

It's a 'Broad-way' of performing, 1D



Marlins vie for title, 1C

Crumbling of Berlin wall stirs local joy, 7A

Farmington Observer

Volume 101 Number 14

Monday, November 20, 1989

Farmington, Michigan

64 Pages

Fifty Cents

© 1989 Farmington Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

farmington FOCUS

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, 477-5772.

TIME to dedicate. The new downtown Farmington gazebo built with \$40,000 in donations will be dedicated at 2 p.m. Wednesday. Musical entertainment and refreshments will mark the occasion.

The gazebo and accompanying seating area (called a pergola) is on the north side of Grand River, next to the Village Commons shopping center.

BE a Goodfellow. Look for members of the Farmington Area Goodfellows selling newspapers Friday to help raise money for holiday baskets, clothing and toys for eligible needy families. Newspapers will be hawked at major corners throughout the day.

Memory lane

50 years ago:

• Farmington Township will offer the town hall to the city of Farmington at a price of \$30,000. The city has a 6-month purchase option. If it decides not to buy, the Masonic Temple will hold a 3-month purchase option.
• Fred L. Cook & Co. in downtown Farmington is selling new cotton or wool blankets for "cold weather bargain prices" of 79 cents to \$9.95.
— Farmington Enterprise, Nov. 23, 1939

This week

NEWLY elected members of the Farmington City Council will begin their new terms tonight. City clerk Jo Bushey will wear in Shirley Richardson, Richard Tupper and JoAnne McShane.

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 5B
- Building Scene . . . Sec. F
- Cinematheque . . . Sec. C, E, F
- Index 8E
- Auto Sec. C, F
- Road state Sec. E
- Employment Sec. E, F
- Creative living Sec. F
- Crossword puzzle 3E
- Entertainment 5D
- On the agenda 6B
- Police/tiro calls 4A
- Sports Sec. C
- Street Scene Sec. C
- Tasto Sec. B

Would stay as mayor — Sever

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever wouldn't turn down a second year as mayor even if it breaks a 16-year city council tradition allowing mayor pro tem Jean Fox to become mayor in 1990.

"I am not going to ask someone to nominate me. I am going to let the council know I am interested in serving again," Sever said. "If members of the city council elected me, I would accept it." The city council will reorganize itself at 7:30 tonight with the annual election of mayor and mayor pro tem.

THE MAYOR'S tenure shouldn't be limited by tradition or precedent in the mayor's election, Sever said.

Hills council names new chief tonight

He also would like to see a change in the mayor's role, from ceremonial, as specified in the city charter, to more of political leadership.

"I would like an opportunity to finish many things initiated this year," Sever said, such as negotiations for acreage devoted to youth sports.

A new mayor will bring a different focus to the council and city, he said.

Traditionally, the positions of mayor and mayor pro tem are annually rotated among council members, with both officers serving only one

year. With a couple of exceptions in the past, the mayor pro tem has followed as mayor.

SOME COUNCIL members and council watchers are expecting a battle tonight if the council divides itself over the annual election. Even Sever believes he will meet with some resistance and may be considered selfish for wanting another year as mayor.

"I think that I have an opportunity but I think there are some very big concerns among council members," he said.

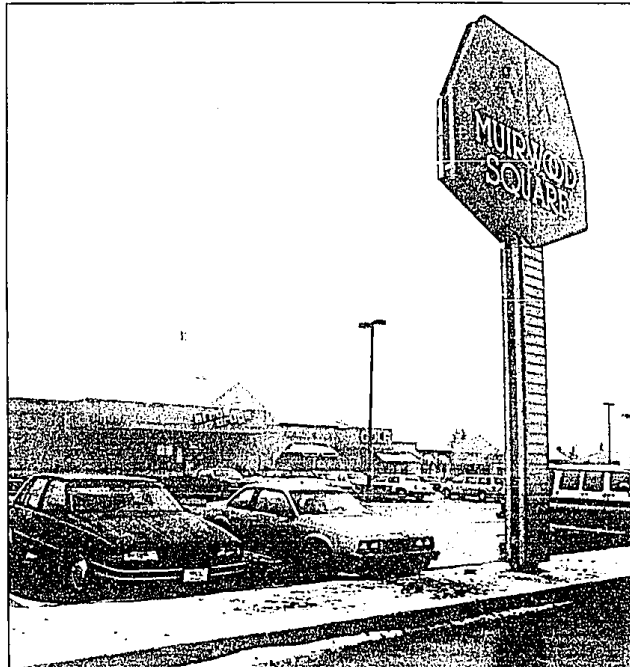
Fox is hoping for a quiet and cooperative reorganization.

"I hope there won't be any confrontation over this," said Fox, who preferred not to comment further.

Please turn to Page 6



Terry Sever Hills mayor



RAINDY DORST/staff photographer

Muirwood Square is on the northwest corner of Grand River and Drake on the Farmington Hills-Farmington border.

Hills planners — yes to Muirwood rezoning request

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Despite opposition from downtown Farmington activists, Farmington Hills planning commissioners Thursday reversed an earlier decision and recommended rezoning acreage to double the size of the failing Muirwood Square shopping center.

"Our intent is to fix the problem, not walk away from it," said Bob Meehan, an officer of Farmington Hills-based Beztak Building Co. Estimates earlier this year pegged the expansion at \$10 million.

Planning commissioners supported the rezoning request Thursday after Beztak officials proposed traffic improvements to accommodate existing and expected increases in traffic congestion resulting from the expansion.

But Farmington residents and downtown Farmington activists believe that fixing Muirwood's problems with an expanded center and another supermarket — the Shopping Center Market — will cause spinoff problems for the downtown shopping area. Shopping Center also has stores in West Bloomfield and Southfield.

Muirwood, on the northwest corner of Drake and Grand River, borders the city of Farmington and is one mile from the downtown crossroads of Farmington Road and Grand River.

"A sizable supermarket will have an impact on the (downtown) A&P."

'Our intent is to fix the problem, not walk away from it.'

— Bob Meehan, Beztak officer

Senior citizens walk to the A&P. It's not a question of the A&P closing. It's a question of a big store with a long-term lease closing. I'm sure a lot of businesses in the downtown enjoy spinoff from A&P," said Wendy Strip Sittsamer, Farmington Downtown Development Authority executive director.

BEZTAK BUILDING Co. wants to expand Muirwood Square to 105,000 square feet, about twice its current size. The existing 30,000-square-foot building on the 9-year-old center's western edge would be demolished to make way for expansion.

Beztak's request is to rezone six of 12 acres immediately west of the existing center from multiple-family residential and parking to community business. Remaining acreage would remain wooded open space and perhaps used in the future as a recreation area for adjacent Muirwood Apartments, Beztak officials said.

Please turn to Page 6

Hills teams up against underage drinking

Tougher state penalties eyed, 3A
Operation/Cooperation partners, 3A

By Noreen Flack staff writer

Farmington Hills liquor licensees joined the police and the mayor Wednesday in Operation/Cooperation, a joint venture to step up the fight against underage drinking.

"The only way we are going to accomplish the goal in eliminating the sale of alcohol to

minors is through a cooperative effort," Mayor Terry Sever said. "We all need to believe that it is a problem we should be concerned about in order to do something cooperatively."

Of 83 liquor licensees in Farmington Hills, 34 attended the joint evening meeting in the city hall. Both Sever and police Chief William Dwyer, who served as hosts, were disappointed that only a third of the licensees turned out.

"The community and the police department are sending us a message," said Paul Senilli, owner of Mr. Sports On a Klondike bar, Orchard Lake Road and 14 Mile. "We better get smart. We better be certified. We better stop

the problem before it comes into our door."

Operation/Cooperation — involving licensees, the police, the city and the schools — is part of a series of liquor enforcement operations overseen by the police.

AS PART of Operation/Cooperation, stickers identifying participating licensees will be posted throughout businesses. One sticker reads: "Don't sell alcohol to minors — If in doubt, check it out."

A second sticker, to be posted on cash registers, lists fines for minors (under 21) and licensees who violate the law.

Another police operation involves stings, in which a police cadet younger than 20 serves as a decoy and enters a licensed establishment to buy alcohol. The cadet, in ordinary clothes, is accompanied outside by a sworn police officer.

"Every sale of alcoholic beverage has to be checked, period," said Al Slonim, manager at Great Scott, 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

"Until we get that into our heads and until we start doing that as a regular religious habit that comes with every single sale, we're not going to solve the problem," he said Wednesday night.

Please turn to Page 3

Dec. 14 pretrial hearing is set in drowning case

By Darrell Clem staff writer

A pretrial hearing for Anthony Bonelli, accused in the drowning death of his 17-year-old girlfriend, has been scheduled for Dec. 14.

The hearing before Oakland Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert was set after attorneys were told that a state forensic report on Bonelli should be completed within two weeks.

The scheduling of the pretrial hearing marked the first development in the case in months. Yet assistant prosecutor Fred Mil-

ler said he doubts that the forensic report, expected to say whether Bonelli is competent for trial, will be finished prior to the hearing.

"I'm just a little skeptical because so much has happened in this case," Miller said.

MOST RECENTLY, a hearing for Bonelli was postponed Oct. 5 after defense attorney Howard Wittenberg received permission to have the case continued. Wittenberg asked for a delay after he learned the state forensic report had not been completed.

"We'd like to think that something will be prepared by the pretrial date," Miller said.

Wittenberg has said he hopes to use the forensic report to prove Bonelli was insane at the time of Kristina Marie Fracchia's death.

Bonelli was charged with open murder after Fracchia's body was found face down in shallow waters in Orchard Lake by Oakland County Drain Commission workers on March 17.

Miller said if attorneys on both

Please turn to Page 3

New fire station OK'd for southwest Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Residents in southwest Farmington Hills will see improved emergency response with construction of a new fire station more centrally located in their part of the city.

At a controversial \$1 million price tag, the new 7,000-square-foot station — south of Nine Mile, west of Drake, across from Castlemeadow — will replace the smaller, existing fire station on Research Drive in the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park.

"The price of a \$1 million fire

station is going to be a bit difficult out there in the community," councilwoman Jean Fox said.

"Appalled" by the cost, Fox said she's concerned because voters gave a clear message Nov. 7 with their defeat of two state school finance proposals and two local library funding requests.

"They're going to say, 'Didn't you get our message?'" said Fox, who supports construction.

The new station will be more in the center of the fire district, making it easier to reach all areas. The

Please turn to Page 2

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.