

Cardinal flies high  
above the flock, 1B



Volleyball  
stars, 4D

Special spring fashion  
section included today



# Farmington Observer

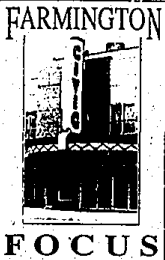
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Fifty Cents



**WHO WAS THAT big furry creature bounding around in traffic at 14 Mile and Haggerty roads Sunday morning?**

Why, it was the Country Ridge Apartment's version of the Easter Bunny, and he was handing out Easter eggs with a surprise inside.

Inside the eggs were certificates for \$100. All you had to do was convince someone to rent at Country Ridge and you'd have a real check for \$100 coming.

"There are not a lot of vacancies, but this is a good time to drum up business," said Cheryl Dieringer, property manager for Country Ridge. "Spring is the time when people like to move."

Dieringer said the bunny — actually a Country Ridge maintenance man — handed out 75 eggs. "This is the first time for this sort of promotion around here," she added. "One of our properties down in Texas tried it, and it worked well."

Apartments in Country Ridge rent for \$605-\$75 for a one-bedroom and \$705-\$735 for a two-bedroom.

**LET'S GO Networking . . .** at the second annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce business show April-May 2 at the Mercy Conference Center in Farmington Hills.

The chamber is accepting exhibitor reservations for booth space at the show — Networking '91.

More than 90 exhibitors from all areas of business are expected to participate and attract more than 3,000 visiting business leaders and decision-makers from southeastern Michigan.

Scheduled events are: A Champagne Preview Party, 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 30; and a luncheon with guest speaker Pete Waldmeyer, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1.

Show hours are 1:30-8 p.m. May 1 and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 2. No admission will be charged. Anyone interested in reserving a booth, ordering tickets or general information about the show should call the chamber at 474-3440.

**MEMORY LANE** — From the March 29, 1991, issue of the Farmington Enterprise:

• Funeral services were held for two of the Farmington area's oldest residents — Louise Maas, 93, and Archibald Cairns, 83.

• Jack Keene was elected president of the Clarenceville Recreation Commission, and Thomas Schirer was voted vice president.

• Free kindling wood and "love size" lumber was offered by the L&H Manufacturing Co. on Grand River.

• "Blossom Time" was the theme selected for the 1991 Senior Prom at Farmington High School.

• Sketches of additions planned for the Bond and Middlebelt schools in the Farmington Township School District were being prepared for public viewing, according to Superintendent O.E. Dunkel.

• Byron Oliver conducted his first meeting as president of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 2188 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



Parent Marge Houser gives the thumbs-up sign to a crowd of East Middle School students, while principal

Bill Martin announces that students raised \$1,600 for the Houser and DeGrave families.

## Students show they care

Dance raises pledges for classmates' siblings

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Marge Houser vividly remembers the day six years ago when her 4-year-old daughter Becky was thrown from the car after a drunk driver traveling 95 mph careened into the family car. Becky had unhooked her seatbelt to grab a toy.

And still fresh in Janet DeGrave's mind is the accident last July when her then 3-year-old son, Alex, shocked himself with a broken hanging lamp.

Both children are now wheelchair-bound due to these accidents and totally dependent on family members to live.

Their sisters Meghann Houser and Meghann DeGrave are sixth graders at East Middle School, where students decided to help both families by hosting a benefit

*'The kids are so accepting. I hope they will go home and talk to their parents about it.'*

— Marge Houser

dance this week. Students in all grades at the Farmington Hills school participated by collecting pledges and raised some \$1,200, which is to be collected and split between the two families.

"It's cool," said Meghann Houser. "I

think it's really good that they're helping out."

"It was my uncle's idea," added Meghann DeGrave, referring to Fred Pellerito, who also lives in Farmington Hills. "It will help pay for their medical bills and equipment and things."

TOP MONEY-raiser was seventh grader Jessica Stefanski, who collected \$320 in pledges. Others at the top of the list included Sindy Masonis with \$149, Kristen Tudball with \$140 and Brian Maddaford with \$131.

Principal Bill Martin said East staff and students added this fifth scheduled dance for the 1990-91 school year as a "community service project."

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## Barbs fly over failed tax plan

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

No one's letting this die, even though the millage proposal did.

Arrows continue to fly across the Farmington community over a February school millage defeat in which groups worked both for and against proposals to increase the Farmington Public Schools operating millage. Both measures were handily defeated.

State elections officials are busy reviewing two complaints from opposing sides about campaign finance laws, and at least one self-declared school board candidate may carry the issue into his campaign this spring.

Richard DeVries, a parent and founder of the anti-millage Citizens for Quality Schools group, has filed a complaint with the Secretary of State alleging organizers of the pro-millage Friends of Farmington Schools did not follow campaign rules, were too closely affiliated with the school district in their campaigning, and did not appropriately identify themselves on campaign literature and advertising. DeVries said he plans to run for the school board in June.

Organizers of the Friends group deny the charges, and have opened their books to public scrutiny.

MEANWHILE, A complaint against Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. and its tax-fighting chairman Richard Headlee has been dropped, although state officials plan to issue a declaratory ruling on whether the company should indeed have filed under the state's Campaign Finance Act.

If they are required to file, the company will likely be assessed no fines, said the head of the state agency heading the investigation.

Director of the Secretary of State's Compliance and Rules Division, Webster Buell, said his agency was studying the matter and would make a declaratory ruling on the issue, but said he could offer no timetable on when a decision might be made.

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## Recycling coming soon

See Community Corner, 4A

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

A new way of getting rid of your garbage will begin on July 1.

Beginning that day, Farmington and Farmington Hills homeowners will be responsible for separating the recyclables and compostables from their regular garbage and refuse.

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## Audubon Society offers nature trails

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The Audubon Society of Detroit has offered to build and maintain nature trails through the city-owned Peltz and Michigan Department of Transportation acreage in the heart of Farmington Hills.

"We would certainly work cooperatively with the city and school district to make sure it would be used effectively," Audubon executive director Jack Smiley said.

But Smiley said he's received no response from city officials on his offer, which would involve drafting a master plan with the help of volunteers.

Dan Potter, Farmington Hills director of special services, including parks and recreation, said he remembers getting the offer but says it's too early to act on it.

"There's been no discussion. We haven't revisited the Peltz-MDOT site. That would be something we would look at when we take another look at the property," Potter said.

**LAND ACQUISITION** for sports fields is the top priority in the city's master parks and recreation plan and in an eight-year plan for a proposed half-mill tax that will go before voters May 7.

The more than 70-acre Peltz and MDOT property, just south of 1,606, west of Farmington Road, "is not the

*'Few areas are left anymore that reflect our natural heritage.'*

— Jack Smiley  
executive director,  
Audubon Society

priority item. If we get all the baseball and soccer land we need, the pressure would ease on Peltz-MDOT," Potter said.

When the city council approved the five-year parks and recreation master plan, members agreed to find other locations for active sports before putting ball fields and soccer fields on the acreage north of Quaker Valley subdivision.

Council members pulled \$1 million from \$1.6 million designated for building seven ball fields on the Peltz-MDOT land they allocated that \$1 million to a previously budgeted \$4 million for land acquisition, primarily for sports fields.

Building and maintaining nature trails in Peltz-MDOT wouldn't cost much because some trails already exist and volunteers would help build them.

"This is what the area (Peltz-MDOT) is best suited for. That is not a good site to build ball diamonds

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## Snoozin' in sunshine

March, which came in like a lamb, seems to be going out like a . . . sunny spring day. When the mercury climbed to 73 degrees a few days ago, people rushed to bask in the sun. Farmington's Shiawassee Park was filled with walkers, sitters — and snoozers. The photographer didn't have the heart to wake up the man asleep in the above photo.

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Observer & Eccentric offices will be closed  
Good Friday, March 29  
between Noon and 3 p.m.

Please schedule all advertisements before Noon.

Thank You.

Have a Safe  
Holiday Weekend!