

CHAT ROOM



JOE DEREK

*City symbols let us
revel in wonders of
nature around us*

In an urban world gone nuts with nerve wracking freeways, boring strip malls and noise pollution, sometimes at every turn, there are a handful of things occurring naturally that can add some needed peace of mind into our lives. These are our city symbols.

Some years back, when I served on the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission, we thought these living treasures would beautify the world around us. So the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills embarked on a joint venture, with some public input, and chose the following four official symbols: the oak as tree, daylily as flower, cardinal as bird and giant swallowtail as butterfly.

With many people these days wanting to bring some nature into their yards, this information should help you get started. The oak is one of our most important hardwoods. They are a strong, long lived tree, with several varieties available to the homeowner. They eventually become a large stature specimen so choose wisely when picking a spot and by all means, never under any power lines. When mature, their spring fruiting blossoms provide nature for migrating songbirds, such as Baltimore Orioles, not to mention the fun dad will experience as he steps accidentally barefoot on a hard acorn as he stumbles out on a fall morning to get the news-

Please See CHAT ROOM, B2

■ When the kids are bored, you don't have to look far for fun ideas to keep them occupied.

BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER

"I'm bored.
There's nothing to
do."

What parent hasn't heard this mantra from children in the summertime? Suddenly the furious pace of school, homework, organized sports, and music or dance lessons has come to a grinding halt.

But don't fret. There are options out there to fill the days before the cycle begins anew in the fall. Here is a sampling.

Downtown Farmington's Sum-

mer Fun Series
This Wednesday series (with one exception) is staged at the Civic Theatre, Orchard Street Park, and under the tent on Grand River east of Farmington Road.

June 26 under the tent at 10:30 a.m. and noon, ventriloquist Richard Paul brings his puppets to the stage. July 3 at the Civic, Doug Scheer presents "Uncle Sam's American Freedom Show," at 10:30 a.m. and noon.

Thursday July 10 at Orchard Street Park, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting, it's a garage sale for kids, by kids. Table space is free but pre-registration is required. Call 473-7276. On July 16 under the tent, Fun with Plaster provides everything you need to paint a plaster masterpiece to take home, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$3 material charge per masterpiece. On July 23 under the tent, Mask Puppet Theatre presents "The Monster That Ate Your

Lots to see and do
for fun for kids, families

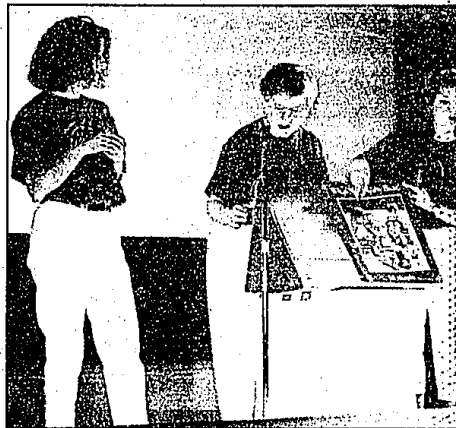


Doing the actions: Scott Dotzenroth, 2, on his Aunt Linda's lap, enjoys a song about sunshine. Scott was one of 144 kids at the Civic.

Garden," at 10:30 a.m. and noon. For more information, call the Downtown Farmington Event Hotline at 473-7283.

Evening concert series.
Held under the gazebo in downtown Farmington next to the Village Commons on Grand River on Fridays at 7:30 p.m., this is free entertainment for the whole family.

Tomorrow it's authentic blues and jazz by the Boogiemens. June 27 it's Horizon playing Motown hits. July 18 it's Bob & Carl with musical sounds of the 1960s and 1970s. The Red Garter Band will present Dix-



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN DEAR

Discovery summer: From left: Merry Beth Tacy, Farmington branch children's librarian, Sally Gaines, supervisor, and Mary Canavan, librarian, read a story to pre-schoolers last Wednesday at the Civic Theatre as part of the downtown Farmington summer fun series.

ieland tunes on July 25. The series culminates Aug. 1 with the Willy George Band presenting Big Band sounds of the 1940s, a perfect opportunity for grandparents to introduce their music to their grandchildren.

Farlington YMCA summer day camps.

The Y has resident camps for boys and girls, ages 8-16. Call camping

services at 887-4533.

Day camps are offered in one week sessions. Cost is \$95 per week for Y members (9 a.m. -4:30 p.m.) and \$140 per week for non members. For extended care (7-9 a.m., 4:30-6:30 p.m.) there's an additional cost of \$20 for members and \$40 for non

Please See SUMMER FUN, B2

Come chat with us

You don't have to be a poet or a politician to express your views in the Farmington Observer. Anyone who lives or works in the Farmington or Farmington Hills community is invited to share their views.

What's on your mind? You can tell us about your garden club, favorite hobby, an upcoming

charity event, or just about anything else.

Columns should be two double-spaced type written pages and include your name and day time phone number.

Mail to: Chat Room, Farmington Observer,
33411 Grand River, Farmington MI 48336. Or
fax us at 248-477-9722.

Unclaimed Orders

NEW Unsold school sewing machines with open arm.

The EDUCATION DEPARTMENT of Elna Sewing Machine Company of America ordered these machines in anticipation of large school sales. Due to budget cuts, these machines were unsold. These machines must be sold! All sewing machines offered are the finest modern in the line. These heavy duty machines are constructed OF METAL and not wood as all factories - LEVI'S, CANNAS, UPHOLSTERY, NYLON, STRETCH, VINYL, SILK, EVEN SEWS ON LEATHER! These machines are new with a 25-year Factory Warranty!

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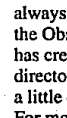
After Sale Price \$499 -- Sale Ends Tuesday, June 24, 1997



Children's' Directory '97

Children have many special needs....and because parents don't always have a lot of time the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier.

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2.....June 22nd-27th	7.....Aug 4th-8th
3.....July 7th-11th	8.....Aug 11th-15th
4.....July 14th-18th	9.....Aug 18th-22nd
5.....July 21st-25th	

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