



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.

BUILDING a new home in Farmington Hills? If you are, or are considering it, the Farmington Hills Crime Prevention Unit can offer helpful advice to make your new residence more secure.

There are minor alterations that can be introduced at little or no cost before construction is finished to make your home more burglar-proof. "We can look at your blueprints, come out to the construction site or just offer suggestions over the phone," said Chris Cogar, unit technician.

For more information about this free service, call 474-6181.

ATTENTION, Farmington-area tree lovers.

The National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF) will give 100 free trees to people who become members during January.

New members will receive a Colorado blue spruce, a red maple, a white flowering dogwood, a red oak, a European mountain ash, a black walnut, a silver maple, a Norway spruce, a green ash and a sugar maple.

The 6- to 12-inch trees will be shipped, postage paid, with planting instructions, between Feb. 1 and May 31.

NADF is a non-profit group dedicated to encouraging tree plantings.

Memberships cost \$10. For details, write NADA, 100 Arbor, Nebraska City, Neb. 68410.

KUDOS are in order.

Douglas Arrington of Farmington Hills has earned a master of science degree in public administration from Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, Pa.

HE'S honored.

North Farmington High School graduate George Fomin was inducted into the Sigma Pi Sigma National Physics Honor Society in recognition of his scholarship in physics at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti.

MOVING up.

Pvt. 1st Class Tim Kibler of Farmington Hills has completed a Russian language course at the Defense Language Institute in Presidio of Monterey, Calif. He is a 1984 graduate of Farmington High School.

MOVING on.

William Cullen Jr., a 1980 Farmington Harrison High School graduate, now of Marquette City, earned bachelor of science degrees in biochemistry and physiology from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti.

He plans to attend Wayne State University Medical School, Detroit.

ON the dean's list.

Two students from the Farmington area, Audrey Barton and Julianne Lynne, made the dean's list at the Detroit College of Business for the fall quarter.

A NEW appointee.

Farmington City Council Monday named Heritage Lane resident Herbert Cumber to the assessor's board of review for a three-year term beginning Jan. 1. He has worked in the real estate field for 12 years.

FOOTNOTES. Did you know the Farmington area is within the Rouge River Watershed?

The river meanders from northwest to southeast across Farmington and Farmington Township.

Moratorium on massage parlors OK'd

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Inquiries from several massage parlor operators interested in Farmington business locations prompted regulatory action Monday by the Farmington City Council.

Two ordinances were introduced, fees and investigative measures implemented, and a 90-day moratorium placed on occupancy permits for massage-related businesses.

The moratorium gives city officials time to consider potential loca-

tions and restrictions for massage-related businesses in Farmington. City Manager Robert Deadman told councilmen. There currently are no massage parlors operating in Farmington.

The Planning Commission will discuss this question at a public hearing Monday, Jan. 13. Under consideration is restriction of massage business interests to C-3 heavy commercial zoning areas, with "special exception use" limitations, Deadman said.

These businesses would be prohibited from the city's central business district and commercial districts zoned C-2, under the proposal.

Improved reading is the intent

By Casey Hans
staff writer

"The home is still the most important school — and the parent is still the most important teacher."

So says former high school teacher and Redford Township resident Amy Clarke Hamlin, regional coordinator for the PATH (Parents and Teachers Helping) reading development program piloted during the past year at Farmington Public Schools' Flanders Elementary.

She said 85 percent of a child's waking hours are spent at home and only 14 percent at school, so parental involvement in reading habits is extremely important.

Parents today are more aware and are joining school districts in stressing the educational basics of reading, writing and math, she added.



Amy Hamlin
coordinator

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Ernie Ajlouny, in his Downtown Farmington Center deli.

RICK SMITH/staff photographer

An icebreaker

Big fan of people: that's Ernie

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Whether at work in his deli or dabbling in other creative interests, Ernie Ajlouny is always on stage.

His mixing of theater fantasy and business reality is interwoven, drawing his interest for people to the forefront, he said.

The "curtain goes up" at 11:30 a.m. each day at Dagwood's Deli in the Downtown Farmington Center, where all the props are in place for a lunchtime performance. He performs center stage at the deli counter, with his customers as the audience.

The businessman's life, from his beginnings in Detroit to his present activities in downtown Farmington, has been a happy mix of working in the family food business, working with Motown greats like the Temptations and Smokey Robinson and

people

the Miracles, writing comedy and music and acting in local theatre productions.

Ajlouny started in the food business 33 years ago, when he was 11 and "had to stand on milk crates to reach the scales," he said.

BY THE age of 17, Ajlouny owned his own operation, working and going to school. He has since owned six food-related stores and worked with some large food processing companies, such as Hy-Grade.

But food wasn't the 11-year-old's only love. He learned to juggle lemons at Detroit's Eastern Market, leading to an interest in magic and, eventually, comedy routines at local boys clubs in the 1950s.

As an 18-year-old, his love of the stage and activities with his church choir led him to audition and gain a spot with a rhythm and blues quartet street group, which contracted with Motown records. He stayed with Motown for two years, but never gave up his food industry work.

"I was good at everything I touched," he said. "And look at what I fell back to."

Ajlouny's father reminded him "people have to eat three meals a day — you will always make a living in the food business." He remembered.

TODAY, the Farmington Hills resident and his wife, Sandra, operate the deli in Farmington, and own a deli/supperette in Ann Arbor, now run by a full-time manager, Ajlouny.

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Rejuvenation eyed

Downtown Development Authority planned

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Calling a Downtown Development Authority "a positive link," city planner Christopher Waczny said Monday a Farmington DDA would be "the best way to capitalize on opportunities and to support the downtown."

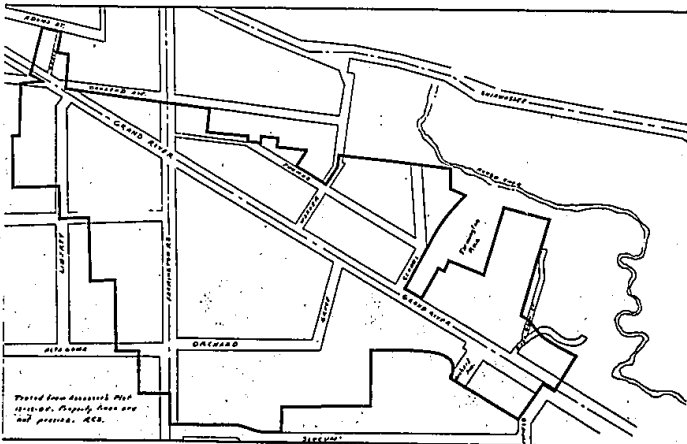
Farmington City Council concurred, voting unanimously Monday to establish a DDA for a proposed area surrounding the city's central business district (see related map).

A public hearing to discuss the proposed DDA ordinance and district boundaries is scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3 at the beginning of the regular council meeting.

The steering committee of the city-appointed Downtown Farmington Development Committee (DFDC) task force Nov. 20 requested that the council form a DDA. Harry Wingerter, who chairs the steering committee, told the council Monday of a strong, on-going downtown movement.

The DFDC has "continued to have good gatherings" with 40-50 people attending each meeting, he said.

WZACNY AND consultant Nick Nicholas will present downtown plans culminating a nine-month downtown



The heavy black line outlines the proposed boundaries of Farmington's Downtown Development District.

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Big family homes, beginning homes, retirement homes, country homes, city homes, townhouses, apartments, condominiums... there's a place that was designed and built just for you.

CREATIVE LIVING REAL ESTATE SECTION

And we have it. Every Thursday in our Creative Living Real Estate Section. You're sure to find what you're looking for advertised by qualified Realtors.