vacant job in Boulder. He'll be among the candidates interviewed by the city council April 18. The new job pays \$105,000 to \$145,000 depending on qualifications.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said Friday he was notified by Hobbs about the interview.

"He feels it's a step up in his career ladder and I wish him well," Vagnozzi said.

Recruitment and interviews to bigger jobs "go with the position," Vagnozzi added.

Hobbs wasn't excited about word of the interview getting out locally, yet he felt proud to make the final six.

"For me this is a win/win. If I don't get it, I'm going to brag about it for many years," he said.

In 1997, Boulder's population was 95,662; its median household income \$44,500, according to a city report.



Dan Hobbs

Lifesaving becoming routine for Hills paramedic teams

As with the alphabet, A comes before B in terms of medical emergencies as well.

When the radio crackles with "alpha," Farmington Hills Fire Department paramedics know the run has potential life-threatening consequences.

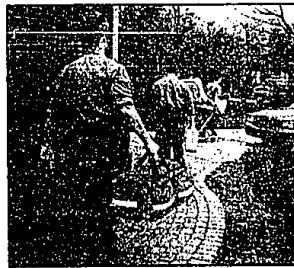
No sooner does the paramedic crew return from another run to Station 6, an alpha call comes over about a woman suffering a possible heart attack. The emergency vehicle pulls onto southbound Orchard Lake as the siren wails.

Within minutes, Hills fire paramedics Rob Smith and Steve Biebel tend to an unresponsive 68-year-old woman lying on the living room floor. She is snoring while trying to breathe.

Wells tries to communicate with family members, whose English is fleeting.

"Her blood pressure is really high; she may have had a stroke," Wells tells the man and

Please see ALS, A3



On the move: Farmington Hills paramedics leave the scene, transporting a stabilized patient to the hospital.

Mark those calendars

Get a preview of the works of the Farmington Festival of the Arts during the first "Starry Night," a gala event of music, art and stars from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the William Costick Center.

Hosted by the Farmington Community Arts Council, the black tie optional event will feature "Farmington Personalities" as a welcoming committee: Alyce Fay of the Motor City Women of Comedy; Bill Gallagher of WJBK Channel 2; Trudi Daniels of WRIF; and Bobbi Webb of WDIV Channel 4 and Dave Varga of the Farmington Observer.

The evening will feature participating, literary, performing and visual artists in addition to delectable hors d'oeuvres, wine and libations. Music will be provided by The Matt Michaels Trio.

Tickets are \$15 per person; \$25 per couple. Call

FARMINGTON FOCUS

478-3256 for details.

Ready to cruise

Two downtown Farmington eateries are planning to rev up Monday nights this summer with a "Cruise Night" of classic cars on display in the parking lot behind Page's Bar & Grill.

Hosting the event will be The Pasta Stop and Page's. Plans are to host the Cruise Nights from 6-10 p.m. every Monday starting in June. They'll offer giveaways, nightly awards, outdoor seating, food specials, a disc jockey with classic music and cruiser

of the month awards.

For more details call 477-7600.

Burying winter

Dennis Tini of Farmington Hills will play a key role in next week's "Funeral for Winter."

The ceremonial event to bury old man winter is an annual event for Wayne State University students and Circa 1890 Saloon on Cass in Detroit. Students, faculty and musicians march New Orleans-style from WSU's student center to the restaurant on Thursday, April 9.

Tini, chairman of the WSU music department, helped found the 20-year-old event which raises money for the university's music program. It also features Dixieland band music by Matt Michaels and a jazz concert at the restaurant.

