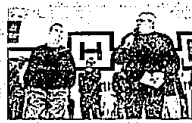


Street Scene picks
its Band of Year, 1D



No. 44
retired, 1C

Firefighters test
ice rescue skills, 3A

Farmington Observer

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THORNY encounter. Outgoing Mayor Terry Sever gave a dozen roses to new Mayor Jean Fox at last Monday's Farmington Hills City Council meeting — a tradition, he said, whenever a councilwoman becomes mayor. When Mayor Pro Tem Aldo Vagozzi jested that he received nothing, Fox jested that sexual equality hasn't yet reached the council chambers. "You get the thorns," Sever quipped to Vagozzi, the top vote-getter in the last city council election.

NEW digs. The Metropolitan Bank of Farmington plans to demolish its downtown Farmington branch on Grand River and build a new bank on the site. A temporary bank will be set up there during construction, scheduled to begin this year.

Memory lane

50 years ago:

- In a letter this week, the Kiwanis Club of Farmington, led by Joseph Himmelspach, urged the city of Farmington to buy the building now occupied by the People's State Bank and use it as a city hall.
- Remodeling the future quarters of Farmington's new movie theater, in the former A & P food store on Grand River, started this week.

— Farmington Enterprise, Jan. 18, 1940

This week

FARMINGTON Hills City Council will hold an informal goals and study session 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday in the city manager's conference room in the city hall.



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Katie Houlihan and her daughter Alicia Renee van Eeare at home now and doing fine. Community Emergency Medical Services and Farmington Hills Fire personnel helped deliver the infant late Monday afternoon.

Calling 9-1-1!

Medics deliver baby in Hills home

Two paramedics delivered a healthy baby girl late Monday afternoon, Jan. 8, in the Farmington Hills home of her parents. The Novi-based Community Emergency Medical Service team of Belinda Timoff and Scott Mason delivered Alicia Renee van Ee, who weighed in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces.

Lt. Tom Shurtleff of the Farmington Hills Fire Department served as coach in the natural delivery, using Lamaze techniques during the birthing process.

Alicia, daughter of Kathleen Houlihan

and Richard van Ee, arrived three weeks early. She and her mother were taken to St. Mary Hospital, Livonia. "We were just caught unaware," her mother said.

The infant has one sister, Andrea, who three years ago arrived 10 minutes after her mother got to the hospital.

"You do whatever it is you have to do," Shurtleff said, who trains Farmington Hills fire personnel in all levels of emergency medical service.

Please turn to Page 4

School kids learn King's message

"Many people fear nothing more terribly than to take a position which stands out sharply and clearly from the prevailing opinion. The tendency of most is to adopt a view that is so ambiguous that it will include everything, and so popular that it will include everybody."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

As others celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday throughout the country today, Lori Olson is teaching her students at Beechview Elementary not only about the slain civil rights leader, but also about the history of oppression in the world and this country.

"It's a whole, extensive, ongoing thing," she said. "The racism, that hatred toward the Jews in World War II, we see demonstrated against blacks today."

She has integrated information about World War II and the Holocaust, the Civil War and slavery and current problems in America into a history unit in her social studies class. She takes students from a global perspective, to a national perspective, then tries to personalize it for them.

As a special tribute to King, her students will read the famous "I Have a Dream" speech as part of a choral speaking activity.

A similar impact is being felt at Kenbrook Elementary, where principal Carolyn Pisek said today is being extended into a study of black history. "It's extended more into a study of black history," she said. "It runs the gamut from music to filmstrips . . . to creative writing."

MOST OF the elementary schools in Farmington are making an effort to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day whether it be in individual classrooms or an all-school project.

"We treat Martin Luther King the way we treat any great man," explained Al Lanigan, principal at Larkshire Elementary. There, fourth grade teacher Albert Johnson is having a special discussion in his class today. Students went home over the weekend to talk about King with their parents. They're bringing those experiences with their parents back into the classroom for discussion.

At Eagle Elementary, a six-minute play about the childhood of King is being presented by a third grade class. The performance will be broadcast over the public address system for the entire school.

Please turn to Page 4

Interim judge seeks election to bench

By Joanna Malczewski
staff writer

Seven months on the job and Judge Fred Harris of the 47th District Court in Farmington is so sure he wants to stay on the job, he's already filed for the Nov. 6 general election.

"I'm serious about it. I was urged to file early by supporters," said Harris, who took the bench June 1, a month after veteran Judge Michael Hand retired. Harris filed for the election Jan. 8.

Harris, a Democrat, was appointed by Gov. James Blanchard in April to replace Hand, who retired 1½ years before his fourth six-year term expired. As interim district judge, Harris must seek election to keep his job.

"Though Harris believes he will have at least one challenger, if not more, his campaign literature already boasts wide bipartisan support in the legal community. The judicial is non-partisan but, in reality, supporters generally line up behind candidates of their party."



Fred Harris
district judge

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- Taste . . . Sec. B

Quick, Easy
Winner Dinner Recipes
Every Monday
Inside TASTE!



Longtime Hills residents recall the good old days



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Virchow (left) and Ettie Ridings have been married for 50 years. They're longtime residents of Farmington Hills, where they own and operate Ridings Lawn Mower Service.

people

By Debbie L. Sklar
special writer

Some people can remember when the sprawling suburb of Farmington Hills was nothing more than cornfields and dirt roads — a time when there was no Big Boy restaurant or Burger King drive-thru.

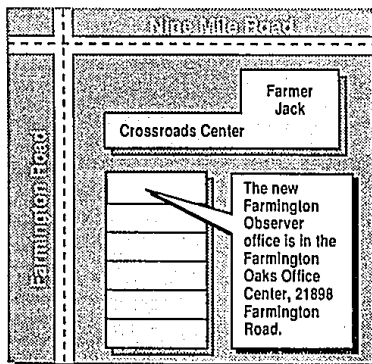
"When we first moved in here, Grand River was nothing more than dust," said Virchow Ridings, 75, long-time resident and owner of Ridings Lawn Mower Service. "Those were the good old days."

Virchow and his wife, Ettie, 76, have lived in Farmington Hills, then Farmington Township, since 1939 — a time they remember as when Americans could buy a 2-door Chevrolet sedan for \$700, two T-Bone steaks for 89 cents, get a 3-dip ice cream cone for a nickel and fill up the gas tank for as little as seven cents a gallon.

And like the good times of yesterday, the couple, married for 50 years, still live in the same house they uprooted from Huntington Woods back in the early '30s.

Please turn to Page 5

The Observer has moved



Paper gets new home

We've moved! To facilitate our news operations, the Farmington Observer staff has moved a half mile south from our old location in the Metro-Bank building on Grand River in downtown Farmington.

Our new location is at 21898 Farmington Road, in the Farmington Oaks office building — on the east side of Farmington Road, just

south of the Farmington Crossroads shopping center in the city of Farmington.

Our office hours are new to better accommodate our readers. They are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Our telephone number remains the same, 477-5450.

Bob Sklar, editor