

1-day vacations add a little zest to life, 1D



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# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

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**SHE'S honored.** Dorothy McQueen of Farmington Hills has received the Mental Health Association in Michigan's 1987 Citizens Award.

The award honors people whose efforts encourage social action, reform and understanding on behalf of the mentally ill.

McQueen, a retired music teacher, is president of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Michigan, secretary of the State Alliance for the Mentally Ill, chair of the Citizen Advisory Council to the Clinton Valley Center (CVC), and past president of the Parents and Relatives Association of CVC.

"Her untiring advocacy efforts have contributed to numerous improvements in the care and treatment of the mentally ill — throughout Oakland County and the state of Michigan," reads a proclamation from the Mental Health Association, a United Way agency.

**HE'S a winner.** Joe Clayton and Jane Thomas of Farmington Hills are among six Detroit-area residents who'll appear on the syndicated television show, "Wheel of Fortune," in October.

They were among 800 who auditioned in Detroit last May during a nationwide contestant search. Clayton will appear tonight, Thomas Oct. 27 on the show, telecast on Channel 4.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — The former Council of Homeowners Association is back in business sporting a new name, revised bylaws and a new group of residents leading the way.

## Hills is pitching state for \$500,000

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills is joining forces with other communities with increasing populations that are faced with losing additional and anticipated state money. Up to a half million dollars is at stake for Farmington Hills.

"We feel compelled that since we acted in good faith we are entitled to receive those payments as communities did in the mid-1970s," Farmington Hills city manager William Costick said.

Farmington Hills is one of 39 com-

munities, including West Bloomfield Township, that initiated a mid-decade census earlier this year to document population gains made since the official 1980 head count.

After documenting a more than 17 percent increase in population Farmington Hills expected an increase in state shared revenues and liquor licenses. But the additional state shared revenues — distributed on a population basis — have been vetoed by Gov. James Blanchard in his effort to balance the state budget.

"We weren't totally alarmed when it was vetoed," Costick said. Farm-

ington Hills officials didn't expect to receive any additional state shared revenues this year because the city's population increase wasn't certified until after July 1 — the start of the new budget year.

THE BAD news is that city officials expected the supplemental state shared payments beginning July 1, 1988, and the prospect of receiving the money is looking dim. With its population gains, Farmington Hills is eligible to receive an additional \$450,000-\$500,000 in state shared revenues in the last three years of the decade. City officials

also expected to receive additional liquor licenses, also distributed by population. But they also are in limbo.

"The Department of Management and Budget has not included the supplemental payments in next year's (1988) budget and that is of concern to us," Costick said.

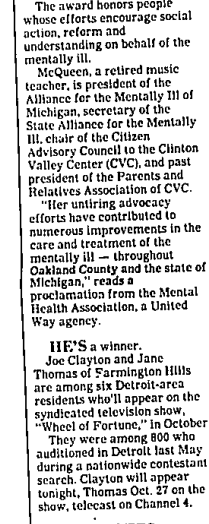
Costick and other community leaders formed a committee last week to meet with Blanchard and budget officials and "work something out," Costick said. West Bloomfield Township is one of the nearby communities represented on the committee.

Community leaders were shocked by the budget department's proposed plans and maintain that the state must, according to the mid-decade census statute, provide the increased payments to those communities "that are shouldering the state's growth," Costick said.

State budget officials, he said, are expecting a drop in state income tax revenues because of auto plant layoffs. And there are state statutes that say money can be distributed only if it's in the state budget. "It's subject to the annual budget process," Costick said.

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## Top firefighter



Farmington Hills firefighter of the year Wally Kurzeja stands outside of Fire Station Number 2 where he works.

## Kurzeja 'shocked' at honor

By Chris Rizk staff writer

It was enough that Wally Kurzeja helped save a baby's life. It was an honor, too, when the Farmington Observer carried the details of his lifesaving venture.

It was a shock, though, when Kurzeja heard his name announced as the Farmington Hills Firefighter of the Year during an awards ceremony Tuesday.

"I was in shock, a total state of shock," he said. "I had no idea that I was even nominated."

Kurzeja received the award for helping deliver a premature baby last March after discovering that

the umbilical cord was wrapped around the baby's neck.

Both mother, Carol Brazen, and baby, Christopher Michael, were in distress. Doctors at Botsford Hospital later described the situation as a medical emergency and attributed Kurzeja's efforts, along with firefighters Keith Lampner and Ron Battani, as crucial to saving the baby's life.

Fellow firefighters later nominated Kurzeja, without his knowledge, for the award.

"THERE I WAS, just sitting at the table with my wife and friends, when I heard the chief reading off a list of accomplishments of the

next winner," he said. "It all sounded familiar but it wasn't until he mentioned the baby did the pieces of the puzzle start to fall together, and I realized that it sounded a lot like me."

It was and Kurzeja tripped over a chair in front of him as he struggled to gain his composure and "walk to the podium."

Kurzeja, 30, said he usually is not at a loss for words. During his acceptance speech, however, all he could utter was "thank you" to a crowd of more than 100 fellow firefighters and their families who gave him a standing ovation.

"I was sitting there all night and had been picking names of winners

but when my name was announced, I couldn't believe it," he said.

Lt. Tom Shirloff wasn't surprised at Kurzeja's award. A former recipient of the award, Shirloff called the four-year firefighter "extremely committed to his work and a man who sticks to his guns."

"I know though," he said, "that it caught him way off guard."

Shirloff and Kurzeja admit that part of the reason awards seem so surprising to public service workers is that most feel a reluctance to accept honors for doing what they are dedicated to doing — saving lives.

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## Schedule sets par for course

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

A plan approved by the city council last week ensures timely completion of a nine-hole golf course in the proposed 191-acre Copper Creek residential development in Farmington Hills.

The plan ties the course's completion to the development of multiple units.

The Copper Creek development — between 12 and 13 Mile, and Haggerty and Halsted roads — will include 47 single-family lots, 147 single-family detached cluster units and 775 multiple units. Some of the single-family and multiple units will abut the golf course.

Considered to be one of the largest in the city, the development will include subdivisions of single-family homes, known as the Copperwood planned residential development. The council approved the Copperwood final plat last week. When construction will begin is not certain.

"They (developers) indicated they may be coming in for permits this fall," said Thomas Blasek, public services director for Farmington Hills.

"Because there are 57 acres of regular open space, almost all of the development could be built in accordance with our codes without ever constructing the golf course itself," Blasek said in a report to the council. The regular open space will fall under the city's new open space policy.

"THE CONCERN was, therefore, for a proposed schedule that would ensure the completion of the golf course in a timely fashion, since the property was qualified and marketed under the assumption that a golf course would be constructed," Blasek said.

The plan developed by city staff and the project's developers, Copperwood Creek Ltd. Partnership, requires that one year from the date a building permit for the first multiple is issued, the golf course must be cleared. Two years from that date, the golf course must be graded and seeded and by three years must be playable.

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## Handguns get blame for killings



"Seventy to 75 percent of the homicides are committed by people like us, the nice guys."  
— Dr. Emanuel Tanay

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Most people imagine a murderer is an evil person who looks, thinks and acts differently than the average person. But Mr. and Mrs. Nice Guy are doing most of the killing.

"Those bad guys are not responsible for the majority of the homicides," said Dr. Emanuel Tanay, a nationally known Detroit forensic psychiatrist and handgun control advocate. "Seventy to 75 percent of the homicides are committed by people like us, the nice guys."

It is the nice guy who legally buys a handgun to protect his family and property and who in a fit of rage uses a weapon against a spouse, child or friend — not the feared in-

truder in the middle of the night, Tanay said.

"The risks associated with having guns is really something we as a society should not tolerate," Tanay told about 50 members of the Presbyterian Women of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Thursday.

Because of another engagement, Tanay was unable to attend the planned discussion. But his speech, "The role of the gun in family violence," was videotaped for members.

Tanay is a supporter of the Washington, D.C.-based Handgun Control Inc., an organization that advocates stringent handgun registration requirements and stiff penalties for violators.

FOLLOWING TANAY'S talk, Claude Hughes documented Detroit's problem with violence and handguns. Hughes is an administrative assistant for the Rev. John Peoples, a Detroit city councilman.

Tanay and Hughes were asked to speak to the Presbyterian Women because "I felt an urge that we needed to help in some way," said member Fran "Nisale." "Just because this problem is not on our streets, we can't sit back and do nothing."

Both Hughes and Tanay maintained that handgun control is the only solution to reducing the number of shootings and murders in Detroit and the rest of the country.

"Of all western countries, this

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