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today's
Observer
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THURSDAY
June 19, 2003
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FARMINGTON Observer

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nation's cherries.
Taste, D1



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Board approves superintendent's raise

BY SUZ BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Farmington School Board members Tuesday unanimously approved an annual pay increase for Farmington Public Schools Supt. Bob Maxfield. Board members asked no questions when that agenda item came up at 11:30 p.m.

four hours after the start of the meeting. However, board member Frank Reid said Wednesday that some telephoned him with questions.

"The board understands the history of what we've done in Farmington," Reid said. Reid is chair of the superintendent evaluation committee; he serves with Gary Sharp and

Cathleen Webb. Typically, the board doesn't present numbers when approving salary increases at the meeting.

Maxfield's base pay will increase to \$154,581 in 2003-04 from \$145,838 this year. The total compensation package for next year is \$189,108, up 5.4 percent from \$179,381 this year.

Reid gathered salary data from six other nearby like school districts for comparisons. The board needed to have adjustments in place by June 30.

Maxfield reportedly received a "constructive and positive" evaluation last month, because he successfully completed annual goals, Reid said.

"The reports we heard tonight from the different divisions underscores the substantial progress we are making," Reid said.

Reid studied Troy, Walled Lake, Huron Valley, Novi, West Bloomfield and Rochester school districts and how they

PLEASE SEE RAISE, A8

OUT
TOWNS

Car wash

Bring your dirty cars down to the Harley-Davidson dealership in Farmington Hills and the Farmington High School Cheer Team will wash your car noon-4 p.m. Saturday, June 21. Motor City Harley-Davidson/Buell is located at 34900 Grand River.

Tie decorators

Young artists Francis Datto of Leonard Elementary and Theo Flicks of Levey Middle School have each received a Dominic Pangborn original tie for artistic excellence in the annual Tie Decorating Contest sponsored by The Shirt Box in Farmington Hills. This year's contest involved kids using any art medium to design an original tie in order to win a Pangborn tie for their Dad or favorite male role model for Father's Day. Pangborn selected the two artists from the many entries in this year's contest.

For more information and photo opportunities, please call Ron Elkus at (248) 851-6770.

Blood drive

The Farmington Hills Holiday Inn will hold a Critical Need Summer Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 2.

As people leave for vacations and summer activities, the number of donations tends to dwindle over the summer, even though the need for blood and blood products increases. To make an appointment call (571) 545-7712. Walk-ins are welcome.

Aging commission

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging develops ways to promote the well-being, dignity and improvement of daily living for adults 50 and better in the Farmington/Farmington Hills community. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the William Costick Activities Center at 28600 Eleven Mile Road.

In addition, you can meet CDA members for questions and answers on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Conway Hall at the William Costick Activities Center. The Commission on Aging will issue information on issues concerning adults 50 and older.



PELL BRESELER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Colonial Car Wash owners Mark and Holly Owen (right) are pictured with Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer and Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

PLEASE SEE SEAT BELTS, A8

Drivers who click rewarded

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

If police in Farmington or Farmington Hills approach you this year and you've done nothing wrong, they might just have a little reward for you.

In conjunction with the state's Click it or Ticket campaign, Colonial Car Wash in Farmington has donated 100 free car wash passes to Farmington and Farmington Hills police departments to pass along to motorists caught wearing seat belts. The campaign's aim is to get people to buckle up.

Longacre employees keep the faith

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

People who have booked engagements at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills are expressing concern about whether their parties will go off as planned now that the house's leadership hangs in the balance.

Inquiries about booking engagements at the house have taken a nosedive, said Executive Director Denise Twynea, who last got paid on June 5. Four members of the Board of Trustees said Twynea was let go as of that date because she was not being accountable to the board.

However, the board and past members of the house did agree to meet at the mansion 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, to discuss

PLEASE SEE LONGACRE, A8

Sorrows Scouts honored for bat house project

BY SUZ BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Our Lady of Sorrows sixth grade Girl Scout Troop #2048, which recently received the coveted Bronze Award, was recognized at the June 16 Farmington City Council meeting.

The honor included leading the pledge of allegiance. Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell also presented them with bronze stars from the city and certificates.

In a year-long project, the girls built two bat houses and installed them at Shilohwasse Park last month as a way to

combat West Nile virus. They were assisted by Farmington Department of Public Services Director Kevin Gushman.

"Knowing the concerns here in Michigan of West Nile virus, the troop decided to find a way to combat it," said parent and leader Laura Spencer. "After researching the cause of the

virus and ways to deal with it, the girls decided to choose an environmentally friendly way to make a difference."

Troop members are Gabriella DiFiore, Sara Fields, Vicky Lentione, Jenny Lang, Michele Ring, Nicole Spencer, and Karen Bhagwat.

PLEASE SEE PROJECT, A5

Brickner, Vagnozzi on local injured reserve list

Farmington Hills Councilman Barry Brickner is the latest casualty among area politicians who've suffered injuries in one form or another recently.

Brickner sported sunglasses at Monday's City Council meeting. He explained that on Saturday, he was cutting down an ash tree in his yard and a large branch fell on his face, requiring several stitches near his eyes. "I guess this is a good reason

to have a professional cut your trees," he said. Just recently, Aldo Vagnozzi, state representative for our area, broke his ankle while bike riding in his subdivision.

The 76-year-old former Hills mayor said he will be laid up for nearly five weeks, but promised, "It hasn't slowed me down."

Using a walker to help him get around, he was busy working on legislation in Lansing this week.



PELL BRESELER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Doubly proud

Karen Bhagwat reacts to the June 8 graduation of her twins, Melissa and Amanda Luchtel, who attended North Farmington High. Her husband, Sam Bhagwat, tries to comfort her. More photos, page A3.

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LOOKING AHEAD
Thyroid disease
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families. Read more in Sunday's
Health section.



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