



# Farmington Observer

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## 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.

**DRIVERS, take note.** School is back in session in the Farmington area. Most winter classes have resumed already. Most of those that haven't will do so this week.

**PUBLIC transportation** — its problems, politics and potential — will be the discussion focus at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16 in the Farmington Community Library, 32737 12 Mile.

Carol Norris, Michigan's Urban & Public Transportation Bureau deputy director, will be guest speaker. The West Bloomfield/Farmington League of Women Voters will host the program.

**WHEN traveling, do what pleases you.** That's the topic to be discussed when travel editor Joe Jones speaks at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce general membership luncheon Thursday, Jan. 16 in the Steak & Ale, 21590 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. For reservations, call the chamber: 474-3440. Jones, a Farmington Hills resident, writes travel news for the Observer & Eclectic Newspapers as well as other publications.

**UP, UP and away!** Beth A'Jonal of Farmington Hills was the big winner in the "Home for the Holidays" drawing at Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi. Santa drew her name from among 10,000 entries for two round-trip airplane tickets to anywhere in the continental United States. "I was thrilled when I found out I was the winner," she said. "My husband and I are planning to fly to San Francisco and Los Angeles." Twelve Oaks, in conjunction with Delta Airlines, sponsored the trip giveaway.

**THEY'RE degree winners.** Nine students from the Farmington area recently earned degrees from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. Mary Lou Amos, Keith O'Boyle, James Smith and Charles Thomas received bachelor of business administration degrees.

Rhonda Barclay, James Crawford, Nanette Parks, Patricia Joniklan and Gordon Larson were awarded bachelor of science degrees.

**ON the honor roll:** Four students from the Farmington area were named to the fall-quarter dean's list at Michigan Technological University, Houghton. Mickey Clancy is a junior mathematics major. Stephen Long is a junior majoring in applied physics. Wendy Westenberg is a senior chemistry major. Anne Riley is a junior majoring in chemical engineering.

**NEWS from the U.S. Army:** Pvt. Roger Caswell of Farmington has completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

**FOOTNOTES:** The old Bond Elementary School, since renovated into an office complex, was named for James Bond, Farmington's Massey Edge president in 1967-70. The school northwest of 13 Mile and Orchard Lake, was built in 1928. Four additions followed. Bond was closed in 1973, the first Farmington Public Schools elementary closed because of declining enrollment.

## City managers size up new year

### Outlook for city upbeat

By Casey Hans staff writer

Redevelopment of Farmington's central business district will be a "high point" of 1986, according to City Manager Robert Deadman. Revitalization plans for downtown will be finalized in 1986 with the help of a stabilized Michigan economy. "The staying power of the Michigan economy has got to help all cities," Deadman said.

A major parks plan — the first in 30 years — will also be completed, two commercial developments to the east of the central business district built, and Arbor Drugs, a major drug store chain, will be arriving downtown, he added.

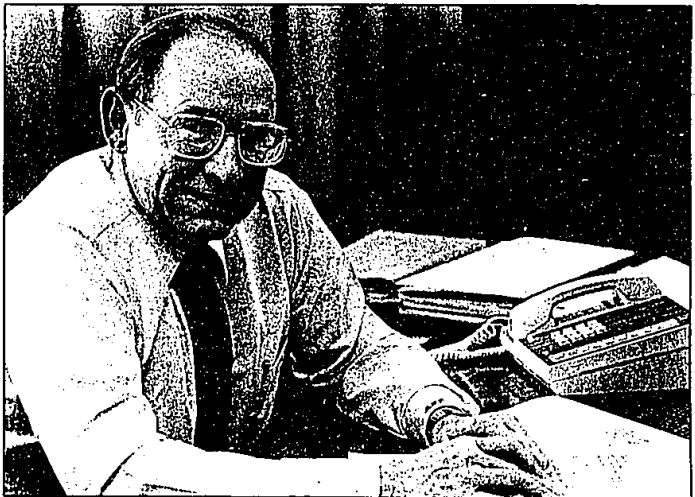
An 18,000-square-foot development is planned for the Orchard Lake/Shilawassee area, and the development on the former Farmington Lumber Co. property is scheduled for a winter or early spring construction start.

The 32,000 square feet of commercial space and 23,000 square feet of office space on Grand River "should help anchor the downtown," Deadman said.

**THE CITY'S** development gives Deadman confidence. "It makes you feel good about the future," he said. "You feel there are people outside our community assessing the marketability of the area."

Deadman considers the city's retail market Farmington, south Farmington Hills and north Livonia. Attitude changes became visible downtown during the recent holiday season, when merchants worked together as a group, he said.

Consultants' plans for downtown are expected to be presented to the city's downtown task force on Jan. 14 and to the council on Jan. 20, when a potential Downtown Development Authority is expected to be discussed, he added.



Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman, at work in the Farmington Municipal Building.

**'The staying power of the Michigan economy has got to help all cities.'**

— Robert Deadman city manager Farmington

**'1985 saw the city's largest volume of construction and development activity. And with that, you have problems.'**

— William Costick city manager Farmington Hills

### Change is focus in Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick calls 1985 "a real period of change for the city."

In turn, Costick sees 1986 as a period in which the city will continue to react to changes in an effort to maintain the quality of life and keep pace with the area's booming growth.

"There have been a lot of changes that are going to necessitate changes in programs — city improvements — in the capital improvements plan," Costick said. "1985 saw the city's largest volume of construction and development activity. And with that, you have problems."

Namely, the problems involve the impact commercial and office development has on residential areas, and the impact new development generally has on existing development, Costick said.

"In the past year, we have spent an enormous amount of time working with subdivision associations, neighborhood groups and private developers to work out their differences. This will continue," he said. "In some cases it has been successful, in others it hasn't, and some, we're still working on. I see this as a major role (of the city)."

**LOOKING AHEAD** to 1986, Costick said much of the objective is to "to preserve and protect our neighborhoods and residential areas," while still providing convenient shopping and entertainment.

The goal is to maintain Farmington Hills as an area where people can live safely, live in an attractive environment, and are able to conveniently get to the city's shopping and entertainment areas, Costick said.

"Farmington Hills is not truly a bedroom community. It has become a major workplace," Costick said.



Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick, in the Farmington Hills Municipal Offices.

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## Conspiracy alleged in robbery

By Casey Hans staff writer

A "casual acquaintance" of 10 years allegedly conspired to arrange a drug-related armed robbery of a Farmington Hills man, his brother and a female companion last May, according to District Court testimony Thursday. A 34-year-old Inkster man is scheduled to stand trial on felony charges, conviction of which could bring a maximum penalty of life in prison. He allegedly conspired with three men to rob the occupants of a house on Nine Mile.

### Man bound over for trial

Following a preliminary examination Thursday, District Judge Michael Hand of Farmington bound over for trial the alleged conspirator, George Frederick Leland, 34, of Inkster. Leland is scheduled to be arraigned before Judge David Breck in Oakland County Circuit Court Thursday, Jan. 16, on one count of conspiracy to commit armed robbery and two counts of armed robbery. The alleged weapon was a saved-off shotgun.

District Judge Margot Schaeffer of Farmington signed an arrest warrant for Leland Dec. 16. He was arrested Dec. 17 by members of the Farmington Hills Police Department Special Patrol Operations Team (SPOT), in cooperation with the Garden City Police.

**AT THURSDAY'S** preliminary exam, defense attorney John McCloskey contended "the agreement (to rob the occupants of the house on Nine

Mile) was for Saturday night" and that the robbery did not take place at the agreed time, ending the conspiracy. The robbery, which took place the following day, was an "independent action," McCloskey told the court.

"Conspiracy is a continuing crime," Judge Hand responded. "It continues until the (criminal) act is committed." Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Lawrence Bunting called two witnesses, whose testimony resulted in enough evidence to bind Leland over on the charges.

A 32-year-old robbery victim testified about his ordeal and that of his 26-year-old brother and his brother's 18-year-old girlfriend during the late-night armed robbery in the house on Nine Mile May 5.

Also testifying was Casimir Edward Bagacianis, 21, charged in the armed robbery with co-defendant James Douglas Barton, 23. The two are being held in the Oakland County Jail on charges of armed robbery, and felony firearms and habitual offender charges while awaiting sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court Tuesday, Jan. 14. The two pleaded guilty to these charges Nov. 7, Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills Police Department said.

**BARTON HAS** not yet gone to trial in Wayne County on charges of assault with intent to commit murder and felony firearms possession in connection

## Plans in works Improved Orchard Lake Road eyed

By Casey Hans staff writer

With financing a major consideration in county road improvements, plans continue on a piecemeal basis for the widening of Orchard Lake Road from Grand River to I-968.

The Oakland County Road Commission right-of-way staff was given the go-ahead in October to proceed with 1986 plans, according to Dennis Pajot, road commission communications officer. Obtaining right-of-way is the first

step in a road improvement project, and Pajot said the staff's work will be completed by March or April. Projections on the entire widening are made through 1990, he added.

Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman expects preliminary engineering plans to be finished and firm costs estimates known during 1986.

The two city managers are working with the county to "help secure federal funding" for the project, which is expected to cost more than \$3 million, Deadman said.

**ORCHARD LAKE** Road at the entrance to Oakland Community College and south to 11 Mile road is scheduled for improvements during the 1986 construction season, Pajot said. He expects the two projects to be bid as one when right-of-way studies are completed.

This year's projects will "improve safety" in the area, Pajot added. At the intersection, traffic islands will be removed, the left-turn lane extended south and taper lanes extended north.

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