

Learning to achieve good relationships, 1B



Falcons tumble, 1D

Planning starts for memorial parade, 3A

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.

HIS now into his 28th year as a voice of the Detroit Tigers. Farmington Hills resident Ernie Harwell began a new season along with the Tigers April 6 in Detroit. A member of the Hall of Fame, Harwell has announced major league baseball games for about 40 years.

AMID the publicity surrounding teen rowdiness along Orchard Lake Road last winter, the fact that serious trouble has dramatically dropped off seems to have been overlooked by the news media.

"Stepped-up police patrols and strict law enforcement" continues, particularly with warmer weather arriving. "But what really seemed to get the problems under control was once some of the repeat offenders — ones with maybe three charges — faced the possibility of stiff penalties, including incarceration, we didn't have problems with them again," said Sgt. Charles Nebus, Farmington Hills Police Department Juvenile Section supervisor.

VETERANS statewide are coming to town. The American Legion state spring conference will be hosted by the Farmington Groves-Walker Post 346 the weekend of April 25-26. About 300 Legionnaires are expected to attend the forum, at the Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills.

LENDING a hand. Farmington Hills-based Century 21 of Michigan pledged \$150,000 in contributions to the 1987 Easter Seal fund-raising drive.

The contribution was part of the \$3 million pledged by the nationwide system of Century 21 offices, the largest Easter Seal contribution ever by a corporate sponsor.

ON stage. Martha Smith, a regular cast member of the TV spy-comedy series, "Scarecrow & Mrs. King," will co-star with Richard Kline of "Three's Company" in a play opening April 19 at Burt Reynolds Theatre in Jupiter, Fla., reports her proud mom, Ellen, of Farmington Hills.

This week, the 1970 North Farmington High School graduate is appearing on the TV game show, "100,000 Pyramid," with Dick Cavett.

HEY, motorists, watch for school kids. Farmington Public Schools students will begin spring break on Good Friday, April 17. Classes won't resume until Monday, April 27.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Observer: news line, 477-9450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington Hills' proposed extension of Northwestern Highway appears to be a dying leech in light of opposition from West Bloomfield Township officials.

Hills crime rate slows, arrests up

Chart compares reported police incidents over two decades: 6A.

By Joanne Maliszowski staff writer

Crime increased in Farmington Hills in 1986. But for the first time since the early 1980s, crime — especially serious offenses — increased at a much lower rate.

In 1986, criminal incidents and complaints totaled 28,943. That's a 2.7 percent increase over 1985 when the Farmington Hills Police Department responded to 28,197 complaints — a 13 percent increase

over 1984. "With a growing community, I'm very pleased," Chief William Dwyer said. "We had a small increase in crime with a greater increase in the number of people arrested."

Arrests in 1986 for all types of crime increased 20.7 percent to 2,639 from 2,187 the previous year. Because suspects are often arrested on multiple charges, police made

3,767 charges — 27.3 percent increase — compared to 2,959 in 1985, Dwyer said.

"I can't say what the conviction rate is because a lot of cases of 1986 are still waiting to come up," Dwyer said.

THE GREATEST contributor to the lower crime increase last year was the even lower increase in serious crimes — homicide, criminal sexual conduct, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson.

In 1986, serious crimes totaled

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Hills is ordered to pay damages

By Joanne Maliszowski staff writer

A Southfield man who claimed he was beaten and falsely arrested by Farmington Hills police in 1983 has been awarded more than \$400,000 in damages by a federal court jury.

The jury awarded Salwan Yaldoo \$414,000 — including \$100,000 in punitive damages — April 8 after a week-long trial before U.S. District Judge George Woods.

In his civil rights suit against the city of Farmington Hills, Yaldoo

charged police with false arrest and imprisonment and excessive use of force, said Birmingham attorney David Zacks, who, with attorney Robert Harrison, represented Yaldoo.

"We're certainly disappointed," said city manager William Costick, assistant city manager when the incident prompting the suit took place April 18, 1983.

Costick said city attorney Paul Bibeau and attorney Roger Craig, who represented the police department in

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28,943

'With a growing community, I'm very pleased. We had a small increase in crime with a greater increase in the number of people arrested.'

—William Dwyer police chief



Chief Dwyer

'Trying to catch a dream'



RANDY BORST/staff photographer
Young adult novelist Norma Fox Mazer School April 8 as part of National Library Week. Mazer has published 17 books.

Writer's world

Novelist shares her insight

By Casey Hans staff writer

LIFE IS a bottomless reservoir of story ideas for Norma Fox Mazer. "It's very much like trying to catch a dream," the author of young adult novels told a North Farmington High School class last week, describing her writing craft.

She reaches into the lives around her, always surfacing with new characters, storylines and problems facing today's young people. Her story topics can range from a pregnant teenage girl killing herself to a friend dying of cancer — an example she gave from her own life.

An author of 17 novels published in English and seven other languages, Mazer traveled from her

'The first draft is a very difficult time for me. You're trying to take something with no substance and give it substance.'

—Norma Fox Mazer author

central New York state home recently to talk to students at three Farmington high schools as part of National Library Week.

Her visit was sponsored locally by the Friends of the Farmington Community Library. Selected English students at Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington listened to Mazer's

suggestions about the writing life and stories of her success.

Getting started on writing the first draft is the toughest part, she said. "The first draft is a very difficult time for me. You're trying to take something with no substance and give it substance."

BUT EVEN before writing. Mazer needs something to spark her creativity. "Everything hinges on getting a good idea," she said. Mazer uses life experiences of herself, friends, family and even those she doesn't know personally, but comes to know through newspaper articles.

"The one thing is . . . the idea needs to be important," she added. The idea for her book "When We First Met" was apparently import-

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Mixed views:



RANDY BORST/staff photographer
Frank Kemmer and his wife, Lorraine, own and operate Videoland on Farmington Road in Farmington Hills.

Law would curtail video-tape rentals

Video bills stirring up storm in state House: 5A
By Casey Hans staff writer

There's mixed reaction in the Farmington area to state legislation that would stop local libraries from renting video tapes.

Such a law would force public libraries to treat the tapes as books, and lend them at no charge.

Two bills introduced six weeks ago by Sen. Doug Cruce, R-Troy, passed the Senate last week. They now move to the state House for consideration.

The bills have prompted controversy between video store owners, local public library officials and legislators, who disagree whether the libraries charging to loan out video tapes is ethical.

Cruce said it is not, because it allows government-subsidized library

systems to compete with business.

"The underlying question is, 'When is it appropriate for a government to use taxpayer money to compete with those who pay the taxes?'" he said. "The debate has to be at the local city council level or library board."

If a local community wants a video tape service, it should be paid for in the library's annual budget, he said.

FARMINGTON AREA video store managers and owners interviewed said many customers rent library tapes in addition to renting tapes through video clubs at their stores.

Some of the stores offer lower rates to video club customers than the \$2 fee charged by the Farmington Community Library.

"I haven't really thought about the library. There are so many others (competitors) to worry about," said Tony Totzke, manager of the Super Video store on Orchard Lake Road.

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It's time to check pet care

By Bob Sklar staff writer
As people and their pets spend more time outside as the weather warms up, the danger increases from the biggest killer of dogs — cars.
Keep dogs on a leash whenever possible to keep them out of harm's way, says Dr. Larry Gilckman of

the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.
For both dogs and cats, the new reflecting flea collars are a good way to help prevent them from being struck by vehicles, Gilckman said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.
Dr. John Richardson of Plaza Veterinary Hospital in Farmington says a better preventive tool than

reflectorized collars is keeping your pet at home or under your direct control.
"It's against the law in Farmington and Farmington Hills to let your dog run free," he said. "So in a fenced-in yard, a reflectorized collar is contrary to what the intent of the law is."
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