



# Farmington Observer

Volume 96 Number 101

Thursday, September 28, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

72 Pages

Twenty-five cents

## Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Please include a daytime telephone number.

**FARMINGTON**  
Community Center has set \$25,000 as its business and professional fund-drive goal for 1988. The center is self-supporting, financed by class rentals and the fund drive. It relies on the community for financial support and 250 volunteers for staffing.

For 18 years, businesses, individuals and groups have used the Georgian-style mansion — on five rolling, wooded acres — for meetings, seminars, parties and events.

The center offers 500 classes and workshops. It sponsors a men's club, a women's club and a professional women's network. Major contributors are listed on a permanent plaque. All contributors are recognized in the annual report and the activities brochure.

This year's fund-raising co-chairmen are Ernie Harwell of WJH-Radio and William Cook, president of Bill Cook Buick. Call the center for donation details: 477-8404.

**DETROIT** Country Day School's varsity cheerleading team, captained by senior Nora Villamin of Farmington Hills, finished first at the Dynamic Cheerleaders Association camp at Northwood Institute, Midland.

In addition to being chosen "Super Squad," the Beverly Hills-based group received ribbons for 1) best dance routine, 2) musical unity and 3) outstanding jumps, spirit and cheering.

Also on the team is Elizabeth Chen of Farmington Hills.

**DETROIT** Country Day School senior Michael Clarke of Farmington Hills was named a 1988 National Merit semifinalist.

The top scorers in each state, or less than half of 1 percent of each state's high school senior class, became semifinalists, who totaled 15,000.

More than one million juniors entered the competition by taking a qualifying test in 1984.

A student must advance to finalist to compete for 5,600 Merit scholarships, worth \$21 million, to be awarded next spring.

Semifinalists qualify as finalists by documenting high academic performance, receiving the principal/headmaster's recommendation, confirming test performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and providing information about school and community activities as well as personal interests and goals.

**AMONG** those accepted into the U.S. Military Academy's Corps of Cadets as a member of the class of 1989 was Michael Blinson, a North Farmington High School graduate.

Acceptance followed six weeks of basic cadet training at the West Point, N.Y., academy. The academy graduates career Army officers.

**FOOTNOTES:** In 1967, the 79-year-old Farmington Observer became part of the Observer Newspapers, owned by Philip Power, a descendant of Arthur Power, Farmington's founder.



Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman: "I've not really had any serious desire for another community. I've been treated very well by this community — by the councils and the citizens."

## Here to stay

### Manager: He's hooked on city

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Becoming a city manager was the farthest thing from Robert Deadman's mind back in the early 1970s. Like his father and grandfather, Deadman's life was in law enforcement. But after 14 years — six as director of Farmington's Department of Public Safety — luck intervened.

"Luck is being at the right place at the right time," said Deadman, 50. That's how Deadman sums up his move into public administration.

In 1986, then-City Manager John Dinan appointed Deadman to replace Maurie Fols, as director of the Department of Public Services. In 1972, Dinan left for a job in the private sector.

"To my surprise, the city council met with me and offered me the position of city manager. My education and background was devoted

toward a criminal justice career," Deadman said.

"I had no aspirations of becoming a city manager. I had never really taken a hard look at the job. In all honesty, I was totally surprised. I have got to believe I had received good marks with the previous (city) manager. Quite frankly, I hardly knew the council."

**AFTER MANY** meetings with the city council, Deadman agreed to try the job for six months. If it didn't work out to the satisfaction of either Deadman or the council, it was agreed he could return to his post as public safety director.

Looking back, Deadman recalls that those first months "were very trying. It was a new experience. There was a lot going on."

In the early days, Deadman was faced with tough choices. Chief among them was that the same week the city council asked him to take over the administrative reins of Farmington's government, he received notice he had been selected to attend the FBI National Academy, designed to improve management skills.

The choice was made. Police work had been his life. But Deadman put aside his desire to become chief of a police department in a larger community and stay on as city manager.

Despite his love for police work, Deadman decided he had to shut the door completely if he was to be successful as city manager.

"I had to make, in my mind, a clean break. I enjoyed the camaraderie (of the public safety department).

Please turn to Page 6

## Cooperative effort

### Downtown team shapes improvement plans

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

What does the future hold for downtown Farmington?

Perhaps an expanded, more regional orientation, with office, cultural and recreational uses alongside specialty shops and boutiques.

Or possibly the same-sized central business district and a similar makeup and activity level, but with increased attention to facade improvements?

"That's the big question," said Robert Schultz, city liaison to the 13-member downtown steering committee. "The community has to decide if it wants to stay as it is or grow to a regional shopping center size."

"Before anything dramatic happens beyond parking or facade improvements, we need to determine where the city is going. People on the street are talking about different things than they were six months ago."

**FORMED** in early spring, the steering committee includes merchants and residents. Its charge is to chart downtown's future and map a strategy for continued growth.

There's no urgency, however. Says Schultz: "Downtown looks pretty good. There's a lot of traffic. New tenants are



Robert Schultz, city liaison to the downtown steering committee, at Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road.

## Library team seeking more general input

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Community Library officials want to be more open with the community about their monthly meetings and library activities.

"The Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees has named a public relations committee," Library Director Beverly Papi said. "They are concerned with making library board meetings and activities more visible to the community."

The two-person public relations committee has suggested changes designed to inform the public about the library. "We've adopted a program of trying to get more knowledge of the library out to the people," said Aldo Vagnozzi, chairman of the newly created committee.

Trustee Dorothy Stout-Jedysk also is a committee member.

The public relations thrust comes months after a controversy over library operations and finances under former director Gordon Lewis. He resigned May 15 after being suspended without pay May 2 following the release of an audit by the Plante and Moran CPAs of Southfield, that showed evidence of possible discrepancies in library finances.

**"We've adopted a program of trying to get more knowledge of the library out to the people."**

— Aldo Vagnozzi  
library trustee

year," Vagnozzi said. "We'll try to hold the meetings there so people in that area can come."

The Farmington branch is 23550 Library.

Please turn to Page 12

But **CREATION** of the new committee is not in direct response to those events, Vagnozzi said. "There is just a feeling that this was the time to involve the community," he said. "It probably flowed from that. But I don't think it was directly related."

The eight-member library board recently adopted the list of suggestions, Vagnozzi said. "It is to become policy," he said.

The eight members are Ernest Sauter, president; Jonathan Grant, vice president; Charlotte Yaverski, secretary; James Wibby, treasurer; and trustees James Lanigan, Robert Plummer, Vagnozzi and Stout-Jedysk.

The agendas of the trustees' public monthly meetings will be published in the newspaper prior to the meeting and carried public access Channel 12.

Trustees meet at 5 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month generally in the Farmington Hills library at 32737 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. The library's administrative offices are at the 12 Mile branch.

"Some meetings will be held at the Farmington branch throughout the

## Schools' fortunes explored

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The first step has been taken in the formation of a task force of school and community representatives that will help chart Farmington Public Schools' future.

Graham Lewis, assistant superintendent of special services, will chair the task force, said Superintendent Lewis Schulman. Other members will be selected sometime in October.

"We are establishing a process by which we can put together a team of people that are representative of the community rather than the schools themselves," Lewis said.

The task force has been charged with studying current changes in the economy, the society and the family. Within a year, the task force is expected to

Please turn to Page 6

## what's inside

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Around Farmington . . .        | 3B       |
| Business talk . . .            | 3A       |
| Cable connection . . .         | 14A      |
| Classifieds . . . Sections C-E |          |
| Club circuit . . .             | 4B       |
| Crossword puzzle . . .         | 17E      |
| Entertainment . . .            | 9-12C    |
| Opinion . . .                  | 18A      |
| Police/fire news . . .         | 8A       |
| Readers' forum . . .           | 17A      |
| Recreation news . . .          | 8B       |
| Sports . . .                   | 15C      |
| Travel . . .                   | 15C      |
| YMCA highlights . . .          | 9B       |
| News line . . .                | 477-5480 |
| Sports line . . .              | 591-2300 |
| Home delivery . . .            | 591-0500 |
| Classified line . . .          | 591-0900 |

**Reminder...**

Your Observer carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready, and be sure to get your receipt.

It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.