

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Fifteen Cents

By DAN McCOSH

## Aid keeps wheelchair team intact

The Farmington Phantoms have their "stars" back again. Just another bunch of guys playing basketball, except they play in wheelchairs, the Phantoms recently found the team short three players just before the regional tournaments in five weeks at Wayne State.

The players, residents of the near east side of Detroit, had been transported to the games in Farmington by the Model Neighborhood program until that group, literally, ran out of gas.

The gas shortage reduced the budget until the rides for the three basketball players were cut in favor of urgently needed transportation to medical centers.

Which left the three players, who live near Mac-

Dougal and Warren, without a ride. It also left the team without three of their best players.

"THEY REALLY inspire the boys," said Mrs. Peter Solar, secretary of the team and wife of Coach Peter Solar.

The lack of transportation became the concern of Art Pusney, of the Farmington Optimists, who in turn contacted the Farmington Observer & Eccentric.

A search through the service clubs and organizations active in the area, found the Northwest Center for Racial Justice, which has members throughout the Detroit area and in Farmington, was willing to help.

The Center will provide transportation for the last five weeks of the season, according to the Solars.

THE PHANTOMS are in their second season of play.

The team was formed mainly from students at Cloverdale Elementary, in the special education program with other participants from the area.

The result was a team with some members as young as 15, compared to the older people who normally participate.

"For most of the team, it is the first time they could get into physical competition of any kind," Mrs. Solar said.

Coached by Greg Capling, Roger Cote and Solar, the team is looking forward to the regional, three-state tournament coming up in May.

With the team intact again, the coaches are predicting a real effort at making it to the national tournament in New York.

## Hearings scheduled on millage proposal

By NANCY STEIN

FARMINGTON — The Farmington School board dropped a controversial "variable millage" levy of 1.4 mills at a special meeting of the board Tuesday.

The action was a prelude to a predicted request for additional voted millage expected to come up soon, according to school officials.

The 1.4 mills was challenged by the Farmington Hills city council and then in a suit sponsored by the Farmington Homeowners Assn.

A school committee recommended dropping the levy, which was incorporated in last year's school budget.

The school board's study session of April 9 was changed midway into a special board meeting in order to take a legal vote and meet a deadline.

"We held the special meeting because we have to tell the Oakland County tax association board by April 15, whether or not we accept the 1.4 variable millage," said school board president, Dr. Mervyn Ross.

The school board voted 7-0 to refuse the variable millage. "We unanimously decided to request only the 8.13 mills that are levied against the entire school district," explained Ross.

The lost 1.4 mills will be incorporated into the board's request for additional millage in June.

DR. ROSS STATED that there will be an open study session April 30 at 8 p.m. at the Farmington Senior High School.

"All members of the community are invited and urged to attend. The subject will be millage, as we decide how much is the right amount. We want community input."

The request to the County Allocation Board by Farmington schools is just that, a request, according to Ross.

He said, "This is just a preliminary request. It is not a determination of line-item expenditures."

The actual amount of additional millage to be requested by the Board of Education will be set May 7 at a regular meeting.

"We have to get input from members of the community on our millage needs."

--Dr. Mervyn Ross,  
board president

It was pointed out by Dr. Ross that all members of the board of education and of the administrative staff are ready and able to provide any millage information the public wishes.

"I HOPE they realize that they can call us at our homes and get any answers they need. We'll be glad to speak at teas, coffees or anywhere they need information. We want to keep the record straight."

The open study session was converted to a special meeting only for the period of taking a vote.

As soon as the vote was taken it was turned back into a special study session.

According to state law, with or without proper notice, at a public meeting, with all school board members present, the meeting can be deemed a formal board of education meeting and formal action taken.

## Commuter fights for more buses

By DAN McCOSH

A one-commuter fight to increase the bus service to Farmington received a reply from Detroit's DSR recently.

"More passengers and the service will increase," was the word from the DSR to Mrs. Josephine Fink, a 73-year-old commuter who commutes daily from Farmington to downtown Detroit on the bus.

Mrs. Fink was attempting to get the DSR to increase the length of the route, to serve the west side of Farmington, as well as adding to the routes.

A letter published recently in the Farmington Observer & Eccentric resulted in a reply from the DSR.

The result of a survey conducted at Mrs. Fink's request indicated the three eastbound morning buses have a maximum of 68 passengers when they

reach Seven Mile Rd., heading down Grand River Ave.

A total of 91 afternoon passengers ride the coaches outbound.

"Due to a definite lack of ridership and the fact the morning limited express buses did not have sufficient loads, we did change the operating procedure from the limited express buses to a regular express," William Dietrich, of the DSR said.

"Present Farmington express coaches are scheduled to arrive in the loop area downtown for the convenience of employees starting work at 8 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and 9 a.m.," he added.

"We would be pleased to schedule additional coaches to Farmington if there were any guarantee that enough passengers would ride the coach to break even," he added.

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RED BALL

Christopher J. Koning, five months, is typical of those who need a red ball. (Photo by Fran Evrett)

## Save a child's life

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON — Operation Red Ball is for kids, invalids, or other immobile people who may be caught in a fire.

Beginning next week, April 22, a special effort is being conducted by the Farmington Jaycees to get more of the red stickers in Farmington windows.

The red sticker is an alert to firemen that a child or invalid is in a room in a home. Placed in a window, it could save a life.

National fire surveys show small children make it difficult for firemen to find them by hiding under their

beds or in closets when fire breaks out. Firemen are trained to look for the red ball and evacuate first those rooms.

The stickers will be distributed, along with instructions, in Farmington schools next week, according to the Jaycees.

Before and after the campaign, they are available at the police and fire halls for both Farmington and the Hills; the municipal offices and from Farmington Jaycees.

The project would not have been possible without the help of Rose Moving and Storage Co. of Dearborn, according to Walt Koning, project director.

## Cooking series features baking

Thursday, April 18, the Farmington Public Library will present the last of three programs on cooking. Pauline Otm will demonstrate cake decorating techniques.

The presentation will feature decorations suitable for sandwiches and salads as well as cakes, and decorating for special occasions. This free program will be at 7:30 p.m. in the 12 Mile Library's auditorium.



HAVING FUN

Teacher Phyllis Howard at work with Walter Morris, Tracie Dumasy and Jim Sullivan

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