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FARMINGTON Observer

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OUTTOWNS

Favorite



Times with:

We want to hear about your favorite outing with your father, whether it be a camping trip, a baseball game or a quiet morning spent together fishing at a secret watering hole. If you have pictures of the event, great, because we'd love to see them. We plan to publish these stories on Father's Day, June 15.

Please send your stories and pictures to Renee Skoglund, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150; fax: (734) 591-7275; e-mail: rskoglund@oc.hometownlife.com. Call her at (734) 953-2128. Please respond by June 2.

Bottle/Can Drive
Farmington High School Music Department will hold a bottle and can drive 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 17. You may leave your bags of empties on your porch marked FHS Music or drop off your donation in the back parking lot of the Farmer Jack at 9 Mile and Farmington Road.

Kids Day
Lowe's Clinic will host Kids Day America - Health and Safety Awareness Day noon



to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at its corporate office in downtown Farmington.

This fun-filled family event will include safety tips from the Farmington Public Safety Department, health handouts, free beverages and snacks for kids, gifts for kids 3 and up and free screenings.

"Kids Day America is part of a national health and safety awareness campaign sponsored by over 500 chiropractic centers in the United States," said Dr. Bruce Lowen, founder of Lowen Clinic. "We'll be collecting donations for Make A Wish Foundation of Michigan." Lowen Clinic is a Family Chiropractic Wellness Center located at 23280 Farmington Road. The clinic is celebrating 20 years of serving the community.

District cuts back to balance budget

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

No program cuts are planned in the Farmington Public School District next year, but the district does plan cutbacks. "Yes, indeed, there are reductions," said Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield. "The development of the budget beyond next year will be a challenge for us and for every other school district in the state of Michigan."

Farmington Public Schools presented its 2003-2004 proposed budget adjustments Monday during a public forum held at the Farmington Training Center. A formal public hearing on the budget will be at 7 p.m. June 3 at the administration office on Shiawassee, east of Farmington. The budget will be adopted at the board's June 17 meeting. Monday's meeting drew a sparse crowd. In the audience were school board

candidates Karen Bolsen, John Goshorn and Cheryl Swain. The district has a \$139,800,000 budget and plans to take about \$3 million from fund equity to balance its budget - about half of which will be spent for one-time needs. "The proposed expenditures are for capital items," said Mary Reynolds, executive director of business. About \$660,000 will be spent on building and site needs like roof replacement,

parking lot replacement and patching, heating and air conditioning replacement and other capital related items. About \$925,000 is for replacement of aging maintenance vehicles and maintenance equipment. "Maintenance vehicles are anywhere between 10-12 years old," Reynolds said. The remaining \$515,000 is for the upgrade of operating software. The district will also eliminate Barbara Cherm's admin-

istrative position for a savings of \$100,000. She is the director of evaluation, assessment and special projects. Three half-time maintenance/operations positions will be eliminated, one through attrition, for a savings of \$130,000. The district plans to eliminate swimsuit and towel laundry service for high school swim classes. "We're the last of the school

PLEASE SEE DISTRICT, A10



JIM JACOBEL STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Star power

The Observer Academic All-Stars for 2003, left to right, back row: Adam Sonnastine, Salem High School; Amy Fry, Canton High School; Emily Beem, Stevens High School; Andrew Martin, Farmington High School; Kathryn Sanders, Salem High School; middle row: Julie Swerdlow, North Farmington High School; Tonyan Lin, Canton High School; Tiffany Labon, Thurston High School; Valerie Jackson, Thurston High School; Ellen Cappo, Mercy High School; Paul Romine, Catholic Central High School; Robert Freeman, Churchill High School; front row, Peter Troyan, Catholic Central; Daphne Allenza Sy, North Farmington High School; Emily Gruber, Mercy High School; and, Alexander R. Murray, Churchill High School. For a profile of the All-Stars and runners-up please see the special section inside today's Observer. Also, turn to today's opinion page for an editorial.

Residents urged to combat West Nile

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The dreaded West Nile virus' host, the mosquito, will be making its debut soon. The city of Farmington Hills is working with Oakland County on a plan to keep the insects from breeding in their favorite spots and decrease their population and chance of passing on the virus. Susan Weimer of the Oakland County Health Department talked about West Nile and the county's on-going investigation and efforts to combat the virus at Monday's city council meeting. She said the virus is not spread from human to

PLEASE SEE WEST NILE, A6

Mercy seniors enjoy break alternative

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Most high school seniors like to go somewhere warm for spring break. Some Mercy High seniors did just that, but with the goal of helping others, not just having a good time. They went to Beattyville, Ky, a low-income area, where they worked on a home for Marvin and Joy Sparks, parents of a one-month-old son and a daughter who is 3 years old. The first day, students worked on the porch, along with other outside activities. Then they moved to the inside of the home.

"We put up insulation and dry wall," Francine Shammami said. "We worked for 3 1/2 days. It was such a motivator and such an uplifting thing. It made me feel that what we were doing was really helping someone."

PLEASE SEE SENIORS, A6

Courthouse opening delayed - again

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The debut of the new 47th District Court in Farmington Hills has experienced more delays than the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. All that's holding it up now is installation of a new phone system to coincide with the rewiring of phones at city hall and police headquarters, a certificate of occupancy permit and some other odds and ends. If all goes well this time, a late June opening is expected, court

"We're just working on some final details then we still have the landscaping to go through and some minor work."

David Walsh court administrator
administrator David Walsh said. "It's looking great," he said. "We're just working on some final details then we still have the landscaping to go through

The opening date was originally planned last year, but issues arose early on during construction. A new design for prisoners entering the building and the building of a new city parking lot caused much of the delay. Two elevators will be devoted to transport prisoners from the basement entrance port to holding cells in the upper levels of the building where the courtrooms are located, Walsh said. The facility is located behind



With all of the problems related to the construction of the court, it's probably an understatement to say that Court Administrator Dave Walsh will be happy when the move to the new location is completed.

PLEASE SEE COURT, A5

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LOOKING AHEAD
It's grill season
In Sunday's Taste section, enjoy grill recipes you can use just in time for summer entertaining with your family and friends.

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