

Travel holidays bring families closer, 1D



Business watch under way, 4A

Farmington Observer

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DID you know Farmington Hills has more miles of city-maintained roads than any other city in Oakland County?

"We're responsible for 280 miles of roads. That's more than Southfield or Troy is responsible for," city manager William Costick told a joint gathering of the Farmington Hills City Council and the Farmington Board of Education Dec. 8.

Where seven years ago it took two days to clear snow from city roads, it now takes 30 hours, Costick said proudly, pointing to more equipment and manpower as major reasons.

NEW look in works. The former Federal's Department Store on Grand River will receive a face lift, thanks to Center Holding Co., the building owner.

The Farmington City Council granted the company a variance Dec. 7 to place decorative awnings along the Grand River side of the building, pending approval by the state, which has authority over that right of way.

The awning spruce-up is part of the Downtown Development Authority's facade rejuvenation project.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington Hills' newly named fire chief, Peter Baldwin, is an eight-year veteran of the fire department. He had been a lieutenant since late 1984.

what's inside

Early Holiday Deadlines

To place your classified in-column "Liner" ad in our Thursday, Dec. 24 edition, please call before 5:00 today.

Oakland County 644-1070
Wayne County 591-0900
Rochester 852-3222

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Surprised Dems respond coolly to Hart

By Casey Hans and Tim Smith staff writers

Gary Hart's return last week to the presidential race is the punchline of a bad joke, say skeptical state and local Democrats.

When asked, area Democrats said they thought Hart's renewed bid would be unsuccessful because of a financial campaign drain, and be-

cause the American public won't forget Hart's ties with model Donna Rice.

Public opinion was split in polls conducted last week, however.

"I think it's ridiculous," said state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills. "It goes without saying that it just doesn't make much sense."

Farmington Democratic Club president Michael Breshgold called the Hart move an "ego trip."

"I don't know how far he's going to get," Breshgold said. "It will detract from the other Democratic candidates. It takes the focus off . . . issues and puts the focus more on his personal life."

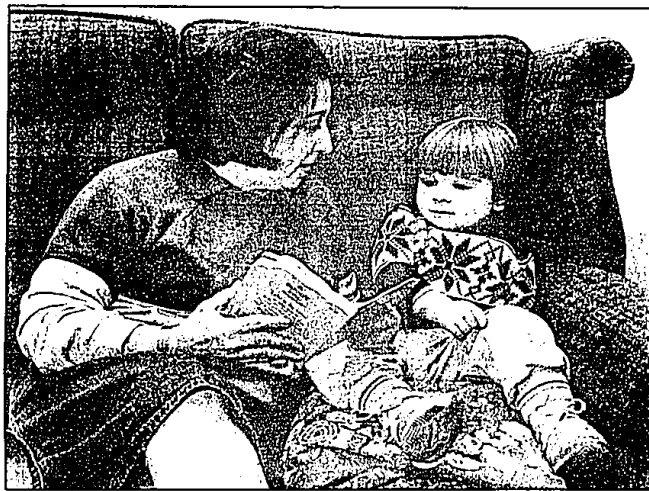
THE SOUTHFIELD Democratic Club chairman, Gerry Buccilli, said he was "shocked, surprised" to learn

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"He (Gary Hart) is shortchanging the American memory in his thinking he can bounce right back a few months later."

— Jack Faxon, state senator



Jan Sprout of Redford Township quit her job to remain home with her son Jake. Her husband, Steve, also stayed home for a while to care for the boy. For more on the Sprout's decision, turn to Page 3A.

Professionals differ on their day care views

By Casey Hans staff writer

The jury is still out in determining how day care influences children, but professionals and a multitude of national studies are already addressing the issue.

The results are mixed. Some are proponents of day care, others call it detrimental. Several stress the importance of "quality time" with parents, the measure of how good a day care center is, and how much time families spend together.

Most say they won't be able to predict the effect of day care until the youngsters are grown.

And most recognize the need for day care in today's society, regardless of personal feelings.

"I can speak from my heart and as a professional," said family psychologist and parent Keith Levick, who has practiced in Farmington Hills



for the past 12 years. "I don't see it (day care) as real positive."

"When a child is shipped out to day care at an early age, they're not getting the necessary ingredients. I think that the child loses out. Children are not getting the one-on-one — a chance to develop the cohesive structure."

Levick said day care children tend to be moody, less tolerant of separation from their parents and have more anxieties.

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Hills artist internationally acclaimed

people

By Loraine McClish staff writer

Regina Engelhardt spent a week in Hollywood during the city's 100th anniversary celebration and came

home with two gold medals and one silver medal won in the International Art Challenge.

The Farmington Artists Club member captured one of the gold medals for "most accomplished artist in more than one category" in a field of 160 invited artists from throughout the world.

The other gold medal and the silver medal were won for pencil drawings, both of Detroit's Greek Town, in the ethnic category of the art challenge.

Winners were invited to extend their stay during Hollywood's American Dream Festival — while beauty pageants, music, dance and drama competitions were being staged — to paint a gift for the city of Los Angeles.

The subject for the gift was "World of Peace." Each artist contributed a 1-foot square painting of his or her own concept, which will be made into a mural for the Los Angeles Art Museum.

Engelhardt's square was centered with two joined hands surrounded by rays of color which represented the colors of the earth. She called it "Beams of Love."

The winners' stays were also extended to be part of a two hour television special that is expected to be syndicated throughout the world.

THE FIRST PERSON to learn of her good news was Sister Mary Ignatius.

"She was my first — really my only teacher," Engelhardt said of the Sister of Mercy who teaches art in her studios at Mercy Center. "I came to her about seven years ago as a beginner to take the basics, pencil work and tempera. I did some live-model sketching at the Scarb Club and went to quite an intensive por-

trait seminar but Sister Ignatius is my teacher. She was the one who stretched me into that 'most accomplished' in all categories and subjects," she said.

Engelhardt said she had always wanted to do something in the fine art field but never had the time to devote to art until 1980.

Before 1982 was gone Engelhardt had 70 pieces of art ready for her first one-woman show that included oils, pencils, watercolor, tempera, pastels and acrylics. Since then she has stretched to portraits and sculpture.

Engelhardt was born in Poland, raised in a German labor camp, and came to the U.S. 37 years ago. Because of the mix of nationalities in the labor camp she said she could

speak six languages by the time she was in the fourth grade. She still carries a lineage of an undefinable European accent.

Her career here, and through much of her young married life, was in mechanical drawing.

Since her first lesson with Sister Ignatius, Engelhardt said she's been "painting day and night — mostly night when things are quiet and I can think."

WORKING DAY and night is defined by the artist as being "my own saleswoman, promoter, agent, publicist, as well as constantly turning out new originals," she said.

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Hills attorney is found murdered

By Dave Verge and Tim Smith staff writers

Police suspect robbery was the motive in the killing of Phillip H. Embury last week in a Ferndale motel.

Embury, 55, had been an attorney with Federal Mogul of Southfield for 27 years. He lived in Farmington Hills.

Ferndale police Chief Patrick Sullivan said Embury was asphyxiated, possibly by being smothered with a pillow at a room in the Eight-Wood Motel. The body was discovered just after 1 a.m. Wednesday.

Overturned furniture in the room indicated there was a struggle before the murder, Sullivan said. Embury's car was stolen along with his keys, money and watch. The car was

seen leaving the parking lot of the motel about 40 minutes earlier, he added.

As of Friday, Sullivan said police had a suspect, but no warrants had been issued.

Meanwhile, Detroit's Paris Thomas, 20, was arraigned Wednesday in Providence Hospital on charges of receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100 in value, and fleeing from an officer, Southfield public information officer Gary Conal said Thursday. Police said Thomas was driving Embury's car when police pursued him in a high-speed chase.

A Southfield police officer shot Thomas early Wednesday morning after the chase.

Thomas was arraigned in a guard-

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Regina Engelhardt's pencil drawing, commissioned by a restaurateur in Detroit's Greek Town, won the gold medal in the International Art Challenge, one of the festivities during Hollywood's 100th anniversary celebration.