

Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Shop till you drop: The 28th Annual Founders Festival gets into full swing this week./3A

COUNTY NEWS

Fences to mend: The GOP may reign supreme in Oakland County, but party divisions may provide some niches for Democrats./5A

OPINION

Political signs: There's more to them than just lawn clutter. Judy Berne comments./8A

TRAVEL

Maine event: While the crowds on Mount Desert Island — which is only about 108 square miles — can be vexing in midsummer, the place still has the capacity to enchant./9A

Healthy hike: Louis and Gloria Calfin, who are avid mature travelers from West Bloomfield, wanted to climb Mount Fuji to see the sunrise./9A

TASTE

Grilled seafood: Make some culinary waves this summer with grilled fish and seafood. Fish is low in fat and calories, high in protein and bursting with flavor./1B



Chef's Secrets: Meet Steve Allen of the Golden Mushroom restaurant./1B

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Speaker's Row" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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New wetlands' merit still up in air

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Jack Smiley calls the replacement of wetlands in the newly named Woodland Hills Park a great experiment. "That's really all it is," said the Detroit Audubon Society executive director.

In Smiley's experience, most wetland mitigation has not been successful. "I'm taking a wait-and-see attitude with this particular one," Smiley continued. "It could be a unique study of what can evolve on a disturbed parcel."

acre wetland — under permit by the state Department of Natural Resources — is about 70 percent complete. The project is a replacement of wetlands from the 12 Mile Road boulevard project to the park on Farmington Road, just south of I-696.

Area for the wetlands has been excavated and side slopes leading to what will be basins or ponds — one 6 feet deep, another 3 feet deep — also are complete, said David Call, Farmington Hills assistant city manager.

To date, Call believes about \$100,000-\$150,000 has been spent on

'I'm taking a wait-and-see attitude with this particular one. It could be a unique study. . .'

Jack Smiley
Detroit Audubon Society

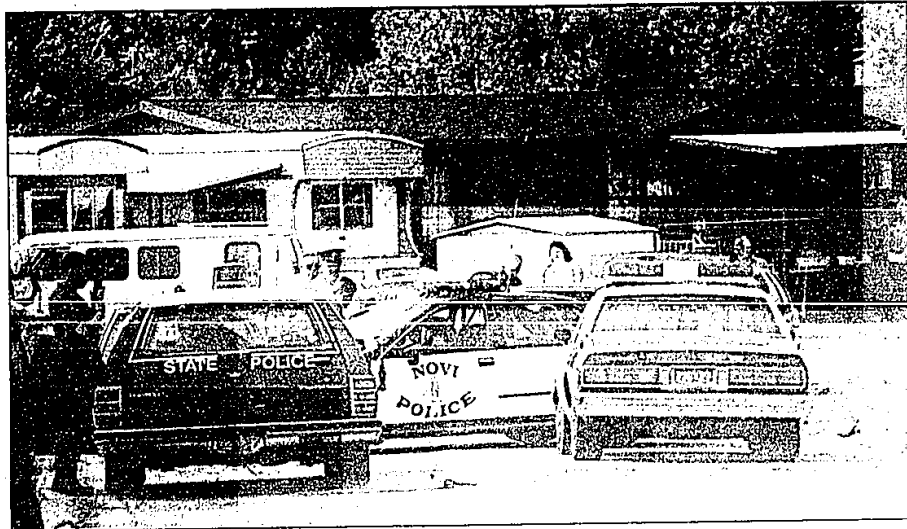
The next step is to take muck from 12 Mile Road and put it in the excavated area, which will then be flooded with water from the adjacent creekbed through a weir, said Todd Holloway of Pleasant Ridge, an environmental planner and consultant for the wetlands project.

"The creek water will flow into the weir area and over the weir. It's kind of a backwater area," said Holloway, who designed the wetlands.

After the area is filled with water,

See WETLANDS, 2A

Nabbed in Novi



GUY WARDEN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Suspects apprehended: Area police agencies, including Farmington Hills, converge on a Novi trailer park where two brothers were arrested following the armed robbery of a Farmington Hills bank Wednesday.

Robbery suspects apprehended

Almost all of the approximately \$15,000 taken in a bank robbery Thursday was recovered thanks to the honesty of passersby. Police teamwork led to the arrest of two Novi brothers.

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Passersby scurried to pick up money floating through the air near the Orchard-12 Plaza where suspected robbers threw dye-marked dollars from a car after holding up a nearby bank Wednesday.

"The human side of this was the honesty of all the people in the area at the time," said Farmington Hills Det. Sgt. Charles Nebus.

The cash stolen from Michigan National Bank, 28177 Orchard Lake Road, was recovered with the help of witnesses, Nebus said.

Two Novi brothers were arraigned on three felony charges each Friday morning before 47th District Court Magistrate Marla Parker. Three men, including one of the brothers, were apprehended shortly after the 2:46 p.m. robbery. Two men were released and another brother was arrested Thursday evening during a search of the Chateau Estates Trailer Park at 10 Mile and Decker in Novi, Nebus said.

Robert Andrew Wikaryasz, 21, and Jason James Wikaryasz, 23, stood mute to three counts each of bank robbery, conspiracy to commit bank robbery and possession of a firearm. Pleas of not guilty were entered on their behalf. A preliminary examination is set for 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 10 in 47th District Court, Farmington.

As of Friday afternoon, neither man posted the \$150,000 cash bonds Parker set. If convicted, each man faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Robert Wikaryasz, an erotic dancer, was apprehended Wednesday at the

See ROBBERY, 2A

Judicial candidate cites experience, ideas

This is the second in a series of stories about candidates vying for an open seat on the 47th District Court bench.

By CAREY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Marla Parker has taken a light-hearted approach to her campaign for a seat on the 47th District Court bench, but she's prepared to do a serious job. One campaign filer demanded atten-

tion on a recent school election day with a "Don't vote for Marla Parker today!" slogan, inviting voters to learn about her and reminding them to vote in August.

"Another handout states, simply, 'Ready to serve.' " "I've had experience in the court," said the 37-year-old Farmington Hills attorney, who has her own practice and serves as one of three magistrates in the 47th District Court. "I've handled near-

ly every kind of case to come before a district court. Being in a solo practice, I think I have a better feel for what the litigants and lawyers face.

"I'm convinced the more people who know me, the better chance I have," she added.

Parker is one of seven Farmington Hills attorneys running for an open seat on the 47th District Court bench, to be vacated this year by retiring Judge Margaret Schaeffer. The two top vote-

getters in the Aug. 4 primary election will square-off in the Nov. 3 general election.

The court, which currently operates with two judges and three part-time magistrates, serves the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Parker believes the issue of a court expansion — recently turned down by voters — is one best left to the voters.

See CANDIDATE, 2A

Lifesaving effort

The Farmington YMCA, 21800 Farmington Road, will be the site of a kickoff ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, of National Awareness Week for Lifesaving Techniques, July 5-11.

The National Auto Dealers Association has joined forces with the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit to focus attention on the special week.

At the kickoff ceremony in Farmington Hills, William Ritchie, NADA director, will announce the donation of a Resucat Annie dummy for training and education purposes.

The NADA's donation will help the YMCA to expand its efforts by making special training classes in infant CPR available at YMCA's throughout the tri-county area next year.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Rotten shoes

Put your worst foot forward for this year's Kids Day, Tuesday, July 7, in Shilawassee Park.

Kids of all ages are invited to bring your ugliest sneakers — those smelly, rotten ones that you reserve for mowing the lawn, painting the house, playing in the mud — and enter them in the Rotten Sneaker Contest.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners. The contest is hosted by Gabe Shoes and Dan-

cewear in the Orchard-12 Plaza, where entry forms are available.

International flair

Spanish students will come to the Farmington area to learn more about the United States culture in homestay with local families and to study English as a second language at the Farmington Community School, 30415 Shilawassee.

Sixteen classes will run from July 9-30. Kenneth Cooper of Farmington Hills will be the teacher and Florencia Garcia is the Spanish expert for all classes and planned itinerary of field trips.

The Spanish students also will march in the Founders Day parade, Saturday, July 11. Their theme will be "1492-1992 — 500 Years of Spanish in America."