

# Farmington Observer

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## Residents split on wisdom of approving death penalty

Like the rest of the nation, Farmington area residents are divided on the issue of capital punishment.

An informal survey conducted in Farmington Hills, showed that young and middle-aged residents were more apt to support the death penalty than older residents.

Many who expressed a willingness to see a return of capital punishment explained that the condemned were getting what they deserved.

Their support for the death penalty was prompted by disillusionment over the effectiveness of rehabilitation and parole.

"I do support capital punishment," said Ronald Schwartz of Farmington Hills. "Capital punishment isn't a cruel and unusual punishment.

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. The punishment should fit the crime," he added.

Schwartz also believes that rehabilitation and parole are worthless in the fight against crime.

"There's no such thing as rehabilitation," he said.

"Statistics prove that most criminals are back in jail even with rehabilitation," he explained.

"It would stop them from killing again," said Virginia Aho. "I don't think rehabilitation stops them."

A visitor to the Farmington area, Albert Norton, of Philadelphia, Pa., agreed with these residents.

"They deserve what they get," he said. "It's not a cruel or unusual punishment. Look what criminals do to innocent people."

Some persons favor capital punishment, but hesitate from giving the act a blanket approval.

"I THINK THAT under certain circumstances, the death penalty should be given," said Ann Lawson, Farmington Hills resident.

"You can't just say that because someone is killed, someone else also should be killed. But there are so many brutal things happening, especially to children.

"I would leave it up to the discretion of the judge, whether to give out the death sentence or not. I wouldn't limit the sentence just to persons who killed policemen," Mrs. Lawson said.

Her concerns were shared by another Farmington Hills woman.

"I think that capital punishment should be reinstated," she said. "But for certain crimes. I'm afraid that if they establish it, the wrong people would get killed.

"The people without proper legal aid or money would be killed. Poor blacks without proper defense," she said.

"But she saw a need for the death sentence.

"If someone took a life, he should pay for it with his own life," said a Farmington Hills woman. "I don't believe in rehabilitation. We have to pay the cost of putting the criminal back in jail."

"It would cut down on a lot of crime," said Kim Aho of Farmington Hills.



have more faith in rehabilitation and stricter law enforcement. They believe that crime would remain regardless of the threat of capital punishment.

"People should be kept in jail longer," suggested Ruth MacLean. "If they commit a crime, they should be kept in jail.

"I'm not for capital punishment," she said.

Maynard DeBriese of Farmington Hills had little faith in the preventative powers of the death sentence.

"I don't think it would accomplish what it should. It wouldn't be a deterrent to crime," he said.

"We need stricter enforcement of the law. People should get the full penalty with later parole," said Helen Whitcomb of Novi. "I'm a Catholic and I don't believe in killing people."

"Capital punishment is not the solution," said Ruth Alkaben of Farmington Hills.

She advocated a combination of parole and rehabilitation as ways of preventing second offenses.

"She also noted a need for change.

"Apparently, our methods haven't been effective.

"OUR APPROACH to eliminating violent crime hasn't been effective. There isn't a pat solution," Mrs. Alkaben said.

Another opponent to the death penalty also is a proponent of stricter law enforcement.

"I don't think capital punishment is a deterrent to crime. We should enforce the laws we already have. If the judges didn't turn people back on the street from the start, there would be a decrease in crime," said Jack Mitchell of West Bloomfield, who was shopping in Farmington Hills.

"I don't approve of parole, either," he said.

At least one person cited religious reasons for being against capital punishment.

"I don't think they should reinstate capital punishment," said Helen Whitcomb of Novi. "I'm a Catholic and I don't believe in killing people."



RUTH ALKABEN



RONALD SCHWARTZ



KIM AHO



JACK MITCHELL

## Fire razes Farmington theater

Farmington Hills police and fire officials are investigating the cause of the fire that gutted the interior of the Farmington Four Cinema, 38215 W. Ten Mile, Thursday.

The early morning blaze damaged the four theaters in the complex, owned by Krim Enterprises of Southfield.

The blaze resulted in \$250,000 in damage.

Nelson Gelinas, Oakland County Crime Lab arson investigator, Det. Charles Archambeau of the Farmington Hills Police Department and Fire Marshal William Gearhardt are investigating the cause of the blaze.

Fire officials speculate that the blaze started in the concession area of the complex but are unable to pinpoint a cause.

"We aren't calling it a suspicious fire, at this point," said Farmington Hills Fire Chief John Van De Voort.

"Anytime I have something undetermined like this, I think it's best to determine the cause."

"THIS WAY we find out what happened. If it is arson, then we're on top of things," he explained.

Representatives of the theater

owner are scheduled to go over the building with fire officials to identify the original location of the contents.

Firefighters were alerted to the blaze at 4:30 a.m. The first trucks on the scene belonged to Station One, which is near the theater, in the industrial park.

"When George Hume, who is in charge of Station One, arrived, the flames had blown the glass from the doors in the lobby," Van De Voort said.

"The entire lobby was in fire, by then," he said.

Hume called Stations Three and Four for assistance. The Farmington Fire Department also was called.

Farmington Hills Station Two remained on standby for the duration of the fire.

Firemen battled below zero temper-

atures to put out the blaze within an hour.

"The hoses were frozen to the pavement," Van De Voort said. "That isn't a problem when we're fighting the fire but it is afterward.

"The weather didn't initially hamper the men but the cold did affect them. It's harder to work in cold weather," he said.

ALTHOUGH THE EXTERIOR of the theater complex appears untouched from the road, the projection area of the theater was ruined by water, as well as by fire, damage.

Van De Voort praised the firefighters' performance.

"Hume did an excellent job," he said.

The first major blaze of 1977 occurred a month after the Kanine Korners Pet Shop, 29212 Orchard Lake Road, was damaged by fire.



Farmington Hills Fire Chief John Van De Voort (left) discusses the blaze which gutted the Farmington 4 Theater last week. The estimated damage was \$250,000. But the owner has vowed to rebuild. (Staff photo by Cynthia Abbott)

## Library entertains kids with a variety of events

Both the City of Farmington and Farmington Hills libraries are offering a variety of classes to keep children from preschool to sixth grade interested during the winter months.

Among the events will be movies, puppet shows, skits, arts, crafts, cooking, and music and literature.

The Farmington Hills branch will be showing the Dr. Seuss film "The Lorax" from 10:30-11 p.m. Jan. 20.

On Feb. 7, from 2:30 p.m., an instrument workshop will be conducted. Three-, four-, and five-year-olds are invited to participate in a workshop on making musical instruments. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Jan. 24. Parents are encouraged to stay with their children during this program to help them make their instruments.

Following is a list of instruments to be made and materials needed to complete the projects: drums, coffee or peanut can with a plastic lid, shaker, Legg's egg plastic container or shampoo bottle with narrow neck; sticks,

two to tap together; and sandblock's sandpaper needed.

If the children wish to decorate the instruments with odds and ends, they should bring the material from home.

A MUSICAL REVIEW, orchestrated by Mrs. Ina Gratenhild, will be for those students who made instruments in the class.

On Jan. 22, from 2:30 p.m., two movies will be shown. They are "Rusty and the Falcon" and "Courage."

A tie-dye-in will be from 2:30 p.m. Feb. 12. A demonstration will be given on the basic techniques of tie dyeing, with many ideas for things children can make. Each child is invited to bring along one white handkerchief or one white t-shirt to try out tie-dyeing. Children should wear old clothes.

On Feb. 26, from 2:30 p.m., films to be shown will be "Lady of the Light," "Merry Go Round Horse," and "Clown."

Both the Farmington and Farmington Hills branches will offer a Valentine's Day family story hour Feb. 15 in the Hills branch and Feb. 19 in the city branch. Both programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

Puppets, songs, stories and skits will be the offering for the day. The film, "The Giving Tree" will be shown.

Following are a list of limited enrollment classes at the Farmington Hills library. Parents may register their children by calling the library at 477-1313.

In an effort to be fair to all, we will accept registration for any child in only one program. Those children who wish to participate in a second class, their names will be placed on a waiting list.

A POCKETFUL OF FUN will be offered from Jan. 18-Feb. 22, from 10:30-11 a.m. Jan. 19-Feb. 23, from 10:30-11 a.m. and from Jan. 20-Feb. 21, from 1:00-2 p.m. The first two classes are for children three and four years old and the last class is for children four and five.

This is a 30-minute program of stories, songs, dramatics, media and puppets. Each week's activities will be developed around a theme related to objects that will be found in the storyteller's pocket. This story-activity hour is for preschoolers who are mature enough to enjoy varied activities for one half hour without parent accompaniment.

All three-year-olds are invited to bring along a parent to participate in a six-week class, entitled Three Plus One, which will revolve around dabbling in art, music, cooking. The class will meet from 1:30-2:15 p.m. Tuesdays from Jan. 18 to Feb. 22. A materials fee of \$1.50 is due at the time of registration.

Around the world adventures will be from 4:45 p.m. Jan. 19-Feb. 23. A materials charge of \$2 is due at time of registration.

In the class, reserved for children in the first and second grades, participants will investigate the culture of a different country. They will play games, sing songs, sample foods and do craft projects which are representative of the countries' cultures. All sessions will include a story about a country.

Experiments in theater arts will be offered for fifth and sixth graders. (Continued on page 24)

## Jaycee prayer meet conducted Thursday

The Farmington Area Jaycees will celebrate Jaycee Week by sponsoring its 18th annual prayer breakfast to be conducted Jan. 20 at 7:30 a.m. in the Holiday Inn of Farmington, Ten Mile and Grand River. Admission is \$4.

Featured speaker will be Robert Young, executive vice-president of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., whose headquarters are in Farmington Hills. Young is a Livonia resident.

Entertainment will be provided by the violinist Frank Flareck, who will be accompanied by Ivis Carlson.

The community leadership breakfast is Farmington's version of the presidential prayer breakfast conducted annually in Washington D.C.

Young, 47, has been an activist in communities which he has lived in. In 1971, he was campaign director for U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Mich.). He was awarded the Man of the Year Award by Utah in 1968.

During that year he was the national chairman for the Utah Citizens for



ROBERT YOUNG

## Recreational swim hours set by FARC

Recreational swimming now takes place every Wednesday night in Farmington and North Farmington High Schools.

Family hour runs from 7:45-10 p.m. and an adult-only hour runs from 8:30-9:45 p.m.

Admission is 75 cents for adults and 30 cents for children.

Group rates are available by contacting the commission office, 476-6234.

### inside

I THINK I CAN

Like the little train locomotive, two Farmington residents think they can enjoy an awful lot of hours fiddling around with miniature trains. To see how they have been hooked by the model train craze, turn to page 2A.

Community calendar	2B
Sports	4, 5A
Suburban Life	Section B
Classifieds	Section B.C