

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents



Cooperation was the name of the game during this week's manhunt, as demonstrated here by West Bloomfield Ptl. Bill Gregory who

searched the area along Halstead Road in Farmington Hills. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Cops sweep neighborhoods for gunmen

Some Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield residents awoke to find police officers searching their yards and houses last Monday in one of the largest police manhunts in Oakland County history.

The manhunt resulted after two men robbed a bar in neighboring Wixom, shot three police officers, kidnapped a woman bartender and successfully evaded police after abandoning their getaway vehicle, a pick-up truck, on Haggerty, south of Thirteen Mile, Farmington Hills.

The hold-up men, who escaped with \$600-\$700, are still at large, according to police. Sixty police from 13 communities, including Detroit, participated in the chase and search. The incident began at the Red Oaks Bar at 2:30

a.m. and ended at noon when police called off the search.

The kidnap victim, Denise Molk, was abandoned, along with the truck. The Red Oaks Bar employee was unharmed, according to police.

Three police officers were taken to Pontiac General Hospital and treated for gunshot wounds which were inflicted during the robbery and subsequent getaway.

Wounded was Wixom Police Sgt. Lawrence Beamish, who was shot in the right hand and arm at the holdup scene. Also wounded were Oakland County Sheriff's deputies James Bowen and Douglas Eader. Bowen and Eader were shot when the holdup man crashed through a roadblock at Bernstein and West Maple, and fired at the

officers with a shotgun.

After escaping through the roadblock, the robbers headed through West Bloomfield, down Maple Road and finally abandoned their truck in Farmington Hills.

But despite the massive search, which included eight police dogs, the holdup men eluded police.

Police cordoned off a one-square-mile area between Twelve and Thirteen Mile and Haggerty and Meadowbrook. Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen set up headquarters at a local golf course during the search.

Helicopters joined the search at daybreak as police officers searched the area. Ten West Bloomfield officers, two from the city of Farmington and

four from Farmington Hills participated from Farmington Hills.

Witnesses at the bar describe the two men as wearing blue jeans, black ski masks and gloves. One holdup man was described as being about six feet tall, wearing a blue turtleneck sweatshirt and loafers. The other was described as wearing a red canvas coat.

Police believe one of the men is Jeffrey Michael Kramer, who escaped from a minimum security prison camp in 1975.

The abandoned vehicle was found by police to have been stolen from Flat Rock several weeks ago. The truck's license plates had been stolen from a Walled Lake resident and the license tabs were stolen from a Novi woman.

## 116 teachers face layoffs in Farmington

By LYNN ORR

Teachers with up to eight years of seniority are among 116 Farmington School District educators pink-slipped by the board of education Tuesday night.

The closing of Fairview Elementary School, declining enrollment and the financial plight of the district are responsible for the teacher layoffs effective June 19.

That's the assessment of Supt. Lewis Schulman, who said he regretted what has become an "annual exercise" for the district.

The board authorized the layoffs by a 6-1 vote. Trustee Michael Shipice dissented, expressing concern about the large number of teachers on the list. Last year the district laid off 102 teachers; all but eight were recalled by the beginning of the 1977-78 school year.

It's expected that about two-thirds of this year's pink-slipped teachers will be recalled before the end of the school year in June.

Unlike previous years, when teacher assignments were made over the summer, the district must attempt to finalize next year's class assignments before June 19, according to Robert Coleman, personnel director.

"ANY TEACHER who is not recalled before June 19 will become eligible for unemployment compensation at that time," Coleman explained. New laws concerning unemployment compensation allow teachers who have been laid off to collect unemployment compensation until recall. The district as an employer must pay a portion of unemployment compensation.

Richard Ringstrom, Farmington Education Association (FEA) executive director, explained that policies concerning the new law were written into this year's contract.

"Any unemployment compensation paid after recall would be deducted from their pay," Ringstrom said. "We've made it much clearer than the Michigan Employment Security Commission's (MESC) option."

Although Ringstrom expressed appreciation of Coleman's courtesy in working with the FEA to minimize the number of pink-slipped teachers, he blamed the district's policies for the large number of lay-offs.

"I find myself in agreement with the construction of the list," Ringstrom explained. "The length of the list is caused by the very nature of the problem we're dealing with—that the board and administration have already made the decision to maintain the status quo instead of improving the student-teacher ratio."

Ringstrom blamed the district's unwillingness to decrease class size and failure to ask voters for additional millage for the layoffs.

Layoffs were made strictly according to seniority, Coleman explained in response to a question from board member Anne Struble. However teachers with special certification who will clearly be needed in the fall were eliminated from the layoff list, he said.

The list reflects a large number of teachers returning to the state, as well as 28 elementary class room vacancies. As one of the deepest cuts into seniority to date, the layoff list goes back to a hiring date of Oct. 11, 1971.

## Public hearing set for mid-rise senior zoning

By LYNN ORR

With little fanfare, the City of Farmington paved the way to a mid-rise senior citizen housing complex in downtown Farmington at Monday's meeting.

Farmington Hills continues to wrangle with community opposition to proposed mid-rise elderly housing units, and Birmingham voters Monday overwhelmingly turned down a proposal for low-income housing.

Farmington's sixteen council quietly voted to introduce zoning amendments to accommodate a proposed six-story elderly housing complex proposed by Forest City Dillon, Inc.

A public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m., May 1, to consider the zoning amendments.

The proposed complex would be about 55 feet high, as tall as the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn. That height is allowed under current zoning ordinances. However, the proposed amendments provide special requirements for senior citizen housing, as well as general multiple housing in the central business district.

The proposed ordinance allows 22 units per acre for two-story building,

increasing up to 82 units per acre for six-story construction.

Minimum square-foot requirements for bedroom units, parking space and storage requirements also are established in the proposed amendments.

The ordinance provides for lower density than most surrounding communities with the exception of Livonia, City Mgr. Robert Deadman told the council.

COUNCIL'S discussion of the proposed ordinance centered on a proposed definition of "elderly," to be used in the absence of definitions by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"If there is no such definition provided, then the age shall be 50 years of age or older," the ordinance reads.

Several councilmen objected to setting a definition. Deadman said he would research the matter prior to the public hearing in May.

While parking is at a premium in the downtown business district, the proposed ordinance would require one

parking space for each of the dwelling units.

"The Planning Commission has investigated how this reduction is working in other communities such as Livonia and Southfield," Deadman said. "They have found that one space for each two units is more than adequate."

Deadman said studies indicate the majority of occupants in such complexes are women living alone.

"Developments such as the one proposed for Farmington, which are situated in close proximity with shopping, medical, and other facilities, have experienced the trend of occupants selling their automobiles and walking to the local shopping centers."

Deadman believes the same trend would manifest itself in Farmington.

The ordinance also includes some provisions preventing easy conversion of elderly housing to general occupancy, he said. Normal parking requirements for multi-family housing and additional storage would have to be provided before conversion, the ordinance stipulates.

CITY OF Farmington residents appear acquiescent to the proposed complex in downtown Farmington. Forest City Dillon, Inc. is negotiating with the Farmington School Board for purchase of 3.24 acres of school district property on the old Farmington Junior High site on Thomas.

The private development firm already has received a HUD rent subsidy grant, subject to site approval.

The firm, which currently is building the Ziegler Place senior citizen project in Livonia, has indicated willingness to pay the fair market price of the property.

The proposed building plans call for 150 units, which probably would rent for about \$300 and up. The HUD subsidy pays the difference between 25 per cent of a senior citizen's income and the rental fee.

The downtown site was in competition with about 100 sites for HUD rent subsidy. Estimated time of completion is nine months after construction begins. The school board's approval of the land sale, and approval of site plans by both the City of Farmington Planning Commission and city council are required before construction begins.

## Board OKs negotiations for sale of school site

The Farmington School Board authorized staff to begin negotiations for the sale of the old Farmington Junior High site in downtown Farmington to a private development firm.

The board voted 6-1 at Tuesday night's meeting to consider an offer from Forest City Dillon, Inc., a development firm which proposes to build a senior citizen complex on the nearly three-acre site.

Dr. Mervyn Ross voted against the motion after earlier expressing concern about the value of the old building on the site. Ross and other members of the building and sites committee received an appraisal on the site.

The majority of board members favored the move.

"I feel that in view of the fact that this part of the building is not being used, that it's a drag on us in some ways, we should move. I'm not totally swept over by the good purpose for this project, but it's a factor in my mind," said Trustee Richard Wallace.

"As long as we could get a significant amount of money for the site, it's reasonable to consider it."

THE EAST portion of the building,

which would be demolished to make way for a 150-unit senior citizen complex, is in a poor state of disrepair, said William Prisk, assistant superintendent of finance.

"We know we're not going to use it in the next several years, and I'm not sure the building will be there in a decade," Prisk noted.

Ross was concerned that the district might need the building in the future, although it currently is used as storage. He also expressed concern about the purchase price reflecting the value of the building to the district.

The responsibility for the demolition, as well as for paving necessary for access, would be the development firm, Wallace said.

"He (Ross) wants to make sure the total dollar amount reflects the value of the building," Wallace explained to a member of the audience.

Two appraisals were made of the building, one by an appraiser hired by the district and another by the development firm's appraiser. A fair market price reflecting the two appraisals is expected to be negotiated before final proposals are made.

## Susan Arciniaga bids for Mrs. America

Can a 22-year-old woman find happiness as Mrs. America?

Susan Reed Arciniaga thinks so.

The former Miss Farmington, now married to Tony Arciniaga, will take to the pageant stage April 16 in Las Vegas with her new title, Mrs. Michigan.

Her entrance into the pageant began with a jocular letter from her father, Jack Reed of Florida.

"My father and mother were eating at a restaurant and they saw the application on display. So he sent it to me with a note, 'I know how much you like pageants, ha ha,'" she said.

After considering the application, a message was sent to Reed.

"Ha, ha, guess what? I've entered," it read.

Another message from Michigan followed.

"How do you like this? I've won."

"If her parents were surprised by that message, Mrs. Arciniaga was astonished."

"My first runner-up was 55 years old and had seven children," she said.



SUSAN REED ARCINIAGA SHE was sure that the pageant judges were looking for someone other than a young, childless woman. But, the judges chose her.

Vegas. Like other contests, there will be the usual talent, swimsuit, evening gown and personal interview portions.

The talent contest will be a private presentation to the judges. It can consist of a song or dance, but skills such as sewing or crafts also are allowed.

Mrs. Arciniaga plans to spend her allotted eight minutes singing a combination of popular music and opera.

By now, she's a pageant veteran. In addition to the Miss Farmington and Mrs. Michigan pageants, she has entered the Miss Heartland of Michigan and Model of the Year.

The Mrs. America contest gives her, another opportunity to mount the pageant stage.

"PAGEANTS like to promote single girls. It's about three us married women can shine and say yes, we can do things, we're pretty; we're intelligent," Mrs. Arciniaga said.

Pageants have their special appeal to her.

"It gives me the opportunity to express myself and show all I have

worked on. It shows what I've done and it gives me the chance to perform.

It also gives her the opportunity to meet other women with the same interests and goals.

"They're achievers. They're goal-seekers," is the way she describes the type of woman who enters pageants.

"Contests give me the chance to get out and meet women and talk about what they are doing. It gives me a chance to see what others are doing," she said.

In addition to pageants, she enters beauty contests as well.

"I entered two voice competitions this year. And I lost both of them," she said.

She says she uses contests as a way to measure her accomplishments against other women with similar interests, and that they give her a chance to check how far she's progressed.

"I don't win everything," she said.

"I know what it feels like to lose but it's awfully nice to win," she said with a wide smile.

### inside

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