

Girl Scout director wears 20-year pin, 3B



Athlete of Year, 1B

They keep an eye on our sky, 3A

Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item, feature story idea or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

TAKE note. Farmington Hills City Hall's Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) telephone number has been changed. Previously 474-6306, the new number is 474-9583. TDDs aid hearing and speech impaired individuals in gaining information. By communicating through a keyboard, much like a typewriter, individuals ask typewritten questions and receive information in the same manner. All hearing and speech impaired people in the Farmington Hills area may use the TDD for information regarding city services and programs.

SENIORS at least 60 can take advantage of the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency's senior citizen discount program. Pictures for identification cards will be taken from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, July 18, at the Farmington Senior Center at Mercy Center, 88600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. ID cards enable seniors to take advantage of discounts offered by local merchants. Discounts range from 4 to 40 percent.

HELP is needed. The Farmington Youth Assistance-sponsored Teen Center at Shawwassee School has more teens participating each night than originally expected. The FYA board of directors, which budgeted for the number of teens who participated last year, is concerned that money might run out before the end of the eight-week program. FYA will accept donations from area organizations. If interested, call the FYA office at 476-3840.

IT'S business mixer time. The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will join the Livonia Chamber of Commerce for a business after hours mixer 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at the Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills. Exchange business cards, cultivate new sources and enjoy hors d'oeuvres. Call the chamber for reservations: 474-3440.

ROADS will command the spotlight at two Farmington Hills City Council public hearings in July. A hearing at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 14, will determine whether to proceed with the proposed paving of Goldsmith. The results of a recent petitioning effort show that more than 51 percent of the residents favor paving. Construction would not begin until early 1987 although engineering work could be done this winter. Two hearings are slated for 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 21. The first is a cost hearing for paving 13 Mile, Drake to Halsted. The second is a hearing on the proposed resurfacing of Lakeshills and Fairway Hills. City council established a special assessment district for the resurfacing proposal.

FOOTNOTES: Did you know Grand River used to be called the Detroit-Howell Plank Road because it served as a stagecoach route from Detroit to Lansing?

Corps work: 'best days'

By Susan Steinmueller staff writer

When Joe Polluto prepared to graduate from Calumet High School in the Upper Peninsula in 1932, the future looked bleak. The Depression had put nearly everyone out of work, and the mining industry, which was the bread and butter of most everyone in his hometown of Calumet, had closed down. But hope for Polluto and other young men like him between the ages of 17 and 21 arrived in the form of a program established in 1932 called the Civilian Conservation Corps. A federal "make work" program, it was aimed at putting young men to work on environmental projects.

The years that Polluto spent with the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps made what could have been the worst of times into what he called the best days of his life. "Every CCC boy that went will tell you that these were the best days of their life," said Polluto, now 73 and a retired heavy equipment operator who lives in Farmington Hills. "The CCC made men out of all the boys, and they're all proud of it too."

THE ENTHUSIASM with which alumni CCC groups have recently seen from the "old boys" proves that Polluto is not alone in his fond memories. "The boys in the CCC camps want to get together," said Polluto. "There are such happy memories."

When the CCC was organized, almost 12 percent of Michigan's work force, which numbered two million, was out of work. The program provided young men like Polluto with an opportunity to work and learn new skills, to eat three square meals a day, and to get paid \$30 a month — \$25 of which was sent directly home.

In return, the young men — totaling 100,000 at 120 camps — had the program disbanded in 1942 —



Joe Polluto is shown holding a program from a dance sponsored by the city of Manistiquette for members of Camp 3632 of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The dance was given by the city as a farewell tribute when the camp moved to Newberry in 1937. The jacket Polluto is wearing was issued by the CCC as a work fatigue. The photographs are some Polluto took during his days in the CCC.

people were subject to the same discipline and procedures as those in the Army, with the camp under the supervision of reserve Army officers. Polluto reported to work in July 1933 to Camp Newberry, which was still being established. An average of 230 young men served at each camp, most of which were in the upper half of the state. Polluto knew that the money he would send home would help support his family. His father, an Italian immigrant, was a timber boss at the mines in the Calumet area. He was the oldest of three children, and has a younger brother and sister.

FROM 6 A.M. until 4:30 p.m., the men worked for the Department of Natural Resources. Polluto said: From 4:30 p.m. until 8 a.m., they



Farmington Department of Public Services workers began work Thursday on repair of a sewer line break on Shawwassee Road west of Inkster Road.

City leaders laud liability law reforms

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Both Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman and Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick are pleased with the state Legislature's recent passage of a package of liability reforms that, in the long term, could help reduce insurance premiums for the cities.

In mid-June, the state Senate followed the House's lead in passage of a package of seven liability and tort reform bills after a full year of debate. The push for reforms was spurred by soaring liability insurance rates, including those paid by municipalities.

The key bill for municipalities limits a governmental unit's liability to its percentage of fault, removing government as a "deep pocket" source. "That was a much-needed change," Deadman said. "I'm pleased with the changes, especially the case of joint and several liability. That's really important. Because government can sell bonds and tax people, government is seen as having a real deep pocket."

The change in joint and several liability most likely will reduce a municipality's costs simply because they would no longer be 100 percent financially responsible when other parties in a lawsuit are not financially collectible. "In the long run, we hope premiums will be reduced. Yet, we don't know how the courts will interpret these changes," said Gene Berroddin, Michigan Municipal League's insurance director.

THOUGH PLEASED with the change in joint and several liability, Berroddin called the reform a compromise. Under the Legislature's liability reforms, a municipality would pay its percentage of fault, plus an amount equal to its share if other parties are uncollectible. Although municipalities are still going to have to pay if other parties are uncollectible at least it is not as much as in the

past, Berroddin said. Calling joint and several liability "ridiculous," Costick said, he is uncertain whether reforms will have an impact on municipal insurance premiums. "I certainly would hope so. But that's yet to be seen."

"The cities have had such a bad experience in recent years, it's hard to say what is going to happen in the short term."

Farmington and Farmington Hills are insured through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association.

Lengthy ballot is possible

By Tim Richard staff writer

Michigan voters could see as many as seven proposals on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Today at 4 p.m. is the deadline to file initiative petitions in Lansing for ballot proposals. Three groups are confident they have enough signatures for their pet projects — the death penalty, a part-time legislature and stiff utility regulations.

The wine cooler deposit initiative fell short of its signature requirement but could be placed on the ballot by the Legislature. Three constitutional amendments are certain of ballot status because they were approved by the Michigan Legislature.

HERE IS the status of petition drives just prior to the Fourth of July holiday:

- Death penalty — Some 304,000 signatures are needed, and 340,000 have been collected with an expectation that 14,000 more will come in by noon today. Oakland County Proposed turn to Page 9

Schools facing changes

This is the first of four parts examining task force reports recently presented to the Farmington Board of Education. This part looks at the district's physical resources.

By Casey Hens staff writer

As Farmington school officials face a future of financial uncertainty due to proposed state equalization, it is also faced with the expense of major structural renovations in virtually all buildings. A nine-member task force committee, charged with studying the district's physical needs and comprised of school employees and local residents, recently told the school board the structural solutions might be costly, but will be necessary. "Out of necessity, the district's funds have been spent conservatively on physical structures," the committee's 28-page study report said. "The educational process, which contains the necessary ingredients of staff and curriculum development,

Break is repaired

A portion of Shawwassee Road was closed for several days last week, while repairs were made to an interceptor sewer line that broke under the road. Farmington Department of Public Services crews replaced 40-50 feet of sewer line west of Inkster to repair the break, spotted by using the city's new sewer camera, according to City Manager Robert Deadman. The camera is remotely sent along the sewer line to determine a problem.

A sewerage back-up was noticed in at least one basement in the Blaine Park subdivision in Farmington during the city's last heavy rain, prompting the city to take action. The top of a 21-inch sewer pipe joint broke, causing the pipe to fall about eight inches and restricting the flow of sewerage along the route. To complicate matters, a city of Detroit water main several feet away from the sewer line had to be reinforced with steel sheathing while the crew did repairs, Deadman added. It took 1 1/2 days to set up a secondary line to pump sewerage in a 3-4 block area around the break. The interceptor sewer line, built in 1933, runs from Farmington's primary storage treatment facility in the city to a treatment center in Detroit.

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