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Farmington Observer

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46 Pages

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Farmington FOCUS

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

WEIGHTY reading. In less than two days, Bantam Books and the New York Times published the 550-page paperback reprint, "Tower Commission Report: The Full Text of the President's Special Review Board."

Venita Ciesla, owner of the Reading Express Station in Farmington Hills, has sold at least a dozen at \$5.50 a pop since March 5. "As long as it's in the news, people are going to be interested," she said.

Art Underwood, owner of the Little Professor of Farmington, has sold at least 10 copies since March 6. "Had I had copies the day it came out, March 2, I could have sold three or four times that amount," he said.

The book includes an introduction by R.W. Apple Jr., chief Washington correspondent for the New York Times. Initial press run was 400,000 copies.

The Tower report is critical of the Reagan administration's secret sales of arms to Iran and the subsequent diversion of profits to the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

PITCHING in.

Two Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce has four standing committees made up chiefly of board members but not exclusively so.

Membership works to recruit and maintain members and set a dues schedule. Programs develop and conduct membership programs throughout the year.

Legislative keeps watch on local, state and national business issues and relates chamber positions to appropriate government officials. Long-range Planning looks to the chamber's future with an eye on the present.

Call Jody Soronen, chamber executive director, to volunteer as a committee member; 474-3440.

HELPING hand.

Farmington Hills resident Craig Pillion, president of Livonia-based Reliable Computer Systems, presented Easter Seal Society with a telephone donation of \$50,000.

The donation enabled the Tri-County Easter Seal Telethon March 7-8 to raise \$1.18 million for disabled residents.

Portions of the donation were used to sponsor the last two hours of the telethon as well as the Easter Seal Traumatic Brain Injury Program.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: News line, 477-6450; sports line, 691-2312; home delivery, 691-0500; classified ads, 691-0900; display ads, 691-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — If driving over potholes makes your blood pressure rise, this may be a bad year for you — At least if you are driving on county roads. "This is the worst spring ever," said Dennis Fajol, Oakland County Road Commission spokesman.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Tickle your fancy

Smashing spring fashions will be previewed in "Spring Fancy," the Observer and Economic fashion supplement, which will be included in Thursday's edition. Here's a sam-

ple of what's in store: a pink and white flirty sequin dress with pink satin belt and matching three-quarter-length swing coat.

He works to protect victims' rights

By Chris Rizk
staff writer

Sitting behind his desk with the city of Detroit as a backdrop, the newly installed U.S. assistant prosecuting attorney looks like a man who has made it to the top in rapid order.

Al Wolf has, and in a nontraditional way.

"There really wasn't much I could do (about crime) as a journalist," said the former broadcast reporter. "But as a prosecutor, I could have an impact on people's lives."

HIS RISE to his present position has been marked by many adventures (a six-year stint as an Oakland County assistant prosecutor, among others). All convinced the 32-year-

old Farmington Hills resident his fate with the law was set.

But there was a time when state and federal laws were secondary to his initial interest in journalism.

A former reporter for stations WPON and WWJ, Wolf waded through a maze of news positions before discovering his passion lay in law.

He enrolled in night school law

classes at Wayne State University, meanwhile continuing his career in broadcasting.

"I WAS thinking, 'Wouldn't that be great? I could go to law school, get my degree and use it toward becoming a law correspondent,'" Wolf said. "My absolute goal, at the time, was to stay in journalism."

But he didn't like what was happening in the courtroom on his beat. Criminals, he said, were getting the better of their victims. And the law, instead of providing a backbone of support for those hurt, was more effective protecting the assailants.

"I used to sit in the courtroom and listen to the testimony," Wolf said. "I'd find myself breaking the tips of my pencils on my notebook."

Faced with the prospect of having

proved last year, including some that had been on a waiting list from the previous year. Approximately \$1,100 remains in last year's budget.

With an average loan of about \$5,000, the money remaining in the budget isn't enough to meet the needs of the four homeowners who have put their names on a waiting list for the new round of federal financing, Carter said.

IN THE past five years of the program, 153 homeowners have received help in improving their homes.

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Judicial wage hike bid spurs concern

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

IT'S big. That's the reaction of some Farmington Hills City Council members to news that the two 47th District Court judges are in line for an \$11,000 salary increase this year.

Council members aren't too sure judges Margaret Schaeffer and Michael Hand should be getting that kind of a pay raise.

That's especially true when other city employees received an average 4 percent salary increase in 1986-87, councilwoman Jan Dolan said.

"I think that's out of line. I really do," she added.

Dolan's comments prompted the council to postpone a decision for two weeks on authorizing salary in-

crease this year.

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people

little impact on the criminal justice system as a journalist — "I wrote a couple of documentaries, but I don't think they helped save anybody's life" — Wolf decided he was better suited for a life as a prosecuting attorney.

Not that he didn't make people take note of him as a journalist.

He won several awards from the Detroit Press Club and Associated Press, organizations that recognize excellence in the field of communi-

cation.

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RANDY DORIS/Traff/staff photographer

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