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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.

HUNGRY?
The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Farmington Community Center will present "Taste of Farmington" from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington. House specialties will be donated by Blakeney's Ranch House, Boiseford Inn, Cajon Station, CG's Family Dining, CJ's Fine Food & Spirits, D Dennison's Seafood Tavern, Diggers, D'seris, Haugen-Dazs Ice Cream Shoppe, Maxwell's and Roman Terrace. The \$3 cost will include complimentary wine. Call the chamber for reservations: 474-3440. Proceeds will go the Farmington Community Center.

TAKE note.
The Gourmet CheeseCake Club of Farmington Hills is featured in the Michigan Specialty Food Guide, a Michigan Department of Commerce Office of Michigan Products promotion. The guide features 35 food products and 15 wines made in Michigan.

DEDICATION slated.
Farmington city leaders will officially open new facilities at Shilawassee Park during dedication ceremonies at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the picnic shelter, off the Power Road parking lot. New facilities include baseball diamonds, a soccer field, a jog-walk exercise track, the picnic shelter and Wells Fargo adult and senior citizen exercise equipment.

THEY'RE winners.
Schroeter's Flowers and Gifts of Farmington Hills took first place in the "Autumn Riches" category of the commercial florist competition Aug. 26 at the Michigan State Fair. Arrangements were created using earth colors in the fresh flower and foliage competition. Exhibits could not exceed a cost of \$50. David Schroeter won the State Fair Best of Show Rosette as well as a blue ribbon in the "European Heritage" category for a broad-based design in purples and pinks.

SAFETY precaution.
Farmington Department of Public Safety has acquired new engraving tools for use by city residents. The tools can be used to mark items in case of theft.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — The way the North Farmington defense manhandled Plymouth Canton Saturday (Sept. 7, 1985), you'd have thought it had studied the Chiefs' play book. North Farmington, en route to a 23-0 win in their home football opener, checked the Chiefs on negative 29 yards rushing and held them to 19 yards total offense. Two first downs were all Canton could muster.

Rejuvenation

DDA adopts development plan

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The future of downtown Farmington is now in the hands of the city council.

The city's Downtown Development Authority board of directors voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt a final redevelopment plan for the 64-acre downtown development district. They will take the matter before the city council for consideration Monday night. Board member Ron Oglesby was absent.

The \$1.44 million plan involves \$1.2 million in tax increment financing, a \$403,000 loan from the city's general fund and \$150,000 from a 2-mill DDA district levy as its base. Slightly more than half a million dollars would be spent in 1987.

DDA secretary and Farmington City Manager Robert Dendman was authorized to present the 26-page plan to council members, and to recommend an early November public hearing be set to get response from the community and other taxing authorities about the proposed TIFA plan.

The city council must introduce and adopt an ordinance to implement a TIFA plan. If the plan is approved, work on the first phase could



Planning consultant Christopher Wzacny unveils details of the downtown development plan.

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Political lawn signs now are permitted in the Hills

By Joanna Maliszowski
staff writer

'What you are doing is arguing against how many angels can sit on top of a pin,' David Harron told the council as it debated whether to restrict use of political lawn signs.

Just in time for the Tuesday, Nov. 4, general election, candidates and their supporters will be allowed to use political lawn signs in Farmington Hills. Following more than an hour of intense debate Monday night, the Farmington Hills City Council authorized city attorney Paul Bibeau to develop an ordinance repealing

portions of the city's existing sign ordinance that have been interpreted as prohibiting political signs.

Council's action follows complaints from residents and legal threats from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) that contend the city's current prohibition on political signs is unconstitutional.

Yet the council's decision to remove the political sign prohibition

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Gathering evidence: It's no easy assignment



RICK SMITH/staff photographer

Evidence technician coordinator Sgt. Dennis Green (left) and Officer James Worthington, an evidence technician, with the tools of the evidence-gathering trade, stored in a specially equipped patrol car.

By Joanna Maliszowski
staff writer

Most criminals probably consider themselves pretty good at concealing their identities and activities.

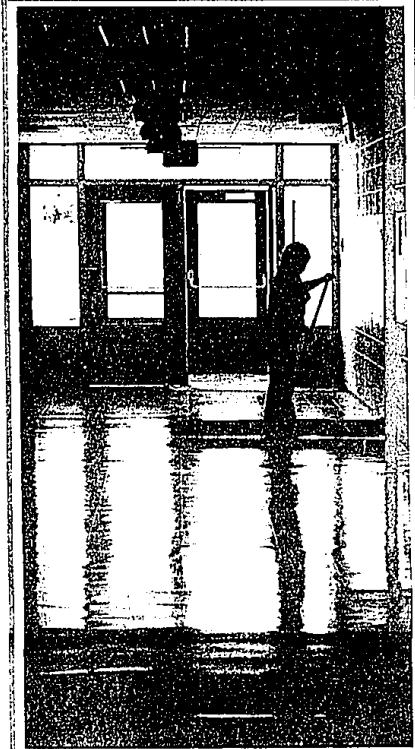
But even the most adept leave tell-tale signs of their identities and how they committed the crime.

Fingerprints, blood samples, tool impressions and shoe-and-tire prints are some of the tips criminals leave behind for police to use in crime solving.

With breaking and enterings and armed robberies on the increase in Farmington Hills in the past year, police officials established the evidence technician program.

Until creation of the new program in early July, detectives were responsible for collecting and processing evidence from crime scenes. That not only created additional work for detectives but often caused a delay in evidence collection and processing, Chief William Dwyer said.

Getting ready



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Clean sweep

Eagle Elementary School custodian Cheryl Klotz dusts freshly waxed floors in preparation for last week's opening of the new school semester. For the story and more pictures about what it takes to prepare buildings for a new school year, see Page 3A.

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Garver aim: pageant title

The Farmington area has a special interest in this year's Miss America contest.

Representing Michigan is North Farmington High School graduate Kelly Lynn Garver, 23, of Farmington Hills.

She's one of 51 contestants in the 65th annual Miss America Scholarship Pageant, taking place this week in Atlantic City, N.J.

The Michigan State University graduate is one of four red-haired

contestants. She'll play the violin in the talent portion of the contest Friday night.

In a proclamation awarded to Garver shortly before she left for Atlantic City, Gov. James Blanchard and state Rep. Sandy Brotherton of Farmington wrote: "She has proven herself... to be a remarkable young woman who possesses all the qualities, skills and perseverance needed to enjoy a brilliant future."

The pageant began Tuesday with a parade along the Atlantic City Boardwalk. Preliminary competitions began Wednesday. The nationally televised crowning will be Saturday night.

The newly crowned Miss America will receive a \$30,000 scholarship and income from a year of personal appearances.

NBC-TV will broadcast the pageant at 10 p.m. Saturday.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

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