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is lesson in life, 3B



Rivals eye
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cap graduation, 3A

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Twenty-Five Cents

Veteran of hospital board dies



Murray Van Wagoner
A gentle giant

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Botsford General Hospital Board of Directors Chairman Edward Hodges III called board member Murray Delos "Pat" Van Wagoner — the former Michigan governor and state highway commissioner who died Thursday at 88 — "a gentle giant."

"The governor was always friendly, always willing to do more than his share. He was a compassionate man. And he had a sense of humor. He was a great man who's going to be sorely missed," Hodges said.

Van Wagoner, a Tuscola County native, was nicknamed Pat because he was born the day after St. Patrick's Day in 1896. Hodges charac-

'The governor was always friendly, always willing to do more than his share.'

— Edward Hodges III
Botsford board chairman

terized Van Wagoner as a man who "was deeply concerned about the quality of health care and its delivery."

"He wanted the medically indigent to receive the same quality of health care at Botsford as everyone else," Hodges said.

Van Wagoner, a Botsford board

member since 1950, served as chairman for 20 years, spanning the time when Ziegler Osteopathic Hospital in Detroit branched out into Farmington Hills with the 1965 opening of Botsford General Hospital. Ziegler closed in 1982. Following his chairmanship, Van Wagoner was called chairman emeritus.

VAN WAGONER also served on Ziegler's original board of trustees, which selected the board of directors and oversaw physical plant acquisitions and dispositions.

Van Wagoner died from congestive heart failure Thursday afternoon. The Bloomfield Township resident entered Botsford May 14.

Gerson Cooper, president of Botsford General Hospital and its parent company, Ziegler Health Care Corp., remembers Van Wagoner as a "very hardy and hale individual who was a good friend to a lot of people."

Not only did Van Wagoner rarely miss a board meeting, he came prepared.

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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.

TO help build an alliance between the school and business communities, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and Farmington Public Schools will have a partnerships committee.

"It'll enable the two groups to interact, to have a dialogue," said John Handley, chamber president.

The business community, he said, "can benefit by presenting themselves in a favorable manner — by showing they're not grasping, greedy types."

He sees the committee surveying educators about students headed toward the working world.

"I see us asking the schools, 'What can we do for you? These are some of our resources.' Or, 'We're not getting students from your district who can do this or that. This is what we need.'"

Committee members have not been named. A speakers' bureau and career education programs would be spinoffs of the committee, Handley said.

GOING abroad.

Four Farmington-area residents boarded the same plane June 10, all heading to London and all with fares paid by British Airways.

More than one million people filled out entry blanks in hopes of winning the free trip. Local winners were David Haron, Norma Hayesh and Bernice Kesner of Farmington Hills and Timothy Jule of Farmington.

FOR the past five years, Farmington Public Schools students have displayed samples of their art — paintings, etchings, three-dimensional models — at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

In recognition of the students' contribution, the hospital's volunteer service hosted 41 children and parents for an ice cream social in the hospital's Administration and Education Center Community Room.

"We were very pleased to host this event in recognition of the fine efforts put forth by these elementary school children. We are sure that this will become an annual event," said Adele Emmer, director of volunteers.

MIXING it up.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will join the Livonia Chamber of Commerce in hosting a business after-hour mixer from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at the Botsford Inn.

The \$5 cost includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Call the chamber for reservations: 474-3440.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington's downtown study committee will meet June 19 in the City Hall. The topic of this second of nine meetings scheduled will be "Communications" — how members of a downtown community, including city officials, neighbors and merchants, communicate with each other.

Jaycees reach a special juncture

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Louise Coleman was well-groomed to take on the presidency of the Farmington Area Jaycees during its 10th anniversary year.

She had been a member of the Jaycee auxiliary since she moved here five years ago, chaired numerous and varied projects for that organization, and won the "Jaycee Woman of the Year" award from the local club in 1985.

Coleman was one of only two members of the now-disbanded Farmington Area Jaycee Women who chose to join the one-time male-only organization.

The choice was made, she said, "because I believe in its purpose and function." She pursued the presidency, she said, "because I thought of it as a challenge."

With less than a month of her yearlong tenure behind her, she rattles off with speed the multi-



Louise Coleman pursued the Farmington Area Jaycees presidency because, she said, "I thought of it as a challenge."

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Aiming to save the integrity of neighborhoods

Editor's note: This is the fourth installment in a series examining Farmington Hills' homeowner associations and their impact on the city.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Meadowbrook Hills and Woods Homeowners Association members worked for two years to buy a park in their neighborhood.

Meadowbrook Park Homeowners Association is working to have its Northville mailing address changed.

Pasadena Park Homeowners Association has formed a road committee to study how its dirt roads can be improved without paving.

And Farmington Ridge Homeowners Association — one of the newest homeowners groups in Farmington Hills — is developing a master plan for the neighborhood's 40-acre open space.

Although there are at least 80 associations in Farmington Hills, each operates in its own manner, with varying levels of participation, strengths and weaknesses.

DESPITE THE differences between associations, the one common thread that ties them together is the determination to preserve the integrity of the neighborhood — property values, architectural style and appearance.

"The job of associations is to protect property values by enforcing their (deed) restrictions in relation to land use, setbacks and the like," Farmington Hills Zoning Supervisor Hal Rowe said. "They are there to arbitrate spats between neighbors and to enforce anything in their deeds."

Deed restrictions are the foundation for most associations, particularly in newer subdivisions. Deed restrictions are enforced because they contain the rules and standards under which the subdivision operates.

For example, deed restrictions in one of the city's newest subdivisions — Farmington Ridge, near 13 Mile and Haggerty — require formation of an association, the collection of dues and maintenance of 40 acres of open space.

One method of ensuring that deed restrictions are enforced is through

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Nicaraguan volunteer

Harrison student sees poverty up close

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Rising at 4:30 a.m. to a breakfast of rice, beans and tortillas, she hiked from the state-run farm half a mile into the Nicaraguan mountains to pick coffee beans.

Late in the afternoon, she carried her full, 66-pound sack down the oft-times muddy mountain.

Lunch and dinner were the same as breakfast, her clothes were washed by scrubbing them on rocks in local streams and her bed was a wooden plank.

Although she loved the "beautiful" Nicaraguan countryside, this trip was not a traditional holiday break for Julie Runk — nor was it meant to be.

The Farmington Hills resident and 1985 Harrison graduate volunteered to work in a war zone near the city of Matagalpa in the northern part of the Central American country near the Honduran border.

RUNK NEVER saw any fighting — just the poverty of the Nicaraguan people, a struggling economy, and a political revolution she said is quite different than the one we read about in the American press.

She spent only three weeks during



'I was interested in finding how the Nicaraguans really felt. Most are in support of the Sandinistas. They said it was a huge improvement over the dictatorship.'

— Julie Runk
Hills resident

the 1985 Christmas harvest season in Nicaragua, but Runk carries the experience and the impressions with her today.

"We saw lots and lots of poverty," she said. "They questioned us about the poverty in the United States — I guess it never really hit us it was here, too."

Although Runk said she had opinions about the political situation in Nicaragua, she arrived with an open mind.

"I was interested in finding how the Nicaraguans really felt. Most are in support of the Sandinistas. They said it was a huge improvement over the dictatorship."

RUNK REFERS to former dictator Anastasio Somoza, who was overthrown by the Sandinista regime.

The U.S. government administration has supported contra rebels allegedly linked to the deposed

Somoza — fighting at the country's borders against the present Sandinista leaders.

Runk was a brigadista — a bridge volunteer — sponsored by the Nicaragua Exchange, a project of the New York-based Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization. The group promotes friendship between people in Nicaragua and the United States.

The youngest female in the 42-person group, she traveled with the Unitarian Universalist Brigade for her December/January experience, which was co-sponsored by the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists.

The brigades visit the war-torn country each winter, offering labor in the fields in exchange for a learning experience.

OTHER GROUPS co-sponsoring include the New Jewish Agenda, the Afro-American Solidarity Network and the Elders for Survival. Volunteers range in age from 17 to 80, with average volunteers in their mid-20s.

"They treated us very warmly,"

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