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Fifteen Cents



Music's coming up

Dirk Bondi of Farmington High School practices in preparation for his solo in a unique concert to be offered by Farmington High School's orchestra at 8 p.m. Friday night. Not only is the concert Farmington High's first annual concerto program, but it will feature four soloists who have studied music since the fourth grade and plan to continue it in college. Gays Szambrak will play the last movement of the Mozart clarinet concerto; Jon Boyd will play the

Phillips sonata for bassoon and orchestra, and Sue Pruner will play the flute. Bondi will play a violin concerto with piano accompaniment. He has been awarded a four-year music scholarship from Wayne State University. Each of the other students has performed with the Farmington Community Orchestra and the Farmington Community Band and has attended summer programs at Interlochen Arts Academy. Donation will be asked.

Ex-candidate jumps into pigeon fray

FARMINGTON—Lack of council action on a complaint about the growing flock of pigeons in the city has brought criticism from a former council candidate.

When he heard that the council decided not to act, Bill Purdy decided to do something himself.

He gathered 30 samples of pigeon droppings and sent them to University of Michigan for analysis. The culture samples require 24 hours to incubate.

By late Wednesday, Purdy expects to be able to show that a health hazard could exist in the city.

It was the council's lack of action, Purdy said, that led him to follow through on a letter by Donald J. Currant, 23354 Kingslane.

CURRENT SAID the birds were roosting on all of the properties just east of the city hall including the Masonic Temple.

The droppings from the birds were destroying the eavestroughs, downspouts, shingles and wood trim of the

historic building, Currant said. Birds were also roosting in the attic crawl space of the former Fads 'N Fashions building.

Purdy found that pigeons can spread diseases. The disease, histoplasmosis (Darling's disease) and cryptococcosis can be fatal, he said.

Purdy cautioned that chances that the pigeons present a major health problem are "remote."

CRITICIZING the city council, Purdy said Currant was "abused, mistreated and maligned."

He wants the city and council officials to investigate the problem.

One solution, he said, would be to feed the pigeons seed laced with estrogen. The birds would cease to produce eggs and the city could rid itself of the pigeons without killing. He also asks that the nesting areas be cleared and boarded up.

Purdy is a general landscape con-

tractor. He plans to run for council in the next election.

He said he is confident that he will be elected.

"THE COUNCIL does not listen to the people," he said.

"They are there to hear the

people's problems and to help to solve the people's problems," he said.

Currant's letter, read at the April 7 council meeting, had drawn a number of humorous comments from the council members.

City Manager Robert Deadman said the pigeons had been seen roosting in

the downtown Farmington area for at least the past 18 years.

Efforts in the past to rid the city of pigeons hadn't succeeded.

HE SAID the possibility of destroying the birds would draw protests from some segments of the community.

If the city does not act, Purdy could file a complaint with the Oakland County Health Department, he said.

But that would dump the problems back into the city's lap.

The health department refers such complaints to the cities for a solution, he said.

Hills OK's \$600,000 sewers

FARMINGTON HILLS—Council action Monday night paved the way for \$600,000 in federal funds earmarked for improvements in the southeast section of the city.

The council unanimously approved an agreement with the county which releases funds through the Community Development Act.

The money is to be distributed to

the city over three years. The grant provides \$100,000 next year, \$200,000 in the second year and \$300,000 in the third year.

Aim of the grants is to improve areas of blight.

In informal discussion in March, the councilmen agreed to spend the money on drainage, sanitary sewers and water mains in Sections 35 and 36.

HOUSING LACKING in sanitary facilities or in deteriorating condition is primarily located in those two sections, City Manager George Majors said.

Paving projects were discussed then but were dismissed in favor of the sewer and water improvements.

Still to be decided is rate of payment for the improvements.

The city must determine the best

way to spread the money among those in need of financial assistance.

Other suggestions to the council from city officials included hiring a housing code enforcement officer at an estimated annual cost of \$18,000, improving the fire hall in Section 36 and development of Walden Park.

The councilmen rejected the last two recommendations.

Veteran newsman 'Tommy' Thompson dies



R. T. (TOMMY) THOMPSON
A fierce loyalty

Richard T. (Tommy) Thompson, until recently executive editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and a 48-year veteran of the newspaper business, died Monday, April 14. He was 65.

He was dead on arrival at St. Mary Hospital, Livonia. He suffered a massive heart attack during an editorial board meeting at the Observer & Eccentric office in Livonia.

Funeral services were held Wednesday evening in the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Redford Township. An old friend, Rev. John Rozak of St. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, officiated. Burial was in Warren, Ohio, the steel town where he grew up.

Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Mary Hospital of Livonia, one of his strongest interests.

In his profession, Thompson was noted for his fierce loyalty to his newspaper and its staff which, in turn, won him a loyalty and respect equally as strong.

A BIG MAN, jovial in nature, Thompson frequently adopted a gruff front to shield a softness of heart recognized with affection by all who knew him well.

While sports was far and away his first interest from his teen years on, Thompson's enthusiasm reached out in a multitude of directions. However, he threw himself wholeheartedly behind projects he found worthy.

One of these was establishment of Schenck College which he helped with all-out effort. After the college was founded, he continued to help and encourage it to flourish.

"Tommy had an abiding interest in education," his widow, Mrs. Schenck Thompson, said. "He was a man who believed in the value of education and he wanted to see it flourish."

ford to join the district was a valiant one. He always attended board and committee meetings and was in constant touch with us. He was always willing to say what was on his mind and his interest in the college was always productive and constructive. He was not destructive. His loss to this area is a great one."

THOMPSON ALSO served on the silver anniversary and cultural affairs committees at Madonna College and was a member of the committee for the study of co-education there. He was a guest speaker at journalism

Hills misses civic honor

FARMINGTON HILLS—The long wait is over. But the results aren't what the city had been hoping for.

Officials were notified Monday that the city had earned an honorable mention award in the All American Cities Competition. Pontiac, the only other Michigan city in the running, was among 12 earning first place awards.

This is the first year that the city entered the competition sponsored by the National Municipal League. Judging was based on achievements which demonstrated vitality of local civic activities in the maintenance of self-government.

The city had supported its entry with evidence of resident participation in the incorporation of the city and the writing of the city charter.

Mayor Frederick Lichten and councilman Robert McConnell had represented the city at a conference held in San Diego last fall.

Gov. William Milliken sent a letter of congratulations to the city.

staff conferences and workshops and worked with the college's journalism students who completed their co-education at Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"Madonna is a better institution for having known Richard Thompson," said Sister Mary Danahy, president.

"It is a stronger college for having shared his wisdom and a richer community of persons for having been befriended by the man who affectionately termed the religious staff 'my girls'."

Sister Mary Lauriana, dean of Madonna, called Thompson "a man for our times, alert and alive, generous and understanding. We will dearly miss him," she added.

Thompson was recognized among his colleagues as a newspaperman of the "old school."

A FAMILIAR city room sight was

Thompson seated at his desk, his hat pushed to the back of his head, and "Tommy" pounding at the typewriter with two fingers. (Until his 1972 heart attack, there also would have been a cigar smoldering in an ash tray.)

Philip H. Power, co-publisher of Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, termed Thompson's death "a deep personal loss."

"Tommy Thompson was an outstanding newsman who more than any one person, developed the editorial staff and policies of our newspapers," he said. He was at once ferocious and caring; gruff and kind; most of all, he cared.

"His passing will be greatly felt by Observer & Eccentric employees who came to love and admire him through the years," Power added.

He was so prolific a writer that he

(See THOMPSON, next page)

