

**OWL to
celebrate
Women's
History
Month**

Farnington OWL will celebrate Women's History Month by hosting a performance by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of the foremost suffragists in the long campaign to secure the vote for American women.

The event will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, March 6, at the Farmington library, 23500 Liberty.

Stanton, better known as journalist-dramatist Lynette Brown, public information director for the Michigan AAUW, will appear in costume to discuss her alter ego's role in the suffrage movement. Brown, once a performer in professional

doing her portrayal of Stanton since 1995, and has received great acclaim for the authenticity of her costuming. As a journalist, she has edited material on artifacts and exhibitions for the Henry Ford Museum, and been the publicist for the Birmingham and Bloomfield Public Libraries.



Perform: Lynette Brown
will portray suffragist
Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Brown has a master's degree in journalism and in mass communications and is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, and she writes for newspapers, magazines, radio, and television.

To promote interest in women's history, she serves on the board of directors of the Michigan Women's Studies Association, the founder and parent of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

Women's History Week was first celebrated nationally in the United States in March of 1980, thanks to a proclamation from President Jimmy Carter. The week became a month in 1987 and, since then, March has been set aside to recognize and honor the contributions of women to American society and to American history.

The March 6 meeting is free, and the public is invited to join the celebration, which will include refreshments. For more information, call 474-3094.

POINTS OF VIEW

Now is the time to appeal assessments

Since its passage in 1994, Proposal A has had a dramatic impact on all Michigan property taxpayers. Property taxes for many were reduced to more reasonable levels through Proposal A, but many residents are beginning to see yearly increases in their assessments.

Under Michigan law, residents can appeal their assessment increases.

Throughout Michigan, the assessed value of property is determined by a local assessing officer. If you believe the assessment on your property is in error, you may appeal to your local board of review, and if necessary the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

It is important to note that all appeals must be made to the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills by March 15. In Farmington, residents can appeal their property taxes by appointment or just by stopping by the assessing office during regular business hours. Appointment times in Farmington are from 10 to 11:45 a.m. and 1:15 to 4:45 p.m. Monday, March 13; and 2:15 to 4:45 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 25.

In Farmington Hills, appeals can be made by appointment only. Residents may begin calling to set up appointments on March 6 for the following



times and dates: 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m. Monday, March 13 and Tuesday, March 14; and 1 to 5 p.m. and 6:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 15.

appraisal card. It is helpful to ask the assessing department to explain the document to gain a thorough understanding of all the abbreviations and numbers.

Obtaining comparable property assessments is one of the most helpful tools in the appeals process. If comparable properties are assessed lower than yours, you may argue that your property is over-assessed.

When presenting your case to the local board of review, be sure to bring copies of your presentation for yourself and each of the board members. Since the appeals process costs you nothing but time, your willingness to explore all the possibilities may help you obtain a favorable adjustment.

In addition to the changes associated with Proposal A, recent modifications by the Legislature have affected Michigan's property tax structure.

For example, the Legislature has eliminated the practice of rounding up the calculation of taxes to avoid fractions. Assessors must now round down millage rates and tax amounts. In addition to completely reforming Michigan's property tax reversion process, the Legislature has also amended the General Property Tax Act to provide for exemptions for new personal property investment.

While many aspects of the property tax process are confusing and often intimidating, through these avenues and others, specific measures are available to help you save your hard-earned money. Sharing information is just one of the ways in which we can help solve your problems. As always, if I can be of further assistance or if you need more information, please contact our office toll free at 800-864-2108. You can also call me anytime, and for any reason, at my home in Farmington Hills at 324-3131.

Andrew Raczkowski represents the 37th District, Farmington and Farmington Hills, in the state House of Representatives.

OBITUARIES

MAXINE Q. HINGER

Services for Maxine Gertrude Hinger, 77, of Farmington, will be held at 11 a.m. today, March 2, at First United Methodist Church in Farmington with the Rev. Wayne Large and Rev. Sandra Willoughby officiating. Buri-

It will take place at Wixom

Mrs. Hinger was born April 5, 1922, in Milford and died Feb. 28 at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. She was a longtime member of Ladies Auxiliary Post 347 of the American

Legion and a volunteer with the Farmington Election Board. She was a member of First United Methodist Church and a past president of the Women's Guild.

Mrs. Hinger was also a member of the Prayer Chair, a rummage sale worker, a funeral luncheon worker, a member of the Red Cross and past president of No. 346 A.E. Ladies Auxiliary. She also attended Michigan State University.

Sue (Jerry) Farrell; son, Richard (Dee); grandchildren, June and John Farrell and Richard and Scott Hinger; and great-grandchildren, Ashley and Justin.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church in Farmington.

Arrangements were made by Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.



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SPENDING YOUR MONEY THE
WISHERS WIN! (SEE PAGE 18)

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