

Gardeners host
a flower show, 1B



Falcons top
North, 1D

See building scene,
bridal sections inside

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To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-5722.

START thinking. Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, which include northwest Farmington Hills, needs help coming up with a name for the elementary school being built at Halsted and Pontiac Trail. Send suggestions to: Walled Lake Board of Education secretary, 595 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake 48098. Oh, and remember: School officials want a name suggestive of the location. Suggestions that the building be named after a living person won't be considered. Postmark suggestions by Sept. 30.

DID you know 81 percent of the more than 600 Farmington Public Schools graduating seniors surveyed last spring will attend college this fall? The survey also showed that 3.5 percent will pursue other post-graduate training, 8 percent will work full-time, 2 percent will serve in the military, 5 percent will become full-time homemakers and 5 percent were undecided.

Rezoning for senior housing approved

By Susan Duck
staff writer

Mercy Services for the Aging plans to develop elderly housing designed to provide four multi-tiered service levels, at the Sisters of Mercy complex in Farmington Hills.

The still-unnamed development will be on 129 acres northeast of 11 Mile and Middlebelt, just east of Mercy High School and Mercy Center.

At a public hearing Monday, the city council voted 9-1 to approve a request from the Sisters of Mercy-Providence of Detroit to rezone the acreage from single-family residential (RA-2) to special purpose district (SP-5).

Councilwoman Jean Fox voted no. The planning commission earlier recommended approval. A land use plan and impact assessment must now be submitted to the planning commission.

The proposal calls for a continuing care center of 170 one-story condominiums, 120 congregate apartments, 40 assisted-living housing and a 40-60 bed skilled nursing home. Within 300 feet of property lines, buildings will be 1-2 stories. Central buildings will be 2-3 stories.

SUCH CENTERS allow senior citizens to remain in a single community during periods of independence as well as periods of frailty.

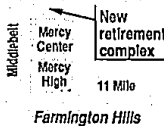
"This project has a deep interest for the Sisters of Mercy," said Gerald Bruen, executive vice-president, Mercy Services for the Aging.

The center will be unique to Farmington Hills because there is no other program offering several levels of care on one campus, Bruen said.

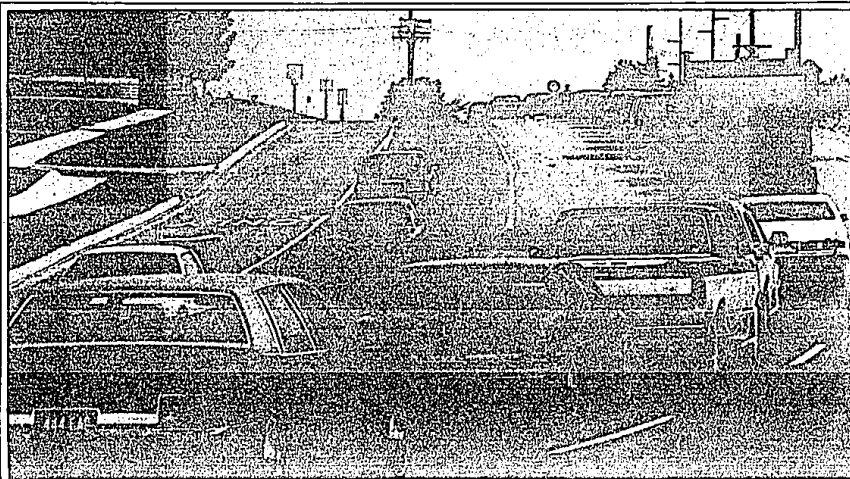
The project, expected to break ground by late summer 1990, will be

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Retirement housing



Farmington Hills



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Temporary delays due to construction are common for motorists who drive on Haggerty Road. This tleup was in front of

First Church of the Nazarene, which is making improvements to its parking lot and driveway just north of Eight Mile.

A quick drive up Haggerty

But for commuters, the road is among the slowest

Part 2 of the Observer & Eccentric's series on Oakland County traffic continues to examine our clogged roads.

By Susan Duck
staff writer

I'm going to be up front about this.

I seldom drive on Haggerty Road, so I don't profess to be an expert on what you folks put up with on a daily basis.

I've seen photos of the worst-case scenario, when cars queue up in a grid-locked caravan, and I

Related stories, 12A, 13A
Related opinion, 14A

have always been thankful that my Chevy Celebrity wasn't pictured among them.

I also have to be honest and tell you that I did not encounter any untimely traffic jams when I ventured out onto the two-lane county primary road that often controls people's lives.

Maybe summer school closings and vacations were responsible for the cut in traffic.

I can sense you shaking your

trapped in
TRAFFIC

fists at me now.

Let me tell you what I experienced.

Randy Borst, a 10-year Farmington Observer staff photographer, and I left our office in downtown Farmington about 4:30 p.m. on a weekday in August and headed south down Farmington Road to Eight Mile, where we went west to

hook up with Haggerty.

DRIVING THE 35 mph speed limit on Haggerty — unlike many cases, which whizzed past me going north — it took exactly one minute and 21 seconds to drive from Eight Mile to Nine Mile. From Eight Mile to 10 Mile, I logged three minutes and eight seconds. Borst timed our trip on his watch, which has a chronograph feature.

Southbound Haggerty traffic appeared to be in worse shape.

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Schools approve pay raises

By Casey Hans
staff writer

All employees of the Farmington Public Schools, including the acting school superintendent, will receive 6.5 percent pay raises this year, raises that represent some \$2.6 million to the district.

Approval of the increases came during a special school board meeting Tuesday.

The increase takes acting superintendent Michael Flanagan's salary to \$93,720 immediately, and to \$99,812 for the 1990-91 fiscal year.

Two-year collective bargaining agreements were ratified for:

- The Farmington Education Association/MEA, representing 740 teachers.

- The Farmington Education Support Personnel/MEA representing 300 secretaries and paraprofessionals.

- The Farmington Custodial, Maintenance, Cafeteria Personnel/MEA with 215 members.

- The Farmington Association of School Administrators, a local bargaining unit representing 45 school principals and several other key administrators.

Thirty-two non-represented employees, including assistant superintendents, supervisors, executive secretaries and personnel department employees, also received the 6.5 percent increase. Included in this group are substitute teachers and temporary employees.

THIS IS the first time in the district that wage increases for all union and non-union employees have been handled at the same time of the year. In one meeting, a wage reopener for bus drivers was settled in June, tying any wage increase into what was negotiated for teachers.

"It is a first, and no one could be happier than the 1,300 employees," said Zan Alley, chief negotiator for the Michigan Education Association affiliate unions. "This was genuinely a contract that everyone wins on. The membership is... thrilled about having contracts."

The teachers' contract expired Aug. 25, while the three MEA contracts expired June 30 and were extended to accommodate the bargaining process. The Farmington Transportation Association/MEA contract expires next June.

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Quote of the week

I don't see as much humor as others do. I think we look like buffoons.

— Paul Sowerby, when it appeared Monday that some fellow Farmington Hills City Council members were treating his suggestion for a parliamentarian, to enforce Robert's Rules of Order, too lightly. Story: 2A.

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Reminders

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.



William Dwyer
police chief

Dwyer urges crackdown on the casual drug user

Related opinion, 14A

By Susan Duck
staff writer

If you do drugs, you should do time. That's Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer's view on drug-related crimes since returning from

a Police Foundation conference on drugs and violence last week in Washington.

The information that Dwyer gleaned from that conference convinced him to pack more power to the punch, immediately, to people caught doing drugs in Farmington Hills.

He's calling it drug-user account-

bility. "Seventy percent of persons who use drugs are more of the casual-type users," Dwyer said. "We have to get the attention of the addicts themselves."

This means zero-tolerance programs for people who are even occasional users.

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Hills ethics code plan rapped; hearing delayed

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A Farmington Hills City Council candidate said this week a proposed municipal code of ethics is "stained" because it was formulated by four city officials — three of them elected. "On that basis, I must state that I feel this document is stained," said Al Rosen. "It buttresses my original contention that you haven't had any input from the community. No one from the community has participated in this."

Rosen said "a person who hasn't had any affiliation with the council" should have been among the framers of the proposal.

"Officially, you are all representatives of the council," he said to the four co-authors.

He said he wasn't "complaining about the worthiness of this document." On first reading, he said, it seemed to be "very well done."

Mayor Terry Fever, councilmen Aldo Vagnoni and Philip Arnold and city manager William Costick wrote the proposed code, now scheduled for consideration at a public hearing

at the top of the agenda next Monday, Sept. 25.

The hearing was on the agenda this past Monday but was postponed because the agenda item came so late in the evening. City attorney Paul Ribbeau also assisted in preparing the document.

SEVER DEPENDENT formulation of the proposal, saying the council would seek public comment at the upcoming hearing.

"Rather than extending the committee, we felt we'd come forward with a recommenda-

tion, have a public hearing, get public input and give everyone in the community a chance to speak."

Copies of the draft are available at the city clerk's office at city hall at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

The proposal was formulated after it has revealed former mayor and current city councilman Ben Marks paid a Hills sewer hook-up fee late, using a check that bounced.

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