

So many grads: Kay Briggs stands before a Focal Point window display, which includes her Farmington High class of 1929 and her mother's FHS class of 1898. The former teacher is searching for three or more generations of graduates.



Commission seeks grads for family ties

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission want to see just how deep the family roots go here in the Farmington area.

Kay Briggs, a retired Farmington teacher and chairwoman of the commission, is seeking families, like hers, who have three or more generations of Farmington school graduates.

Brigg's mother, Minnie Cox, graduated in 1898; Briggs graduated in 1929, and two of her children also graduated from Farmington High School.

One of her classmates, the late Eileen Lapham Higgins, was the daughter of John Lapham, who was in the 1898 graduating class with Brigg's mother. There

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are several other families, she said, including the Wisoms and Autens.

She plans to compile a monograph about the families to be included in the Farmington Community Library's historical collection and possibly to be used as part of the new elementary social studies curriculum, which encompasses local history.

"I hope to show the continuity of the families," she said. "This will also show the growth of the schools. We're interested in all aspects of Farmington history."

Briggs asks families with three or more generations

of graduates to list names, including maiden names of women, plus their years of graduation and address the information to her in care of the Farmington Hills City Clerk's office, 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills 48336.

Graduates are not limited to Farmington High School but can include any graduate of the district.

The Focal Point Studio of Photography in downtown Farmington is getting into the act with its display windows, which are filled with a combination of historical and current graduation photos. One of the windows includes a photo of Briggs, the former Kathryn Rubert, in the class of 1929 and her mother in the 1898 class photo.

In addition to finding families with educational roots, Briggs is also researching an overall history of

the Farmington schools. She is compiling a list of all principals and superintendents of the school district, which was consolidated in 1944.

As a retired Farmington teacher, Briggs has a special interest in education. She taught at the former Middlebelt Elementary School in grades three-four and five-six before serving as a consultant throughout the district for partially sighted students.

She hopes the new focus on local history for younger students will encourage more to participate in the Farmington Historical Society's annual writing contest, which allows students to do their own research into historical people and places from the Farmington area.

Veteran Democrat Vagnozzi enrolls in electoral college

BY JOANNE MALINZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Who says a Democrat can't achieve a high honor in Republican-heavy Farmington Hills?

Not Aldo Vagnozzi. The longtime Democrat and Farmington Hills City Council member hit the big time last week-end at the state Democratic Convention with his selection as one of 18 electors — members of that confusing electoral college.

"It usually goes to an elder of the state party. I've served 44 years. It's an honor," Vagnozzi said.

If Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton wins Michigan in the popular vote Nov. 3 — regardless if he wins the presidential election — he will au-

tomatically get Michigan's 18 electoral votes. The Republican's have the same number of electors if President George Bush wins the state.

Regardless of who wins, the victory really isn't official until December when electors from the state go to Lansing and cast their ballots in a special ceremony. "This is now a formality," Vagnozzi said. "I hope I got to serve."

Enrolling in the electoral college is a first for Vagnozzi. "It's an honor for Farmington Hills. I think what it recognizes is not only an individual's participation but the contribution of the Farmington Democratic Club. We are one of the most active clubs in the county."



Aldo Vagnozzi



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Water testing to continue in order to get the lead out

Editor's note: This is a portion of a story that was deleted from Monday's Farmington Observer. The information involves lead in water pipes.

BY JOANNE MALINZEWSKI
AND CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

City officials in Farmington and Farmington Hills will continue testing water for lead content in area houses.

Both cities did spot testing this past spring, which showed unacceptable levels of the metal in water, due to lead soldering in pipe joints or lead pipes.

The levels are set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. City officials stress that water bought from the city of Detroit is not the problem — pipes leading to houses from the tap-in and pipes within the house are the concern. Most problems can be avoided by

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flushing water lines each morning before using any water for drinking purposes.

During the third week of September, Farmington public services employees will test another 20 houses to determine whether more widespread testing is necessary.

If so, public services director Earl Billing said, 60 houses in the city could be tested. Farmington Hills also will sam-

ple 60 houses by Jan. 1, 1993. All of the 40 previously sampled houses in the Hills should be included or given the opportunity to be included. "They can decline it," said Jean Barrett, assistant to the Farmington Hills public services director.

If these samples are found to be within allowed levels, more samples will be taken six months later. Then the cities are not required to check again until Detroit implements water treatment measures.

"Just because you pass one set of samples, doesn't mean you will the next time," Barrett said.

Though some residents may consider switching their drinking water to bottled water, Barrett cautions that a municipal water supply is under greater regulation than bottled water companies. By law, bottled water can contain as much lead as is allowed in household tap water.