Chat room

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served had the guide prominently displayed sources of nursing home survey/ inspection information, which is specific on allegations and is up to date. Instead, the guide buries sources of specific consumer-oriented information in the back of the book and makes no mention of the Michigan ombudsman program, which is the best provider of such information.

It's no coincidence that the guide is released at the beginning of a Michigan legislative session. The unstated purpose: to build a case against consumer-friendly legislative proposals and begin the case for increased legislative appropriations. In recent years, the state nursing home industry has been successful against consumer-oriented legislative proposals and for increased appropriations without accountability. This industry uses campaign contributions, slick promotion and persistent lobbying to tip the scales in favor of the industry.

Although real people's voices – consumers – have spoken loud and clear, they've been largely ignored. At the end of the last session, the state legislature hastily passed so-called reform bills that are flawed and mere window-dressings whose loopholes reinforce the industry's power. And so nursing home residents continue to suffer daily from neglect and abuse.

Sources for reliable consumer information:

■ Citizens for Better Care: (800) 833-9548. CBC is a non-profit ombudsman organization that makes state inspection survey reports on each facility available to consumers.

■ The federal Health Care Funding Administration on its nursing home web page: www.medicare. com This site gives a more-complete description of violations than the industry guide.

For consumer involvement in nursing home reform, call the Michigan Campaign Quality Care at (800) 288-5923 or the Oakland County branch at (248) 478-7293. The Wayne County branch can be reached at (313) 386-7784.

Lydia Rizzo is coordinator for Oakland County, Michigan Campaign for Quality Care. Michael Connors, a member of the campaign, contributed information.

Vintage Farmington

from page C5

Superhighway Act had passed the state legislature. The road commissioners from Macomb, Wayne and Oakland planned a system of roads.

8 superhighways

Isaac Bond, a local farmer, *insurance salesman and township* supervisor, represented Oakland County. Eight super highways were planned. They were Woodward, Stephenson Highway, Northwestern Highway, Southfield, Grand River, Sunset, Eight Mile and Wyoming. Sunset Blvd. was never built and Northwestern was never completed as planned. The old Grand River was no longer a toll road. It was widened and a new route established in parts.

Grand River and Northwestern caused development of subdivisions along their routes. Some were completed; others were only plated but because of the Great Depression causing economic chaos many subdivisions were not even started or only had a few houses constructed.

In some areas, the land reverted to the farmers who found themselves with roads, sidewalks and/or houses in their corn or potato fields. Some simply lost their land. Soon America was at war and the Depression ended. After World War II, the need for new highways was evident. Michigan created a Turnpike Authority in 1953. They were to plan toll roads.

Before any roads were built, the U.S. Congress passed the Interstate Highway Act of 1956 and Michigan participated. For Farmington, I-696 paralleled the old Grand River. It opened in 1957. The highways brought new life to the 1920s subdivisions and new subdivisions were platted and built. Business followed and Farmington Township was a very nice place to live and conduct business.

Farmington Hills became a city in 1973 and the north/south trunk line I-275 opened on Nov. 6, 1976. By 2000, the very highways that made Farmington attractive and convenient have brought new problems yet to be solved – noise and traffic.

When Northwestern Highway wasn't completed as planned northwest of Orchard Lake and Fourteen Mile roads, traffic flowed onto Orchard Lake Road which was designed as a local or section line road.

The roads to Farmington have progressed from muddy trails to paved superhighways. It has taken almost 200 years. There will always be new problems and new solutions.

Ruth Moehlman is a local historian and author of 'Heritage Homes of Farmington'.

Oakland West resident marks 100th birthday

Rachel Gasparado

Rachel Gasparado, a resident of Mercy Marian Oakland West in Farmington Hills, marked her 100th birthday on Feb. 10.

Born in Lake Linden, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, she is the mother of twin daughters, Muriel and Miriam, and has three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Her hobbies include sewing, both by hand and machine, cross stitching and knitting. She takes great pride in her handiwork.

She is an 18-year resident of Mercy Marian Oakland West (owned by Trinity Continuing Care) having moved to this retirement community in June 1982. She has made friends and enjoys being with her peers.

Family and friends honored her with a party at the Birmingham Athletic Club.

Youth heads to conference

Bryan Proven

Bryan Proven, a junior at Farmington High School, has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference Feb. 27 to March 4 in Washington, D. C.

The conference is a leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit.

Bryan will be among 350 outstanding national scholars. The conference theme is "Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting Leaders of Today."

Throughout the six-day conference, Bryan will interact with key leaders and newsmakers from the three branches of government, the media and diplomatic corps.

Bryan has maintained a 4.0 average at Farmington High. He is a member of the golf, wrestling and baseball teams. Bryan is also the treasurer of student council and the high school liaison for Farmington Youth Assistance.

He is the son of Bryan and Janet Proven of Farmington Hills.

Picnic coming to Hilberry's stage soon

The Wayne State University theater department heats up the Hilberry stage with the William Inge drama *Picnic*. This Pulitzer Prize winning American classic is a reminiscence on the silent summer dreams of a small town community and how their lives are interrupted by the arrival of a mysterious stranger. Opening March 9 and playing in rotating repertory at the Hilberry Theatre through May 10, *Picnic* sizzles with the repressed desires of 1950s America.

Directed by David Magidson, WSU professor of theatre, the Hilberry production of *Picnic* strives to expose the lurking shadows behind day-to-day life. Magidson, whose Hilberry credits include *The Miser, You Can't Take It With You, Prelude to a Kiss* and last year's production of *Breaking the Code*, aims to build upon the underlying tension in the text. The Hilberry production of Picnic will eliminate intermissions, making the play a continuous 105-minute production, allowing the tension in the characters' relationships to progress naturally and without relief.

To help highlight the oppression and yearning in the lives of characters whose horizons are desperately limited, the design of this production strives to expose reality in all its harsh and weathered glory. Guest designer A. Norman Hamlin, an alumnus of Wayne State, realizes these images on the Hilberry stage.

Hamlin received a bachelor of arts degree in speech (theater) in 1970 and an MFA in design and technical theater in 1977 and served as the technical director for the Department of Theatre at WSU for over 10 years. Hamlin has worked with Michigan Performing Arts, Inc., the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Attic Theatre, the Birmingham Theatre, the Northland Playhouse, Harbinger Dance Company and Savero Ballet.

Jewish Vocational Service women to work information meeting set for Feb. 27

Individuals who need to obtain or upgrade employment are invited to attend a Jewish Vocational Service Women to Work information meeting. It is free, open to the public and scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at JVS, 29699 Southfield Road in Southfield.

The meeting will provide an overview of the JVS Women to Work program, which helps individuals who have lost their primary source of income and are unemployed or underemployed to identify their career and educational goals. The information meeting will also highlight the employment services available, including resume writing, effective interviewing, an introduction to computer operations and referrals to job opportunities.

JVS, a Jewish Federation and United Way agency, offers a wide variety of vocational services for those requiring career development and employment services, vocational rehabilitation, work activity and specialized senior adult programming in the tri-county area.

For further information and eligibility requirements, call JVS at 559-5000.

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