



Happy 40th!

Members of the Farmington Public Schools administrative staff helped acting superintendent Michael Flanagan (center) celebrate his 40th birthday on Aug. 17. Flanking him are (from left), Earleen Klesner, secretary; Judy White, assistant superintendent; Betty

Wiesenburg and Dina Asconzo, executive assistants; Mary Lou Ankele, assistant superintendent; and Doris Brownell and Georgio Gault, executive secretaries. The setting is Flanagan's office in the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center.

RANDY BOAST/staff photographer

State grant marked for Hills parkland

Farmington Hills has received a \$300,000 development grant for Heritage Park from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The money will be used to:

- complete the paved trail system;
- install a boardwalk through the marshy areas at the park's northern edge;
- build an outdoor arboretum;
- continue renovating the visitors center;
- add visual and sensory equipment at the center to serve handicapped visitors.

The city will pay \$100,000 toward the total phase-three cost of \$400,000. Work will be done next summer, said Dan Potter, Farmington Department of Special Services director.

Gov. James Blanchard signed legislation July 26 approving \$20 million in grants for 49 outdoor recreation projects planned this year.

THE TRUST fund "secures a promising future for our state's recreation lands and facilities," Blanchard said. "Annually, these monies offer local and state governments a hand in expanding and enhancing areas for the benefit of the people of this state and its visitors."

Of the 49 projects selected this year by the five-member, governor-appointed trust fund board, and later approved by the Legislature, 55 percent, or 27 projects, were funded in urban areas like Farmington Hills.

"This action fits well into the state's strategy of trying to provide 'close-to-home' recreation for Michigan's residents," said David Hales, DNR director.

June Kretzschmer, trust fund board chairman, said, "The board tries to assist state and local units of government by providing funds for projects that are designed to preserve, protect and enhance this state's unique natural resources."

About 300 applications requesting \$100 million in trust fund grants for 1989 were received by the DNR's Recreation Division, which administrators the fund.

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13 to vie in Hills council race

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ed in December to fill the remainder of former councilwoman Jan Delan's term, which expires this year. Delan was elected to the state House in November.

The deadline to register to vote in the city election is Oct. 10. In 1987, nine candidates filed for four city council seats.

Council members are paid \$1,800 a year and meet the second, third and fourth Mondays of each month. Periodic special meetings also are held.

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Plans for peace march encountering hitches

Continued from Page 1

Council chambers were filled with members of local churches, including Salem United Church of Christ on Oakland and Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church on Power.

If Love Force United secures liability insurance, a routine requirement of groups wanting to stage special events along Grand River, the city council would then decide whether to ask the state to formally issue the street closing permit, city manager Bob Deadman said. Only a governing body of a city, township or village can seek such a permit.

The state requires that the city hold the state harmless for any liability or claims of damage that might result from the closing of the state highway.

If they couldn't march along Grand River, marching along the sidewalk would be Love Force United's only other option.

NEITHER CITY officials nor Success knew how much such an insurance premium would cost.

The Farmington Department of Public Safety would provide public safety services for the event. Success, his wife, Dianna, and their two young children have been targets of hate messages since moving to their two-story home on Shawassee four years ago, he said.

Success has said passersby hurl stones, bricks, papers, firecrackers and racial slurs at him almost daily. His family also has experienced late-night doorbell ringing and telephone calls. But only two incidents have been reported to police.

In 1987, vandals spray-painted obscenities and racial slurs on the brick and aluminum siding of the family's home two days before Christmas.

This summer, Success installed a tall stockade fence around his back yard to keep out vandals, deter taunts and make his family more secure. The Farmington Department of Public Safety has increased patrols and has vowed to aggressively prosecute anyone caught harassing the family.

SUCCESS, a Saginaw native, has been a lay staff member at Berea-St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Highland Park since February. He has a congregation of 250, 150 regularly attend. He previously was a lay staff member at Washington Heights United Methodist Church in Battle Creek, he said.

"I've been involved in the ministry but not to the degree that I am now," Success said. "I'm ducking bullets and bombs over in Highland Park. Kids are running around with machine guns. I went to the seminary, but I've been ordained by God, as I call it."

He is a candidate for the ministry and is performing ministerial functions as an assistant to the Rev. Alonzo Vincent at Berea-St. Paul's, but he has not been ordained.

So even though his congregants may call him reverend, Bishop Judith Craig of the United Methodist Church-Detroit Conference has asked him to not misrepresent himself to the public by using that title.

SUCCESS, who formerly ran

self-esteem motivation programs for inner-city youths, taught speech one semester at Wayne State University in 1988. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Madonna College in Livonia and master's degrees in guidance, counseling and personnel and in communications from Eastern Michigan University.

"I thought I would be involved in politics, but God got a hold of me and said, 'Boy, get away.' I was vacillating," he said.

He is working toward a doctorate in communication at the Union Institute in Cincinnati. A 1987 doctorate in religious studies was from a non-accredited religious school in California, hence the title of Ph.D. that he often uses. He said Wednesday he will no longer use that title until he earns a doctorate from an accredited school.

THE PEACE march and rally is scheduled for 3:07-6:07 p.m. Sunday,

Oct. 15. Success believes this unique time slot serves as a memory device. "It's a trick to make sure people are there," Success said. "They remember that number. It's a maneuver."

The first organizational meeting of Love Force United on Aug. 14 drew 75 people at Success' home.

Robert Willis, president of the Southern Oakland County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), also was present at the city council meeting Monday.

"He (Success) called us in 1987 when he was having problems," Willis said. "We are here to lend whatever support we can."

Racial harassment is growing in Oakland County and the nation. For example, the Atlanta NAACP office was smoke-bombed Monday. Earlier this year, white supremacist skinheads defaced Groves High School in Beverly Hills, Willis said.

Ideas for battling racism are unveiled

By Susan Buck
staff writer

A black Farmington resident Tuesday issued five suggestions that, in his view, would lead to improved race relations and better racial understanding in Farmington.

Derwin Success suggested:

- Local recognition and celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday in January.
- Local recognition and observance of Black History Month in February. Putting posters up in the library is one example of a positive effort.
- Developing a task force to study and create understanding of black-white relations locally.
- In a cooperative effort with Farmington Public Schools, incorporating into the elementary-school curriculum an appreciation of the diversity of culture. One focus would be black harmony and history.
- Recruiting and hiring one qualified black person for the public safety department or city administration in Farmington.

"If we just had one, I think that

would be satisfying to me," Success said. "We're not talking about affirmative action, we're talking about right action. We need more than to wave a flag and stand on the city hall steps."

"WE NEED something that will make an impact," Success said. "We need to really affect the course of Michigan and America. We can really be a shining light. We need an educational program to let the kids know, to let the people know, that we are no longer going to tolerate racism in our country."

The Farmington resident plans to attend a march in Washington this weekend on the same theme.

"It's like a dam has broken," Success said of his plans for a fall peace march along Grand River through Farmington. "I think something big is going to happen down the road in the 1990s."

Success said a ticket the city of Farmington issued him in July for a zoning violation over the tall stockade fence he is building around his back yard for security helped plant the seed for starting the peace march. Success started to build the fence before receiving a height variance from the city.

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