

# Farmington Observer

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Floyd Cairns, Farmington Hills city clerk, was named Citizen of the Year last night at Botsford Inn in recognition of his community service. The annual contest is sponsored by the Farmington area Chamber of Commerce.

## Hills City Clerk Floyd Cairns is named 'Citizen of the Year'

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmington editor

After 24 years of civic service, Floyd Cairns, a true living legend, was honored by the community last night. Cairns, a native son of old Farmington Township, was named Citizen of the Year at the annual dinner sponsored by the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

Residents from both Farmington and Farmington Hills gathered at the Botsford Inn to honor the Farmington Hills city clerk who has served since 1955. Through the years Cairns has been known as the person who knows all when it comes to this area. Many have tagged him as one of the most astute politicians this community has ever seen.

But last night the clerk's office was shut down and politics were set aside as the limelight focused on "Floyd," as everyone calls him who has met him more than once.

Al Huff, of Michigan National Bank-Farmington, who nominated Cairns for the honor, expressed sentiments shared by many residents.

"Floyd's outstanding dedication to local government over the past, almost, quarter of a century, along with his total commitment to the orderly growth of the Farmington area, and his ready-willing attitude to assist people and deserving causes, past and present, make him eminently qualified to receive our Citizen of the Year award," said Huff.

Besides serving as city clerk, Cairns has served the community through many of his voluntary efforts — a prerequisite to being named Citizen of the Year.

HIS MOST RECENT accomplishment has been to serve as the chairman for the fund raising committee for the YMCA's new activities building. The ambitious project called for the community to raise nearly \$1 million to finance the project.

He also serves on the Farmington YMCA's board of directors. He is chairman of the historical commission, secretary to the building authority, is a member of the Economic Development Corporation, is the city's liaison with the Farmington Founders' Festival and a member of the Oakland County Elections Commission.

He is a past master of the Masonic Lodge, past president of the Exchange Club and is a member of the Elks Lodge.

But it is the experience and knowledge he holds in his head which have become so valuable to the Farmington area over the years.

He has witnessed the development of sewer and water systems, the organization of the public works department, the transition from township to city

and the turnover of many city employees.

And although Cairns has become a powerful figure in the Farmington area, many persons are surprised to learn there was the day when defeat crossed his path.

When he first entered the municipal government scene in 1955, he was defeated for the clerk's post by a "nice 90-year-old man by about 60 votes," as Cairns once put it.

BUT VICTORY has been with him ever since.

His opponent soon resigned and the Farmington Township Board appointed Cairns.

On his 20th anniversary as clerk, Cairns told of his experiences.

"I was the township's first full-time clerk. At times, in the beginning, I wondered what I would do with all my time because I really didn't have much to do."

But that quickly changed. The township supervisor died and I was named acting supervisor until a new one was appointed," he said.

For Cairns, his job as city clerk never seems to have a dull moment. Passersby in city hall often see him talking with residents.

"You'd be amazed at the number of people that come to the counter just to say hello. And that makes me feel good," he once commented.

The area has made some dramatic changes since Cairns became clerk. In his first election, there were four voting precincts. Now there are 23. Instead of 11,000 registered voters, there are 30,000.

Cairns has seen the community change from a rural farming area to a bustling and growing suburb.

He attended Nichols School and graduated from Farmington High School in 1933.

Shortly after taking over as clerk, the growth began.

"Our first obstacle was getting water into the dry areas of the township. An awful lot of people didn't have water or sewers. We worked on that for a number of years before we succeeded," he said.

"Financing was hard then because we didn't have the people as a revenue base to pay off bonds."

But since then, Cairns sold bonds to start the water and sewer systems, as well as connecting with the Detroit sewer interceptor that carries sewage to Detroit area treatment plants.

He has directed more than 100 special assessment districts for water and sewers. He also has seen the city develop two industrial parks.

## Police union stewards to file grievances over investigation

By MARY GNIEWEK

Union stewards in the Farmington police department are complaining about the way an investigation is being conducted into a Sept. 15 brawl involving three teenagers in Farmington Hills.

Representing both command and rank-and-file officers, the stewards say they will file several grievances. The Sept. 15 incident being investigated occurred at a party of off-duty police officers.

Sgt. Murray Switzer, who represents the department's four command officers, accused Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes of violating the law of double jeopardy by reopening the investigation last week after the first investigation was concluded.

Farmington police officers were involved in the incident which occurred during a party at Officer Chuck Lee's home. The first investigation ended Sept. 21, according to Switzer, and no charges were leveled against those police at that time.

He said the police officers' contract specifies that one case cannot be investigated twice.

Switzer was not at the party where three Farmington Hills teens claim they were roughed up by off-duty police after they entered Lee's home because they thought it was the site of another party in the Ten Mile, Orchard Lake road area.

Officer Thomas Cox, steward of Officers local 214 Westerners, said he will file several grievances stemming from the investigation.

AMONG THE GRIEVANCES, he said, is that the investigation was reopened after the first investigation was concluded.

Cox said he was at the party and made a statement to Byrnes during the first investigation.

"We feel there have been several violations of the contract," Cox said. "But we are abiding by his investigation."

One source said the second investigation would probably be completed by the end of this week.

Byrnes' resignation, which he said last week was sparked by a lack of police officers' cooperation in his first investigation, takes effect tomorrow, Oct. 12.

He is still in charge of the investigation, with aid from labor attorney John Eild.

City Manager Bob Deadman is taking over as acting public safety director after Byrnes' departure. He said he will carry out any disciplinary action against the officers involved.

"The options depend on the results of the findings," he said.

## Publicity chairmen called to O&E seminar

We want to get to know you. Once again, the Farmington Observer is sponsoring its annual public relations seminar.

This is our chance to meet the persons who make this newspaper important — you.

Whether you are a club president, public relations director, community leader or an interested reader, the staff invites you to this evening of sociability and information.

Organizations change and so do newspaper staffs. We think it important once a year that each get together to meet and exchange ideas on how we can provide a better newspaper for the community.

Many times during the year we talk to persons over the phone, yet never get to see the face behind the voice. This is our chance.

The seminar will be at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 Twelve Mile, at 7:30 on Nov. 1. Mark that date on your calendar.

This year's seminar will feature a number of new faces and new information about the Farmington Observer. Of course, the most important ingredient, how we can help you get your news in the paper, will be the main feature of the evening.

Editor Steve Barnaby will lead the discussion. Also assisting in the presentation will be Suburban Life Editor Loraine McClish; sports writer C.J. Risak; photographer Randy Borst; reporters Mary Gniewek and Louise Okrutsky.

Greeting you at the door will be receptionist Debbi Kulla.

Debbi, Mary, C.J. and Randy all are new additions to the staff since last year's get-together so we urge you to come and meet the new faces.

Each staff member will give a short presentation on how we can help get your news into the Farmington Observer.

The evening will begin with an all new slide presentation which will outline many of the changes which have taken place in newspaper production over the last few years.

We are especially anxious that you see this presentation. Journalism is quickly moving into the 21st century when dealing with technology.

This technology helps us to better serve the community.

Each seminar participant will receive a convenient booklet explaining how best to submit information for publication. We will talk about deadlines and how they affect you and your organization.

After the discussion, participants are welcome to stay and share in the refreshments.

We've found this to be an informative and fun evening. So be sure to fill out the accompanying coupon and send it in today.

Send the coupon to the Farmington Observer, care of Debbi, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington, Michigan, 48024.

Feel free to bring a friend. The more the merrier.  
See you on Nov. 1.

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A last-minute phone call by a despondent young man to his mother may have saved him from a 20-story fall from the floor of Phibes 5, the smaller skyscraper in Southfield's Prudential Town Center. 11:13 p.m. Sunday.

Police said the man's mother kept her son on the phone while directing someone else to call police for help at 11:13 p.m. Sunday.

With police headquarters located directly across Evergreen, four minutes after the call came in Southfield officers found a 22-year-old Farmington man in a center room still talking to his mother on the phone.

Police said the only statement the man made to officers who apprehended him was "— the world." The incident followed a fight between the man and his father, police said.

Nine windows were broken out on the 20th floor of the highrise. Police said a hammer was found at the scene along with a number of vandalized telephones and an alleged suicide note.

The largest hole was about 5 feet in diameter and overlooked Civic Center Drive. Five of the nine windows were broken all the way through two panes of one-half-inch thick glass, with damage visible from outside. The distinguishing feature of both buildings is the gold-colored glass panels which cover the facings. Early damage estimates range from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

The Clinton Valley Center in Pontiac for psychiatric observation, police said. The police department doesn't intend to press charges of trespassing or malicious destruction of property against the subject, said John Hieronymy, public information officer.

The man, whom police did not identify, got up on the 20th floor by going up an elevator after entering the building through "what looked like a malfunctioning door on the ground floor that should have been locked or was not securely locked," said Lincoln Aldridge, property manager for Property Management Services, Inc. The firm handles 24-hour security in the Prudential Town Center.

Aldridge said because the 20th floor is still under construction, there were no locked doors between the elevator and the windows. The suite in which the incident occurred will be occupied by National Gypsum Co. upon completion.

## Leap from Prudential averted by police

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Schools plan open house

Warner Junior High will hold an open house today, Oct. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Next Wednesday, Oct. 17, Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington high schools will hold an open house at 7:30 p.m.

Parents and interested members of the community are invited to attend.



Singin' in the rain

It may not be the best weather for football, but to rework an old phrase — the game must go on. So game officials Paul Kinder (with umbrella), Fred Collins, Dick Buchholz and John Stancic join in the National Anthem before last Saturday's Harrison-Western game. For details, see Page 1B. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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#### SWEET SUCCESS

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