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FARMINGTON Observer

Labor of love

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OUTTOWNS

Outdoor concerts

The place to be Friday nights in downtown Farmington is the Pergola Gazebo off Grand River west of Orchard Lake Road.

The June 20 concert sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority featured Voyage, a top-40 band. Pictured are lead singer Monte Finegan and bass player Bob Pomala.



The July 4 concert will feature the Detroit Brass Society.

Upcoming bands include Chateau (50s & 60s), Brazil and Beyond (Beatles classics, Brazilian style) and Motor City Brass Band.

Ed Nuccilli & Plural Circle Orchestra, a leading Detroit-area big band, will be the featured free entertainment at Heritage Park on Thursday, July 10, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The group performs big-band arrangements by leader Nuccilli, a longtime Detroit-area resident who has entertained audiences for many years on trumpet and flugel horn.

The concert is sponsored by the Special Services Department of the city of Farmington Hills.

Fireworks displays

Birmingham: Sky show starts at dusk July 3, Lincoln Hills Golf Course, Lincoln and Cranbrook. Rain date is July 5. (248) 644-1800.

Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village: Fireworks will follow Salute to America's concerts by Detroit Symphony Orchestra, July 3-6. Doors open 7 p.m. Motor City Brass Band 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; fireworks finale. Advance tickets \$19 adults, \$12 ages 5-12, free for ages 4 and younger.

Event day tickets are \$23 adults and \$15 children. (313) 576-5111 or (313) 982-6001.

Livonia: 10:15 p.m. today, June 29, Ford Field, Farmington and Lyndon, north of I-96. (734) 466-2410, or (734) 427-8190. (No rain date.)

Sylvan Lake: Dusk July 3 over Sylvan Lake, Ferndale Street. Rain date is July 5. (248) 682-1440.

Waterford: Dusk July 12, Oakland Ford Athletics, 1659 between Crescent Lake and Airport Road, Waterford. Family activities and music begin 5 p.m. \$10 for adults, \$4 for children. (248) 673-0100.

Westland: Dusk July 6, Central City Park, Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne Road. Festival is July 2-6, Central City Park. (734) 722-7620.

Wixom: Dusk July 4, Gilbert Willis Memorial Park off Loon Lake Road, between Wixom and Benstein. (248) 624-2850.

Farmington Hills turns 30



The Township Hall is now the Masonic Hall, site of Lodge gatherings and other community events.

History of a city

Hills 30th celebration recalls deep roots

BY PAUL R. PACE
 STAFF WRITER

While the city of Farmington Hills is just turning 30, the area's roots date back 179 years.

Farmington Township grew around the city of Farmington. But over the years, when it got a little big for its britches, an annexation threat from the city of Farmington forced township folks to take action, said longtime residents.

Hills resident and former city leader Ben Marks was on the commission to charter the city when Farmington leaders were working to take a chunk of the

PLEASE SEE HISTORY, A6

CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY

The city of Farmington Hills will be celebrating its 30th birthday July 1. The fun will begin at 7 p.m. at Founder's Sports Park.

The festivities will include free birthday cake, the Plymouth File and Drum Corps, The Farmington Community Band, an Honor Guard color presentation, and entertainment by Steve King and the Dittiles from 8-10 p.m. The fireworks display starts at 10 p.m.

Longtime businesses continue to thrive



William John Chorkey now oversees the business his father founded in 1963 and moved to Farmington Hills in 1968.

BY KIM KOVELLE
 STAFF WRITER

Today, the approximately 5,000 traditional businesses that clutter the 33.4-square-mile landscape of Farmington Hills are familiar sights.

When the city was established 30 years ago, however, substantially fewer eateries and industries dotted many open spaces.

The northwest corner

PLEASE SEE BUSINESS, A7

Officers on lookout for illegal fireworks

BY SUE BUCK
 STAFF WRITER

Officers from the Farmington Public Safety Department will aggressively focus their eyes and ears on illegal fireworks again this year.

The department typically gets about a dozen complaints every year, according to Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

"At this time of year around the Fourth of July, we also see people returning from vacation who have picked up fireworks in Ohio and Kentucky," said Farmington Fire Marshall Ted Warthman. Legal in some states,

"We have to be conscientious about it. We consider this a public safety issue. If a Roman Candle lands on a roof, we can be looking at a house fire. Someone could lose a finger or an eye with a cherry bomb."

Gary Goss
 public safety director

they are not in Michigan, where it's against the law to use any pyrotechnics that make a loud bang or leave the ground.

"There's about 9,000 accidents related to fireworks every year," Warthman said. "Most accidents happen with juveniles."

Some complaints are lodged by concerned neighbors. And officers on routine patrol in Farmington often hear a report or see a cloud of smoke, which can spell trouble.

Residents who are

PLEASE SEE FIREWORKS, A6

City rate increases go into effect July 1

BY SUE BUCK
 STAFF WRITER

FARMINGTON

Residents will soon see the rates they pay for water and sewer, recycling, combined sewer overflow charges and the Civic Theatre increase after the Farmington City Council recently approved the changes effective July 1.

The average resident will have about a 84-water and sewer increase per month," said Kevin Gushman, Department of Public Services director.

The increases will first appear on the October water and sewer bill.

Residents will see a 12.6-percent water rate increase. For 1,000 gallons, the rate increases to \$2.85 from \$2.53; officials expect a total revenue increase

of \$144,000. The sewer rate goes up 5.4 percent to \$3.34 from \$3.17 per 1,000 gallons, generating a total revenue increase of \$75,200.

The LITCSO or Limited Time Combined Sewer Overflow Charge, which is a flat amount charged per quarter by the city of Detroit to Farmington, will increase 10 percent to \$6.23 from \$5.66.

The annual single-family recycling rate increases 3 percent to \$63.44 from \$61.59; the annual condominium rate increases 3 percent to \$48.41 from \$47.

PLEASE SEE INCREASES, A5



TONY LEGAZZI PHOTOGRAPHY

No clownin' around

Members of the Farmington Area Founders Festival Parade committee may have fun at their meetings, but they're serious about the deadline for parade entry applications. Any one interested in marching in the July 19 parade should get their applications in as soon as possible. The deadline for entries has been extended to July 8, so there's no time to lose. Parade committee chair Rick Tupper (in the rainbow wig) is pictured with members (left to right) Bill Donnelly, Tony Ferrante, Janice Swineheart, Patsy Kenworthy, Joy DeFranco, Beth Hogan, Donna Tupper, Geary Tudball, Kathy Tudball, Holly Owen and Miriam Kmetzo.

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LOOKING AHEAD
 Learn how to...
 in Thursday's Filter sections, fans can honor the King, and dress like him too, during the two-day Elvisfest.



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