



SHANNON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Penny-wise:** Farmington Hills resident Dick Osgood holds the snuff box, a family heirloom, that held his first saved pennies more than 60 years ago. Above, Anne and Dick Osgood, married for 53 years, are dedicated savers. Saved pennies paid hospital expenses when their daughter was born.

## Penny pinching pays dividends for Hills man

BY BILL COUTANT

STAFF WRITER

Instead of a penny saved, it should be a penny invested is a penny earned.

You've heard the stories about people who save pennies for years until they have enough to buy a car. But according to Farmington Hills nonagenarian Dick Osgood, there is a better way.

"I made a New Year's resolution in 1936 to never spend another penny," said the retired broadcaster. "So when I had saved \$101 in pennies by 1939, I took the plunge into Wall Street," said the longtime Farm-

ington Hills resident.

That \$101 plunge has led to a lifetime savings for "just pennies a day" — although Osgood, 95, has since included nickels and dimes as well.

Some of Osgood's early investments, in the 1920s, went down in the crash of 1929. But with the rebound of the market, Osgood's modest investment grew rapidly beginning in 1936.

He started a separate collection of dimes that paid for the hospital costs of the birth of his daughter Stella in 1945.

Over the years Osgood has invested every penny, nickel and

dime of change, putting into stocks and mutual funds. Those investments now total \$31,764.

Although other change can come in handy for some items, like parking meters, pennies are seldom missed.

By saving, Osgood doesn't mean keeping them in jars in your basement.

"If you do, you're losing money because inflation makes them less valuable," he said, adding that it would take a lot of time to sift through pennies in order to find the more valuable ones.

His wife Anne, who he met in

Canada and married on Valentine's Day of 1943, agrees and has encouraged him to save.

"When I first started, I kept the pennies in my grandmother's snuff box," he said, proudly holding the small metal container.

Since then, Osgood has kept the coins in a more practical container made for the purpose. He regularly makes trips to the local bank to deposit them before assigning the proceeds to an investment.

"It's complicated at income tax time," he said, adding that he keeps investments for his six grandchildren, as well.

Osgood seems a picture of health. During his long broadcasting career, Osgood has often been with the likes of Spencer Tracy, Bette Davis and Frederick March, while in New York, where he began a theater career at 10.

He's kept a diary since the age of 13 and continues to contribute to his genealogical research for the "Somewhere in Time" radio show. He retired from the Radio Station WXYZ in 1971.

But he's continued to save his spare change. "You never use pennies," he said. "It is a big mistake not to save them."

## Naval Academy selects two Farmington students

Farmington-area students Thomas Mondonus of Farmington and George Adams of Farmington Hills have been accepted by the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Adams, a 1995 graduate of Farmington High School, spent the last year at the Naval Nuclear

Power Training Command in Orlando, Fla. The school is an academy-type preparatory training facility for academy candidates. At the command, Adams studied nuclear theory, mathematics, thermodynamics and reactor plant operations.

Mondonus, currently number

one in his class at Farmington High School, has been involved in varsity athletics since his freshman year. He also has served as a member of the school's Student Council.

"Thomas and George are excellent young men who are great all-around students," said U.S. Rep.

Knollenberg. "I am pleased they were accepted to the Naval Academy. I know they will make the Farmington area and Michigan proud."

Overall, Knollenberg has nomi-

nated 23 students from Michigan's 11th Congressional District. Many are still waiting approval from the U.S. Service Academies. The 11th district includes Farmington and Farmington Hills.

## Youth group celebrates, honors its volunteers

Boys and Girls Republic in Farmington Hills will celebrate its service to Michigan youth and families at its Founder's Day, April 27, from 2-6 p.m. at the facility on Nine Mile Road west of Inkster.

As part of the ceremony, the agency will honor several individuals for their commitment and service. Former director Gordon Boring will be honored posthumously for his career contributions to BGR.

Boring served the agency from 1947-1984, 26 of those years as executive director. After his retirement, until his death in September 1995, he was a consultant at the agency, most recently working with Individual and Family Therapists and with direct care staff.

Paul Heard, a Treatment Specialist on the direct care staff, will be recognized for 10 years' service to the agency. Other honorees include Jack Lynch who served on the board of directors for over 11 years and Julia Abington who, for 10 years, has organized the TACOM Christmas gift-giving to BGR.

Guests at the Founder's Day celebration will enjoy a buffet of canapes and desserts provided by HDS Food Services and will be given guided tours of the campus throughout the afternoon.

Founded in 1890 by Agnes D'Arcambel on Trumbell Avenue in Detroit, Boys and Girls Republic was the first institution in Michigan established to separate the youthful offender from the adult rehabilitative system.

Located in Farmington Hills since 1907, the agency to serve its founding mission through a diversity of services to youth and families.

## School board race dawdles on issue-oriented platforms

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

Any burning issues in this year's Farmington school election? Aside from the district's elimination of home economics, nothing seems to be boiling over.

At least not enough to bring out candidates on one-issue crusades.

Incumbent Joe Svoke and challengers Ellen Bouchard, Priscilla Brouillette and Monica Schultz will themselves as being pro-quality education (like being anti-quality education would win them votes).

All four are vying for two open seats on the Board of Education in the June 10 election. Both terms are four years.

There's still plenty of time for candidates to distinguish themselves.

"It doesn't seem like it's shaping up," said Brouillette, who is a Hillside Elementary PTA member. "I'm ready to go."

The district's sibling priority policy — also at Highmeadow Commons Campus — is the most contentious to come before the Farmington Board of Education this year. A lottery takes place annually to fill openings at the school of choice.

However, brothers and sisters of current students are giving first crack. Only five spots were available to 148 applicants in the latest draw in March.

That riled some parents who were shut out.

Three candidates — Svoke, Brouillette and Bouchard — said giving siblings a seat is an issue.

**(The race) doesn't seem like it's shaping up. I'm ready to get going.'**

Priscilla Brouillette  
board hopeful

that has pros and cons on both sides.

"I think it needs to be looked at and looked at quickly," Bouchard said. "The issue keeps coming up."

"I feel that kind of education . . . I think the methods they use at Highmeadow, which are also used at Hillside, are being introduced into the curriculum at other elementary schools."

"I would favor looking into it, having the issue carefully studied and possibly modified. It's a delicate issue for both sides."

Sibling priority is not the problem, Bouchard said. Rather, the Highmeadow concept needs to be expanded to the other schools.

"It's a district-wide policy. Would I think it's right to change it for one building? No," said Bouchard, who lives in the West Bloomfield portion of the Farmington district. "Do I think the district should look at the Highmeadow delivery system in terms of the rest of the district? . . . yes."

Said Svoke, "There's a lot of good things from Highmeadow that have been incorporated in one way or another at other

schools. It's tough. I'm looking forward to some of the recommendations that the administration would be putting together."

Though not familiar with the issue directly, Schultz had an opinion. The retired Garden City Public School teacher moved to Farmington Hills recently.

"I guess if their name comes up in the lottery, then that is fair," Schultz said. "I don't think they should automatically go because their brother or sister is already there."

No candidate forums have been scheduled yet. Board hopefuls are expected to meet for an orientation with district officials.

Svoke has been through this before.

He and Helen Prutow were elected in 1992, beating out challenger Richard DeVries. Prutow is not running for re-election. Svoke has met Brouillette and Bouchard.

"Drawing the lines in terms of establishment versus anti-establishment, I haven't really seen that as a major issue," he said. "I think the concerns are reflected in the quality of the program."

Whatever issues come up, though, common sense should be used, Svoke said. Especially when it comes to campaign spending.

In the 1993 election when nine candidates ran, trustee Bobbie Feldman spent more than \$4,000 and unsuccessful challenger Susan Kendrick \$3,000.

"You can't go out and buy the seat," Svoke said. "You have to earn it."

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## High school video competition offers scholarships to winners

Buddy's, a restaurant chain headquartered in Farmington Hills, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

The purpose of the celebration is a high school teen video competition sponsored by Buddy's and WHY-TV. The radio station

theme of the contest is "Back to the Future — Where Square is Cool," which refers to the 50th Anniversary of selling square pizzas in Detroit.

Area high schools were invited to participate in a video-making contest to win a grand prize schol-

arship of \$1,000 and other prizes.

Buddy's received 26 tapes from 17 high schools.

The grand prize scholarship

check of \$1,000 will be presented at an awards ceremony on Monday, April 29, at 6 p.m. at Buddy's Pizza, 31648 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills.

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