

Focus from page 1A

All about Leader Dogs

A field representative from Leader Dogs for the Blind will discuss that organization at a meeting of the Farmington Hills chapter of American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, at Westford Hall of the Farmington Hills Activities Center on 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

About mechanical music

John Flint will speak on mechanical music at a meeting of the Farmington Historical Society 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the Downtown Branch of the Farmington Community Library, Liberty and State.

Flint, a trustee of the Musical Box Society International, will display some early music boxes, both disc and cylinder types. He also will explain early organettes dating to the 1880s. These were less expensive and worked with reeds and wooden cobs.

The meeting is open to the public.

Organize that data

Peter Schaldenbrand, a founder of the Farmington Genealogical Society, will speak on "Organizing Your Genealogical Data" at a meeting of the society at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the Downtown Branch of the Farmington Community Library, State and Liberty. The event is open to the public.

Brunch at the Masonic

A Sunday brunch and sated bar will be offered at the Farmington Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington Road, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25. The menu includes: eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, toast, juice, biscuits and gravy.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address is: pachy@eeonline.com.

Test from page 1A

writing portion will be graded outside the district. Results won't be available until August.

Two companies — National Computer Services in Iowa City, Iowa, and Measurement Incorporation in Raleigh, N.C. — have been contracted to grade 90 percent of the tests. Remaining exams will be graded by a group of

principals and teachers from around the state.

Essay writing is included in the revamped MEAP science test. Fifth and eighth graders will be asked to reflect on their knowledge of science. They'll also critique text taken from a newspaper, periodical or trade journal. Multiple choice and cluster

problems are also included. Farmington students have typically performed well on the MEAP in science. Last year, 88.6 percent of fifth graders and 71 percent of the eighth graders scored satisfactory.

"I think we'll do fine on it," said science coordinator Randy Wright.

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