



Farmington Observer

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RANDY BORSZ/staff photographer

Inspecting the damage

Ken Elliott, sales manager at Bob Saks Motor Mall on Grand River in Farmington Hills, looks over a 1984 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme missing its front wheels. Thieves took front wheels from

seven new Oldsmobiles late Sunday or early Monday. The tires and wheels are worth about \$1,400, a spokesman for the dealership said. See Page 6A for the story.

Longtime city clerk to retire

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

After 29 years on the job, 70-year-old Floyd Cairns has announced his intention to resign as Farmington Hills city clerk.

"It has been a pleasure to serve as city clerk and township clerk for the past 29 years, and I know that I'm going to miss it," Cairns wrote in his resignation letter. "But I know I will have many pleasant memories of the past."

The resignation becomes effective Dec. 31.

After reading Cairns' resignation letter, Mayor Charles Williams Monday thanked the city clerk for his years of service and added, "... His contributions have been tremendous."

A standing ovation in Cairns' honor then followed.

When Cairns resigns, the council will have to appoint a replacement. Asked if Deputy Clerk Joan Reynolds would be his most likely successor, Cairns replied that he didn't know. "It's up to the council," he said.

Through the years, Cairns has been known as the person who knows about all there is to know when it comes to Farmington Hills.

A NATIVE of Farmington Township, Cairns has served as clerk since 1956.



'Farmington Hills has been very good to me and in some small way I hope I have been good for it.'

— Floyd Cairns
city clerk

Please turn to Page 12

Making good

Former FHS students publish, prosper

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

The dream of many high school teachers is to see at least one of their students excel after graduation.

Retired Farmington High School teacher Lee Peel has had that dream come true five times.

P. Larry Adcock, Perry Jamieson, Jerry Nelson, Don Pember and Eric Sauter, FHS graduates from 1957 to 1966, are all published authors.

"I think that's a pretty good track record," said Peel, a journalism and English teacher and adviser for the school paper from 1950-1980.

As adviser for the Blue and White, Peel worked closely with all five students but, he said, he didn't do anything special to get them into book writing.

"I could have guessed several of them would have gone into newspapers, like Adcock and Nelson, who were very good," Peel said.

Nelson, Class of '63, worked for the Oakland Press and the Detroit News. Now at a public relations company in

'I could have guessed several of them would have gone into newspapers . . .'

— Lee Peel
retired FHS teacher

Chicago, Nelson has published travel guides on Chicago, the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and one on the Midwest.

The most recently published work of Peel's former students is Adcock's first major non-fiction work, "Precht 19" released by Doubleday this month.

Peel recalls Adcock as being "a natural" at writing.

"The first lead he ever wrote for the school paper, well, you just knew he knew what it (the story) was all about."

ADCOCK, CLASS of '65, worked for the Oakland Press and the Detroit Free

Press and has been living in New York City for the past several years. He has also published a number of novels under various pen names.

Jamieson co-authored "Attack and Die," a book on the Civil War published in 1982. Peel recalls giving Jamieson a two-page spread in the school newspaper in 1966, the centennial of the Civil War, which Jamieson filled with articles about the war.

"Apparently that's where Jamieson became interested in the Civil War, and I guess that might have influenced his involvement with the Civil War book," Peel said.

The other most recently published author from FHS is Sauter, whose novels "Hunter" and "Hunter and the Icons" appeared in the past two years. Both books are available in the Farmington Community Library and its branch on 12 Mile Road.

ALTHOUGH SAUTER credits Peel as giving him his biggest push toward his writing career, the former teacher said he can't understand why.

"Eric Sauter was a good writer, but I didn't particularly give him a push towards writing."

Pember, Class of '57, is the author of a book about journalism entitled "Privacy and the Press," published in 1972.

In addition to his students' successes, Peel also wrote and published "Farmington: A Pictorial History" in 1971. The book has sold so well he is thinking of a second printing, Peel said.

Peel's current project is a book about architecture, which will feature photographs of homes in the Farmington area.

Wild auto chase results in arrest

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A high-speed chase through northwestern Farmington Hills just after midnight Tuesday led to the arrest of an 18-year-old West Bloomfield man and the recovery of about \$400 in stolen property.

A three-count warrant has been issued for the 18-year-old, police said. He will be charged with concealing stolen property in excess of \$100, possession of burglary tools and failure to obey police signals.

Arraignment on the charges was expected Wednesday in 47th District Court, according to police.

Following the 12-minute chase, police recovered burglary tools, radio and camera equipment and jewelry. Some

of the jewelry has been identified by a Witom resident as being stolen from his home Nov. 15, police said.

The incident began when police were called to an area near Commons and Verona on a complaint of a suspicious silver 1972 Chevrolet with a loud muffler, driving slowly through the neighborhood.

THE CAR, with two young men in it, sped up as police drove near. After running a stop sign at 14 Mile, the auto stopped and one of the men got out.

When police turned on their emergency lights and siren, the Chevy sped off at a high rate of speed.

Please turn to Page 12

Recount stalls council election

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A recount of the precincts Farmington Hills council candidate Ben Marks lost to freshman Councilman Terry Sever in the recent election is delaying council's election of its officers.

At Mayor Charles Williams' suggestion, council Monday agreed to postpone the election of a mayor pro tem until after the Oakland County Board of Canvassers conducts the recount.

Sever squeaked by Marks with a 25-vote margin to win a council seat. Despite the recount, Sever was sworn in as a council member three days after the election.

"This may not happen real quick," Williams said, about the recount.

Council also agreed to stay on schedule and elect a mayor at the Dec. 10 meeting. Jan Dolan, currently mayor pro tem, will most likely be elected mayor. If council follows its usual pattern of electing a mayor.

"There hasn't been any indication that we don't expect Mrs. Dolan to assume the seat of mayor," said Councilwoman Joan Dudley, agreeing with

Williams' suggestion to follow through with the mayor election before the end of the year.

Unlike the mayoral election, the selection of a mayor pro tem often turns into a political battle.

WITH THE election of a mayor pro tem, there is less chance of a unanimous vote, Dudley said. By postponing this election, she said, either Marks or Sever, whoever is the victor following the recount, would have an opportunity to vote for the mayor pro tem.

Although joining the council in its vote to rearrange the election schedule, Councilman Joe Alkateeb said the election of a mayor pro tem should not be stepped in politics.

Instead, he said, council should follow its past procedures and elect a member who has served the longest and has never yet been mayor.

"I understand the concern here," Alkateeb said. "The point is that the mayor's position and the mayor pro tem's is just as important. There are some facts to be considered."

Alkateeb is the only current council member who has not served as mayor. With only a few weeks of experience under his belt, it is unlikely Sever would be chosen as mayor pro tem if he is successful in retaining his seat following the recount.

oral quarrel

Should drinking be prohibited?

Some observers believe that the consumption of alcoholic beverages is the chief cause of many of society's ills today.

If drinking were prohibited totally — as it was in the United States from 1919 to 1933 — they claim that the world would be a better place. Problems such as crime, poverty, illegitimacy, divorce, child abuse and unemployment would become much less severe if *spiritus fermentis* were

banished, they reason.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

Would society's problems be lessened if total prohibition became the law of the land in the United States?

To answer this question, call 477-5498 anytime before Friday, Nov. 30. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

what's inside

- Amusements 9-12C
- Business 14-15C
- Cable Connection 4A
- Classifieds Sections D-E
- Club Circuit 7B
- Community Calendar 3B
- Crossword Puzzle 6E
- Editorials 16A
- Obituaries 2A
- Recreation News 4A
- Sports 1-5C
- Suburban Life 1-10B
- Travel 6C
- YMCA Highlights 4A
- NEWLINE 477-5450
- CLASSIFIEDS 591-0900
- HOME DELIVERY 691-0500

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE