

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an occasion to be held at Farmington, please contact a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

**MICHIGAN** will turn 150 on Jan. 26, 1987. In preparation for that milestone, the Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission is at work planning statewide events and coordinating local activities. Last week, the Farmington City Council appointed JoAnn Soronen, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce executive director, as its contact person to the Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission's community affairs committee.

**THERE'S** local news in the Air Force. DeAnna Edlin of Farmington Hills was appointed a sergeant. The new non-commissioned officer completed training in management, leadership, human relations and NCO responsibilities. She is in charge of aircraft armament specialist with the 3246th Millions Maintenance Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base.

Meanwhile, Timothy Korean of Farmington Hills was promoted to staff sergeant. He is a munitions systems specialist in England with the 81st Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

Farmington Hills resident David Harrington Jr. has entered the delayed enlistment program. After graduation from the basic training course at Lackland Air Force Base, Tex., he will receive technical training as an aerospace ground equipment mechanic. He'll also be assigned to an Air Force duty station.

**THEY'RE** United Foundation volunteers. Jeffrey Rahmberg, Mark Bahr, Joel Greenstein, Michael Kowalczyk, Mickey Kojan and James Engen are all from Farmington Hills. They are serving as volunteers on a UP Allocation and Review Panel. All UP allocation decisions are made by volunteer panels, which review the 131 Torch Drive-supported agency programs, services and objectives.

**ATTENTION,** all Farmington high school students and parents. The three senior highs will host a financial aid workshop 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, in the Farmington High School Auditorium, 30000 5th Avenue, Farmington.

Judy Tatum of the Eastern Michigan University Financial Aid Office will talk about financial aid opportunities and how to seek financial aid.

**FEEDING** the hungry. WRIF-FM and Harmony House, which has stores in both Farmington and Farmington Hills, recently collected 10,000 pounds of food to distribute to the hungry in metro Detroit.

The food will go to the Oakland County Food Bank, Gleasons Food Bank and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

**ARE YOU** interested in setting up a neighborhood watch program in your subdivision? Farmington Hills Police Department will hold an orientation at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, in the City Council Chambers, 11555 Orchard Lake.

**FOOTNOTES:** Most-making bank's modernity phenomenon. A Westlandside fiber lined street in Farmington's residential sector is 1924.

## Downtown — where much can happen

For a related editorial comment, see Page 16A.

By Casey Hens staff writer

The city of Farmington and downtown merchants must immediately revamp the central business district if they want a piece of the Southeast Michigan retail pie, two city-hired consultants said Tuesday. In a three-pronged recommendation, planner Christopher Wazany and marketing consultant Nick Nicholas suggested immediate formation of a Downtown Development Authority (DDA), beautification improvements,

including enhanced show window and pedestrian lighting, and a change from the city's "dowdy" downtown image.

A strong suggestion was made for an inn-type hotel, which, in turn, could help attract fine restaurants and other facilities downtown.

Wazany called for an immediate, "mutually supporting" effort involving the recommendations. "In order to have the program proceed, these have to be pursued simultaneously," he said. The consultants suggested not an increase in city growth, but an increase in the quality of life.

THEY ALSO provided a preliminary marketing study showing downtown strengths and weaknesses of four market zones formed by quadrants around the Farmington/Grand River intersection. A more lengthy, formal report will be presented to the city when completed.

Wazany and Nicholas spoke at a meeting of the Downtown Farmington Development Committee (DFDC) task force attended by more than 30 merchants, property owners, city officials and residents. Their recommendations followed an eight-month study of rejuvenating the downtown.

Farmington is the only area city with a downtown, although surrounding communities are competing by trying to "create" central business districts to capture a larger part of the retail trade, they said.

"Here (downtown Farmington) is where a lot of things can happen," Wazany told the group. He cited the city's unique historic district, a workable downtown with a compact scale area and good government as qualities for Farmington's redevelopment program.

"It's important to look at what's going on in Southeast Michigan," Nicholas said, adding that much of the developing is occurring in Livonia, Farmington Hills, Novi, Northville and Farmington. "There are all these forces at work," he added. "How we position ourselves for the forces is the key. Everything should relate to the marketplace."

THE DDA is "one of the prime aspects of my recommendation," Wazany said. It is needed to start and maintain the rejuvenation effort. "Without an organization, you cannot compete," he added.

## Barking — target of her wrath

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

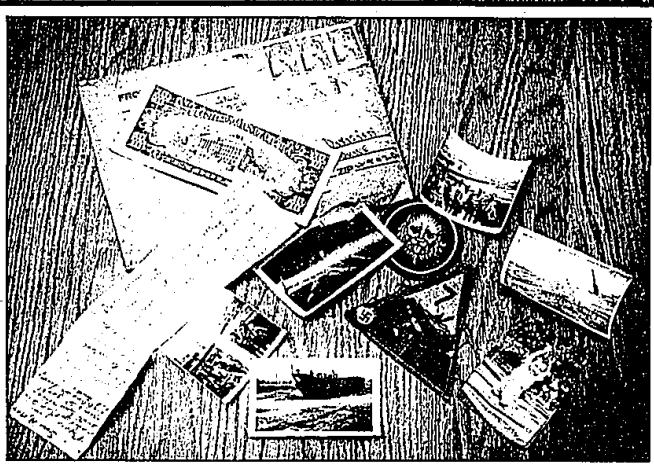
Cedarbrooke Apartments resident Janet Haines says she can't sleep past 7:30 a.m. is unable to concentrate and even has a hard time having a conversation in her third-floor apartment.

The culprit, she says, are barking dogs at Dog Gone Acres just north of her apartment complex on Middlebelt, south of 10 Mile, in Farmington Hills.

"It is impossible to sleep in on the weekends. They are let out around 7:30 a.m. and the din continues until they are let inside in the evening. My books remain unpacked because it is impossible to concentrate. Forget quiet dinner parties when it sounds like a pack of dogs share your apartment," Haines said in a letter to the Farmington Observer.

Haines, who moved to Cedarbrooke in mid-November, has taken her complaints to the kennel, the apartment management, the city's planning division, the police and, Monday night, to the Farmington Hills City Council. At Mayor Joe Alkateer's suggestion, City Manager William Costick will

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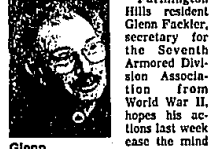


Old photos, a division patch and notes to home were among the items Glenn Fackler received in the mail. The message scrawled on the \$10 bill gave Fackler the clue he needed to find the owner of the items.

## Super sleuth \$10 bill helps solve a WW II puzzle

By Casey Hens staff writer

It's a present-day war story about courage, honesty and a soldier's never-ending mental conflict.



Glenn Fackler

The soldier wrote Fackler an anonymous letter, seeking a man who "half dragged me, half carried me" to safety, saving his life during World War II's Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium. He enclosed some war mementoes and photos found in the man's field

**"Whoever and wherever the 'living coward' is, I hope he's got the peace of mind now that he's done this (sent the war memorabilia)."**  
— Glenn Fackler Hills resident

Glenn Fackler, secretary of the Seventh Armored Division Association from World War II, hopes his actions last week ease the mind of an anonymous soldier and a self-proclaimed "living coward."

Fackler found the man's Philadelphia savior last week after two days of hard work and some good luck. Fackler gets requests regularly to find soldiers locally, but, he said, "this is the most satisfying thing I've done in 40 years."

THE ANONYMOUS soldier had haunting memories of a December day in 1944 at St. Vith, Belgium, as

a member of the 106th Infantry Division in World War II. That frontline division, never having seen a German soldier, was the first to be hit by the Germans at the start of the Battle of the Bulge Dec. 16.

The anonymous soldier talked of his fright and desperation when his division was hit. "I got hit very bad; I was near a railroad tunnel and this soldier found me," the "living coward" wrote. "I was almost gone. He took his field jacket and put it on me. I was so cold I was blue."

The "coward" made it safely to England, where he spent three months in the hospital, leaving behind the lifesaving stranger from Philadelphia without a field jacket. The stranger stayed at the front line.

"The valor this soldier showed — not just for me but the seven men he went back for," the soldier's anonymous letter said. "It's been 42 years, and I never went to bed not thinking of this soldier."

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## Studying up Channel 56 helps him pursue education

people

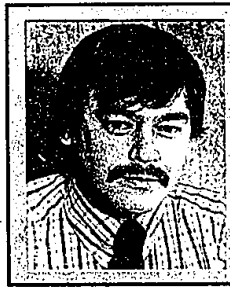
By Michele Glance staff writer

Right smack in the middle of his career, Farmington resident Monico Havier has forfeited the security of his full-time job to follow his dream of pursuing his education.

If all goes as planned, Havier will graduate from Madonna College in Livonia in May 1987 with a degree in allied health care management. But Havier does not go to class to hear all his lectures. Instead, he stays home and watches some of them on television.

Havier took two courses this term, using Channel 56's College Cable Channel. Lectures aired broadcast during the week. Classes meet for three-hour sessions Saturday afternoons.

"The setup is ideal for people who are working full time," Havier said. "For me, it's much more convenient to watch the lectures in my own home. They're usually shown in the early morning or late afternoon hours, so I



**"The setup (college cable channel) is ideal for people who are working full time. For me, it's much more convenient to watch the lectures in my own home."**  
— Monico Havier Hills resident

videotape them and watch them at my leisure."

BECAUSE HE tapes the lectures, Havier can go back and review the material if there's something he doesn't understand. If he has questions, he can jot them down and ask them at the class session on Saturday.

"I look at the TV lectures as presenting food for thought," Havier said. "They're usually exchange information on a television but video is a good way to

present information. "Our class discussions on Saturday usually center around the video material," Havier said.

Besides the convenience of viewing college lectures at home, Havier said, videos make it possible for students to hear the viewpoints of people across the country.

"One of the classes I took in management and the other was in busi-

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE