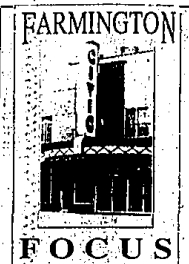




Farmington Observer

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FOCUS

IT'S FEBRUARY and winter's still very much with us, but the folks in the Uptown Farmington Business Association are thinking July — and the 1991 Founders' Festival.

The Festival dates are July 11-13 with the parade set for Saturday, July 13. "That will be our big day in the Uptown Farmington Plaza," according to the association's newsletter.

Some Uptown activities held in conjunction with the Festival are: an antique auto show with 150 cars, a moonwalk, puppet show, games, live band, dunk tank and performances on stage.

In addition to Festival activities, the Uptown Business Association also will sponsor a Springtime Stroll in May and a Kids' Carnival in the fall.

Chuck DuQuet, of DuQuet Jewelers is the association's president replacing Joan Nusly of Framery One Inc.

OKLAHOMA County Judges — including Fred L. Harris and Margaret G. Schaeffer of the 47th District Court in Farmington — are cooperating with the county Department of Health's Office of Substance Abuse in educating the public about the dangers of drugs.

Large "take-one" racks will be displayed in the lobbies of 10 district courts, including the Farmington Courthouse on 10 Mile Road just east of Farmington Road, with free pamphlets on drug abuse.

"The district courts are known as the courts which are closest to the people," said Judge Stephen C. Cooper of the 46th District Court in Southfield.

"Hundreds of thousands of citizens visit our local courts for traffic matters, small claims cases and many more serious matters," Cooper said. "These local racks will give us yet another mechanism for communicating with the public."

The pamphlets include information on: What you can do to prevent drug abuse, drinking and driving, anabolic steroids, narcotics, inhalants, hallucinogens, stimulants, the extent of substance abuse, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, mixing alcohol and drugs, facts about teenage drunk driving, cocaine and crack and drug analogs.

For more information, call Ellen Thomerson of the Office of Substance Abuse at 858-0008.

MEMORY LANE — From the Feb. 15, 1991 Farmington Enterprise:

Around The Block Item on the front page: "Have you noticed what winter has done to Grand River through the center of town? If you haven't, you have a lot more air under that family buggy than we have. It's rough, to put it mildly. We have near heart failure every once in a while when a big semi rolls through the main intersection of town. We get the idea that it is rolling all right, but not on 18 wheels."

Plans were complete for the second-annual Mid-Winter Festival to be held at the American Legion Memorial Home. More than 20 Farmington-area merchants contracted for booth space at the event, co-sponsored by the Farmington Merchants and the Groves-Walker American Legion post.

Glen Goers, Farmington Township treasurer, announced in an advertisement that he would be at the township offices weekdays and Saturday mornings "for the purposes of collecting township taxes."

Budget cuts scare day-care providers

By Casey Hans, staff writer

Farmington-area child-care providers say they plan to maintain high standards, but are concerned state budget cuts will allow anyone to hang out a shingle and go into the day-care business.

One called the state's action "the most heinous of crimes — the crime of deserting our children."

"It's a very scary situation," said Elayne

Chatlin, co-owner of A Child's Garden day-care center in downtown Farmington. "How will they (parents) have any peace of mind? It leaves everything pretty wide open."

The budget cut falls tomorrow on some 8,000 state employees, including the 79 who monitor licensing and regulation for day-care facilities. The cuts come from a 9.2-percent across-the-board budget reduction approved by the Legislature and signed into law last December by then Gov. James Blanchard.

How those cuts are implemented has been

left up to department heads newly appointed by Gov. John Engler.

UNDER CURRENT law, the state requires background and criminal checks on adult employees, stipulates that staff members have CPR and first-aid training, and monitors safety and child nutrition regulations, among other things.

Although the statute requires overseeing of the program, there will be no one to enforce the laws.

Eliminating the licensing and regulating function within the Department of Social Services will save an estimated \$1.5 million for the remainder of the state's fiscal year and another \$3 million if cuts continue into the 1991-92 fiscal year. DSS director Gerald Miller has said he will consider a licensing fee to keep the program going at the request of some 30 day-care center providers, and plans to reinstitute the licensing program this fall to

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Brian Lang reacts as a charge against him is read at his arraignment in Farmington District Court Monday. Lang's attorney, Seymour Posner, is at the left.

Weapons fan not terrorist, attorney says

By Joanne Maliszowski, staff writer

The attorney for a 20-year-old Farmington Hills man who could face federal weapons charges said his client is not a terrorist, just a young man intrigued by firearms and military weapons.

"He's just a kid who goes out on a weekend and shoots paint pellets," said attorney Seymour Posner of Farmington.

Posner is representing Brian Oscar Lang, whose parents' house on Briarcrest in the Franklin Knolls subdivision, south of 14 Mile, east of Northwestern Highway, was raided by Farmington Hills police and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms just after 8 a.m. Monday. Firearms, military weapons and detonating devices were seized in the raid.

The weapons seized included three U.S. military rocket launchers, one of which federal authorities said was a LAW or light anti-tank weapon like those used in Vietnam, two short-barrel rifles, including an Uzi, which are illegal weapons, homemade pipe bombs and the ingredients to make them and a bullet-proof vest.

ALSO CONFISCATED were electric blasting caps, timing devices, switches, igniter blasting fuses and two suspected silencers, said Jim Jorgensen, group supervisor of ATF's Troy office.

"We are putting the facts together and we'll shoot them down to the U.S. attorney," Jorgensen said. Though the weapons and ammunition were seized from Lang's home, he has not yet been charged with any weapons violations.

Lang, however, faces a felony charge of receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100. But that charge, on which he was arraigned in 47th District Court Monday, does not involve the firearms and weapons confis-

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Keep on dunkin'

'The girls' are back at doughnut shop

By Tom Baer, staff writer

Boy oh boy, the girls are back — and they're peddling their wares at the same old stand on Orchard Lake Road in northern Farmington Hills.

A huge shoving pink banner ("Yes, The Girls Are Back") taped to a storefront window has been drawing phantoms from motorists speeding by on the busy north-south highway.

A few have even stopped in to check things out.

But before anyone calls the vice squad, please remember that these girls are satisfying urges no stronger than the need for a cup of coffee and maybe a poopy, cream-filled confect.

The girls in question are Betty Gremm of Warren and Emily Utych of Farmington Hills

and they are indeed back in business after a two-year hiatus at the Dunkin' Donuts store at 31000 Orchard Lake.

Partners Gremm and Utych, who ran the business for 8 1/2 years before selling out in September 1988, say they're happy to be back.

"We sold it to two men who apparently couldn't handle it," Gremm said last week. "Sales were down \$4,000 a week. They got to the point of bankruptcy. So here we are."

THE BANNER is one method the girls are using to get back some of their old customers.

"I'm really concerned about our customers from West Bloomfield who don't come south of 14 Mile much anymore," Gremm said. "We're just trying to get the word out."



The "girls" — Emily Utych (left) and Betty Gremm — are back taking care of their customers at the Dunkin' Donuts on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

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Letter from a soldier inspires poem for troops in the Gulf

By Casey Hans, staff writer

It was a young soldier's letter which carried the war home to Helena Domanska's doorstep and inspired her to dedicate a poem to those fighting in the Persian Gulf in Operation Desert Storm.

"Upon reading his letter, I really started to cry," said the native of southern Poland who is staying with the Boguski family in Farmington Hills and has applied for citizenship in the U.S. "All of a sudden, I am carrying a letter from a real person."

Her own life in Poland until she left a few years ago, and what Lately members still experience there, brought even more emotion to her poem entitled "A Letter to A Soldier." Domanska lost her teaching job in

1981 because of the political unrest in her country and was invited here to be with her uncle.

HER POEM REFERS to the "love that breaks the walls that cuts through the barbed wire" in reference to the Berlin Wall and tells soldiers "Our prayers are with you every day."

It is one of many poems the former literature teacher has written and published in the past few years, but the first time she has written one in English. Her other poems are published in dozens of Polish American magazines and newspapers throughout the United States from San Francisco to Chicago. She even had one accepted by a Toronto based publication.

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