

Postmaster from page 13A

"The Congress just handed us the bill, even though it had nothing to do with how well we ran the post office," Bate said. "We've actually lowered costs."

Consumers saw the postage increase, to 29 cents, as an indication of inefficiency. But that is not the case, Bate said. With new, more efficient routes, automated systems and a 24-hour lobby that allows customers to mail anything without the use of a clerk, the postal service is making a push to win customer confidence and keep a tight rein on rate increases.

Early mail pickup

The post office is also working with local businesses to make an early mail pickup (3 p.m.) work. Since that mail is processed before the large volume that hits the post office at about 5 p.m., it speeds delivery and eases the late-afternoon mail crunch, Bate said.

With a work force that is younger than that of most offices, Bate said there is plenty of incentive to improve service.

"We have people that won't be retiring for a long time," he said. "They know that this is a crucial time for us. So they're really doing a good job."

Bate said much-publicized incidents in which letters arrive years later or are returned with proper postage are often the fault of the person mailing the item.

"We have people using postage meters who forget to change the date," he said. "That makes it look like it took us a week to send

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*Mark Bate
Postmaster*

something when it took one or two days."

Considering the volume of mail, mistakes by the post office make up a fraction of a percent of all the mail handled, he said.

With a better operation and better morale, past problems with disgruntled former employees should be over, Bate said.

An incident in Oklahoma and one in Royal Oak in which postal workers were gunned down have also led to consideration of an improved security system nationwide.

"I think our employees would welcome that," Bate said. Bate also said he'd like customers to have a better understanding of how mail is handled. To that end, the Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices will have an open house scheduled 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 25.

Office and doughnuts will be served and tours of the postal facilities will be available on a scheduled basis. The public is invited and Bate will be available to answer questions.

Black history month



SHARON LEMME/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

History lesson: The Awareness Committee at Dunchel Middle School put together a photo and biographical display depicting several important black people in honor of Black History Month. There was also poster contest to bring awareness about the role of African-Americans in this country. Here with the photo display are students Danielle Khouri (left front), Nate Lichtman, Shanti Daya; Samantha Yelkin (middle left), Courtney Joy, Elena Spencer; Denise O'Neal (back left) and Nicole Martin.

RECREATION NEWS

Each week, the recreation division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For further information regarding programs, call the recreation office at 473-9570. For city council agenda items, call the Newsline at 476-3838.

YOUTH SWIM LESSONS

Swimming instruction for beginners to advanced skill levels is offered at Harrison High School. The program meets on Saturdays for eight weeks beginning March 6. Lessons are held from 9-9:50 a.m. for levels 1-2; 10-10:50 a.m. for levels 3-5; and 11-11:50 a.m. for levels 6-10. Fees is \$32 per person and registration is required. Participants must be 38 inches at their chin height.

NATURE ART T-SHIRT OR SWEAT SHIRT

Decorate a T-shirt or sweat shirt with paint or ink using things such as half an apple, feathers, leaves, cones and other items. Class will be held 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, March 8, at Heritage Park Day Camp Building. Pre-registration fee of \$10 per person is required.

SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Registration is now being accepted for new adult softball teams. Leagues will be filled on a first-

come, first-served basis. Teams will play a 14-game schedule except coed leagues who play 10 games and playoffs. Fees are \$340 for coed leagues, \$350 for industrial and \$435 for open leagues.

YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION

You can register your child for the spring season of youth soccer through March 19. Leagues are divided into kindergarten-first grade and second-third grades. Children will play a six-game schedule on Saturdays, beginning April 17, and practice one hour per week. Pre-registration fee of \$20 is required. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program.

ASTRONOMY

This activity will meet at the Southfield School Planetarium for a grand tour of the winter and early spring skies. Mike Best will explain how astronomers find their way, how planets appear, and other topics that relate to the wonders of the night. Program is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Friday, March 19. A pre-registration fee of \$7 per person is required.

DAY CAMPS

Registration is being accepted for the Recreation Division Day Camp for 6-8 and 9-12 year olds and Nature's Way, ages 6-8 and 9-11. All of the day camps will be held at Heritage Park.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 1993
 The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nancy Bates at 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Bates, Marks, Sever and Vagroski. Members Absent: Grant, Lichtman and Smith. Others Present: City Clerk Dorman, Assistant City Manager Call, Assistant Brock, Director Potter and Attorney Doobae.
COUNCIL:
 - Set date of March 20, 1993 for City Council study session meeting to discuss capital improvements.
 - Set date of May 7, 1993 for Mayor's Exchange Day with the City of Holland.
 - Received report on Cable Television Workshop attended by Council.
 - Accepted report and authorized bids for clean-up of city-used YMCA property.
APPROVED:
 - Name of "Founders Sports Park" for newly acquired park property located on Eight Mile Road.
 - Various appointments to Boards and Commissions.
 - Resolution to accept Timber Creek Subdivision streets into City's local street system.
 - Dual Control Program for 1993 and set date for Public Hearing on Determination and Costs for March 19, 1993.
 - Bid for printing Recreation Brochure to Grand River Printing of \$14,582.80; City Newsletter to Kincaid Printers of \$15,110; and Senior Newsletter to Virpac, Inc. of \$5,003.28.
 - City Council minutes for January 25, 1993.
 NANCY BATES, Mayor
 KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk
 Publish: February 23, 1993

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
TUCK ROAD IMPROVEMENT
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS,
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN
 Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan at the Clerk's Office at 21555 Eleven Mile Road until 10:00 a.m. MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1993, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.
 This project consists of installation of a storm sewer and 0.14 miles of road improvement of Tuck Road from 9 Mile Road to Shawwassee Road and roadway restoration utilizing:
 12" Storm Sewer 730 Linear Feet
 Standard Manhole 7 Each
 7" Concrete Curb 1550 Linear Feet
 Plus miscellaneous items necessary for a completed project.
 Plans, specifications, and proposal forms may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office at the above address on or after MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1993, upon deposit of \$20.00, which is non-refundable. Proposals must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the City of Farmington Hills. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bid Bond by a recognized surety company in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the City of Farmington Hills, as security for acceptance of the Contract.
 The City reserves the right to waive any or all proposals, to waive irregularities and/or informality, and to make the award, that in the opinion of the City Council is in the best interest, and to the advantage of the City of Farmington Hills.
 KATHRYN A. DORNAN,
 City Clerk
 Publish: February 23 and 24, 1993

Metro Detroit:
 the newspaper readership story.

Detroit is a "city of suburbs." twice the audited suburban
 circulation (707,214) of the daily
 Detroit News (274,510) or Free
 Press (348,698).

As the graph shows, suburban-
 lites comprise more than 72% of
 Detroit's metro population.

In fact, the suburbs account for
 85% of metro Detroit's
 per survey proves that
 suburbanites read their
 SPRING newspapers.
 SPRING delivers more total
 suburban readers (927,400)
 than the daily edition of The
 News (743,000) or Free Press
 (856,000).
 SPRING delivers more subur-
 ban buyers of
 women's fashions,
 men's fashions, new
 cars & trucks, boats,
 jewelry, and airline
 tickets.

The same research study
 shows that 416,000 (56%) of
 35% of the people reached by the DNA daily
 "combo" read both
 The Detroit News' suburban
 readers also read the Free
 Press.
 So Free Press advertisers add
 only 17% more reach by buying
 the News-Free Press daily
 "combo."
 Would you like to know more?
 Why not call 1-800-382-8878,
 and ask for a SPRING
 media kit.
 SPRING delivers 152,700 more
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 News, 78,500 more than the Free Press
 Source: Survey of Buying Power, AGC (R17), CAC, Belden

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