

Fox goes to White House

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Jean Fox will soon be on her way to Washington D.C. and the White House.

"The invitation just appeared in the mail," said a surprised Fox, a former Farmington Hills councilwoman.

But the invitation appears to have little to do with her political career in Farmington Hills. The invitation is for a symposium on the first 200 years of the presidential White House.

"I am just delighted," said Fox, local historian and author, and now a consultant for the city's historic district commission.

The symposium, planned for Oct. 13-15, will take guests through the White House's his-

tory, as well as other interesting facts about the historic structure, including the lives of people who have ruled from there.

The symposium is sponsored by the White House Historical Association and the National Park Service in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the laying of the White House cornerstone in a field at what is now 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Seminars are scheduled throughout the symposium and cover a myriad of topics concerning the White House and its former occupants given by well-known journalists, historians, professors, even a former director of the U.S. Secret Service, and White House curators.

Topics include: roles of the president's house, use of the White House to further political agendas, the Lincolns in the White House, the Truman and Johnson presidencies, music and art in the White House, catering for the White House, the White House as a national showcase, and the first lady — a changing public role.

Fox says she doesn't plan to miss any of the symposium's sessions and in fact has a new notebook all ready for the occasion. Symposium guests may also stay at the recently restored Willard or Mayflower Hotels, Fox said.

The symposium dovetails into other bicentennial celebra-



Jean Fox

tions such as the recent 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights.

Ruling from page 1A

Headlee provisions. That reaffirms the state's position that it doesn't have to pay local Social Security taxes — something the Farmington district has planned for during the budget process.

Although school officials are pleased with the ruling, no one should count the money yet.

Attorneys say appeals could tie up the case for another year or two. Then, Barrett said, there may not be any money to pay districts in the case of a monetary ruling. "We're certainly not spending the money — no," he added.

Farmington lost \$5 million out of its annual budget starting with the what has been labeled the "Robin Hood" recapture action of 1990. That started a chain reaction of events in the district: Officials went for additional operating millage in early 1991 which was defeated, the defeat resulted in the loss of 150 jobs in the district and cuts to various programs including transportation, and the district is now waiting to see how the politics in Lansing and measures on the November ballot will affect them in the future.

Barrett said it is too soon to analyze the 89-page Supreme Court decision and its specific impact on the Farmington district. More analysis on the impact will be done in coming weeks as more in-

'It makes my steps a little lighter at the end of the day knowing it happened.'

Bruce Barrett
school finance chief

formation from the state is forthcoming, he said.

What he feels the ruling will do is impact the Legislature and what he called "son of recapture" policies. "It may have a chilling effect on the introduction of recapture-type schemes at the legislative level this spring," he said.

Farmington and some 50 other districts in Michigan joined the 1990 lawsuit filed by Gerald Schmidt, a Warren Woods school district taxpayer and school trustee, just weeks after the summer recapture occurred. Other districts and co-plaintiffs from this area include Southfield, Birmingham, Troy, Rochester and West Bloomfield.

"When you look at the Supreme Court results, you've got to be really happy with it," Barrett added. "They agreed with the nature of the complaint: that what the state did was unconstitutional. That's the bottom line."

Alcohol from page 1A

Norton was the keynote speaker at a Thursday morning kick-off breakfast for Drug Awareness Month, held at the Glen Oaks Country Club. The event was co-sponsored by Farmington Families in Action and other community groups which have planned a full month of events for October.

This year's theme for the October month is "Alcohol and Tobacco — The Most Abused Drugs." Norton said that while inroads have been made in advising people about the health risks of using tobacco products, little has been

done to de-glamourize the use of alcohol.

Organizers said the 280 community leaders attending Thursday's breakfast is the largest crowd ever for the annual event, designed to keep a community spotlight on drug awareness. Many community groups had tables reserved for members.

"Those attending said Norton's talk carried a 'powerful message' and school officials said they were pleased to hear her call to arms for community involvement and her comment that the problem

should not be dumped on educators and law enforcement. "We're naive to believe these two systems can possibly do this alone," Norton added. "You cannot teach what a community will not support."

She said "you have shot the efforts of the classroom in the heart" when a community gives mixed messages to children. She called on not only schools and police, but parent groups, business and industry, service clubs and media of all types to take "ownership" of the problem and address

alcohol and its health risks.

"Today's young people are drinking and using at a younger age, which compounds the problem when they become young adults, she added. "Business and industry inherits what college just got rid of" leading to decreasing productivity, hangovers and lost time on the job.

"Then it (the problem) goes into relationship, families and kids. The circle goes round and round. The reason it's continued, it because we've never put our foot in the circle."

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