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IN THE PAPER TODAY

At the fair: Curiosity on the part of students, teachers and parents led to the Eagle Elementary School Science Fair./3A

Dirty pool?: A billiards parlor just across Eight Mile Road has residents upset over its plans to sell beer and wine. Readers can let the Observer know how they feel./9A

COUNTY NEWS

Red-faced: County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has placed new restrictions on the rental of the county's mobile stage after it showed up at the Ann Arbor Hash Bash./5A

OPINION

Competition: Unfortunately, that's something that's missing from the cable TV scene./14A

SPORTS

Baseball preview: Harrison needs to develop its pitching, and might be a competitive team if it does./1B

Boys basketball: The top players in the area are honored today on the All-Observer team./5B

BUSINESS

Rookie of the year: Thorn Apple Valley, with corporate headquarters in the area, replaces Hygrade as the supplier of hot dogs at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull./1C

ENTERTAINMENT



Theater: Director Worth Gardner has staged an entirely new version that puts more of the real Oklahoma into Rodgers and Hammerstein's quintessential American musical./5C

INDEX

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Building Scene . . . 1F | Creative Living . . . 1D |
| Business . . . 1-4C | Crossword . . . 6E |
| Classifieds . . . D-G | Entertainment . . . 6-7C |
| Index . . . 5E | Obituaries . . . 13A |
| Auto . . . F-G | Opinion . . . 14-15A |
| Employment . . . F-G | Police, fire calls . . . 2A |
| Real estate . . . E-F | Personal scene . . . 6G |

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Hills ready to party, rain or shine



BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A committee planning Farmington Hills' 20th anniversary celebration is working on a host of details, including the possibility of the weather putting a damper on the July 1 event. Mayor Nancy Bates suggested us-

ing a tent, as a refuge from both the hot sun and summer showers if they fall during the city's 20th birthday. "We have to have a contingency for the 'R' word," Bates said.

Committee members are coming up with a final list of invitees to the evening celebration, which will take

place on the grounds of the city complex and coincide with the unveiling of a new landscaped fountain at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

That guest list will include former council members, mayors, city managers, and present members of the city's boards and commissions.

Committee member Elsie Moskover estimated that as many as 500 could attend the punch and cake celebration set to start at 7 p.m.

City Manager Bill Costick said the fountain project will be completed well before the celebration, at an estimated cost of \$110,000.

"We expect the bids to be out by the end of April," Costick said. "We'll have all of May and half of June to build it. It's really a simple project, not difficult to build."

The project includes landscaping, an underground sprinkling system, new brick sidewalks and a new City Hall sign.

The committee agreed that the city's beautification committee members should host the event and that senior services volunteers could serve

See PARTY, 8A

Bringing in the books



SHARON LEMMEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hurricane relief: Hillside Elementary School students Jeff Frederick, left, Brad Wochomurba and Ben Lukas dressed in raincoats for a book drive to benefit victims of Hurricane Andrew. About 1,200 books were collected, a school spokeswoman said. They will be taken to south Florida in a van this week.

Suspect delays his plea

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Before entering a plea, a sixth-grade teacher will find out what sentence he would likely serve if convicted of criminal sexual conduct charges.

Gerald Joseph Bauer Jr., 31, through his attorney David Goreyca, requested a plea disposition investigation at his pretrial exam Monday.

Bauer, of Westland, is accused of penetration involving an 11-year-old

■ The report (from the probation department) will have a recommendation of sentence . . . At that time he can then decide if he wants to plead.

Pamela Maas
Oakland County
assistant prosecutor

Farmington Hills' boy. The charges came from an alleged incident on Jan. 16.

Pamela Maas, assistant prosecutor and unit coordinator for child sexual assault for Oakland County, said the investigation will focus on Bauer's background in determining a recommendation for a possible sentence. He faces up to life in prison.

The probation department will complete the report for a May 3 hearing.

"The report will have a recommendation of sentence," Maas said. "At that time he can then decide if he wants to plead."

Bauer had been arraigned on one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and two counts of second-degree CSC in 47th District Court in Farmington on Feb. 12.

Bauer has taken a leave from his teaching job at St. Paul's Elementary School in Northville.

See FAMILIES, 6A

Mayor forms group to study how city can aid local families

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates has a hunch that all the resources available to families in need aren't necessarily being put to good use.

"I would like to see if we could program family activities back into our daily lives," Bates said.

Some human services professionals agree that there are plenty of unmet



Nancy Bates

family needs in the city and county. The change in demands on family members is at least partly responsible, experts say.

"There are a lot of dual-income families where the woman provides direct care to an elderly parent and also has children of her own," said Linda Mondoux, director of older adult services at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. "We call it 'a sandwich generation,' because these people are caught in the middle."

Bates, who made family issues a priority when she became mayor in January, proclaimed March Parenting Awareness Month in the city and

got council approval to form a committee to study the unmet needs of families.

Bates has invited about 45 people representing a wide variety of organizations dealing with children and families to join the committee.

But Bates admits she's no expert.

"I see our role as discovering the role of local government in helping families," she said. "We may discover we don't have any role."

Bates said with parents working and children involved in outside activities, the time families can spend together is limited.

See FAMILIES, 6A

City, Masons to formalize land-use agreement

BY SUB BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The city of Farmington is requesting its first land lease agreement with the Farmington Masonic Temple Association for liability protection.

The association owns the Farmington Masonic Temple.

Built in 1876, the temple is believed to be Michigan's oldest Masonic lodge still actively used by its members.

The Downtown Development Au-

thority wants to renovate the northwest corner of Farmington and Grand River, on which the Masonic Temple sits. Improvements include planting, removing sidewalks, and adding benches and lights to create a visually open area.

Because of planned improvements and required additional maintenance, city attorney John Donohue recently recommended that a land lease agreement be executed between the city and the Masonic Temple Association.

"Prior to this, there had been no official lease agreement," city manager Frank Lauboff said. "There was a verbal agreement in the past that the city would maintain it."

The Masons stated that they would agree to the lease, but asked that it be for 99 years, Lauboff said in his report. The lease still needs to be approved by the association's membership.

"I haven't seen it yet, so I'll refrain from comment," said Richard Miller,

association president. It is still subject to member review and approval.

Lease: \$1 per year.

Lauboff and DDA director Judy Downey met in January with association officials to determine their needs.

Lauboff hopes the agreement will be in place by early May. The 99-year lease for \$1 per year would be granted

See AGREEMENT, 6A

The 'best' is nearby

They're all smiles at Cafe Cortina restaurant and at the Farmington Players theater these days. Cafe Cortina and the Farmington Players were voted finalists by readers in Michigan Living magazine's third-annual "Best of Michigan" Treasure Awards, announced in the April issue.

The two were selected in the categories of "Best Italian Restaurant" and "Best Community Theater."

In a December survey, readers statewide were asked to pick their favorite Michigan spots for 20 categories. They ranged from parks, community theaters, art fairs and golf courses, to family attractions, restaurants, cookie shops, lodging and antique malls.

Michigan Living, the official magazine of AAA

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Michigan, is circulated monthly in the homes of 1.1 million members.

It's a boy!

Larry Lichtman, Farmington Hills mayor pro-tem, couldn't make it to the March 29 Citizens Ice Arena Committee meeting.

But Lichtman had a good excuse: He was with his wife Holly, who gave birth to a 7-pound, 14-ounce girl at 11:45 a.m. Friday, March 26, at Detroit's Sinai Hospital. Mother and child are now at home.

"We're pretty excited," Lichtman said. "My wife had to stay in the hospital for awhile. The delivery was by Caesarean section. All four (births) have been C-sections."

The Lichtmans are also parents of Nathan, 13, Lindsay, 10, and Anna, 3.

Memory Lane

From the April 9, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

The Jim Burns auto agency on Grand River in Farmington was selling new Buicks for \$2,205.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office or faxed to 477-9722.