

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 63

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1995 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 116 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1995 Detroit Communications Corporation

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

A day for the kids: It was Kids Day Tuesday, and area youngsters and their pets were out in force at Shiawassee Park. /3A
Now in Farmington: Devotees of diversity have a new name to put into their Rolodex: Samir Haddad, who has been named director of Bilingual Education for the Farmington Schools. /4A

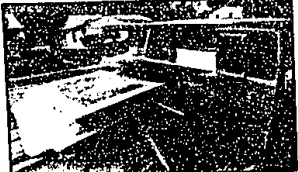
OPINION

What's in store?: Farmington's Downtown Development Authority is right to ask residents what kinds of businesses they want in their town. /10A
Tough test: In the flap over drug testing, it is important to remember that the purpose is saving lives. /10A
Write on! Observer readers are writers. Once again, they are quite generous with their opinions. /10-11A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Refresher course needed: Guest columnist and Farmington Hills resident Eric Borregard gives the school district summer vacation homework. /13A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Art of browsing: There's lots to do and see at the 36th annual Ann Arbor Art Fair, July 19-22. /1B

SPORTS

Best performer: Shelli Gaul of Farmington was named the top female athlete at Ferris State University. /1C
College bound: A pair of Farmington baseball players will continue their careers at four-year schools. /1C

AT HOME

Dream home: Landscape architect Malcolm Ramsay of Farmington Hills helped an area family make their perfect house and grounds.

INDEX

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Calendar 7C | Pets 6H |
| Classified E-H | Real Estate 7F |
| Announcements 4H | Rentals 7G |
| Automobiles 6H | Community News 13A |
| Crossword 6F | Entertainment 1B |
| Employment 6C | Obituaries 6C |
| Home Services 6H | Options 10A |
| Merchandise 4H | Personals 11B |

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 616-477-6480
 Newsroom Fax: 616-477-6723
 Sports: 313-653-2141
 Reader Comment Line: 313-653-2141
 Classified Advertising: 313-651-6000
 Display Advertising: 313-651-6000
 Home Delivery: 313-651-6000
 Cable/TV Weekly: 313-653-2153

Judge: Sentencing fair



Floyd Diamond



BY BILL COUANT
STAFF WRITER

For the family of a murder victim, the anguish of reliving an event they thought was over 40 years ago looks finally to be at an end.
 Oakland Circuit Judge Barry Howard ruled Tuesday that Floyd Diamond, 66, had been fairly sentenced

for the murder of Kathleen McLaughlin near a frozen Pond in February 1955.

"It's all over now," said a relieved Martha McLaughlin, mother of the murdered girl, whose picture she clutched. The girl was murdered at age 9 in 1955 by Diamond, then 16. The crime shocked the community.

At long last, the family of the girl murdered in what was then Farmington Township near Middlebelt and Northwestern, believed they could put the tragedy in the past.
 For Diamond, the 46-year hell of mental illness, suffering physical and sexual abuse by other prisoners and at least three suicide attempts, would not be ended by Howard's decision.

Back to Coldwater

Howard read from an independent psychological examination that made

See SENTENCING, 9A

New reign



Crowning Glory: Last year's pageant winner Megan Kate Smith presents Audrie Chernauckas with the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship crown. See a story and more photos in the Community Life section.

Parking curbs sought

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Before Farmington Road can make a U-turn, city officials say the brakes need to be put on right-of-way parking.

FARMINGTON

Starting December 1996, Farmington will enforce no parking restrictions along rights of way on Farmington Road. The mandate will take effect citywide in December 1997. Eliminating unsightly right-of-way parking is the first step in what city officials hope is an overall effort to spruce up the corridor between Eight Mile and Slocum.

Farmington City Council has asked the Farmington Beautification Commission to work with the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission, possibly to come up with an aesthetic plan. Such a plan would likely call for shrubs, bushes, and landscaping to create a greenbelt along the roadway. A southern portion of the Hills runs along the west side of Farmington Road.

Farmington residents will be notified about the parking restriction by the city in August or September, City Manager Frank Lauboff said. "When people come into your city, you want them to notice that things are clean, neat and orderly," Lauboff said. "Having automobiles parked on the right of way doesn't accomplish that."

Right-of-way parking violates city zoning and vegetation ordinances. Also, the city could be liable if vehicles are involved in an accident or create a visibility hazard.

The city did a survey and found that some residents between Cloverdale and Slocum and between Chelsey and Meadowlark use right-of-way areas for parking.

Those residents will not likely be happy.

"I would expect some residents will not appreciate council's involvement in this," Lauboff said. "I think some will understand."

It is the responsibility of city council to address the tough issues that are important to the entire community."

See PARKING, 6A

Man in custody after threatening to kill self, others

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

After a potentially volatile situation was defused, Farmington Public Safety director Gary Goss made a sign of the cross and offered a prayer of thank.

A Farmington man, 60, was taken

into custody Tuesday after family members told police he was threatening to kill himself and others. The man had weapons and had been reportedly depressed after being served with divorce papers Monday.

When a Farmington police officer contacted him by phone, he said

something to the effect he wanted to end it all and hung up. He was alone at the time.

Farmington police evacuated 12 units in the condominiums on the east side of Farmington Road at Kinglans Court.

Oak Park Police Special Response

team was also called in. Police set up a command post at the Huron Hunting & Fishing Club across the street.

Police set up and were waiting when the man tried to leave. He was quickly taken into custody.

See MAN, 2A

Group 'floating' in parade

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council will participate in the Farmington Founders Festival Parade on Saturday, July 15.

Group officials welcome anyone who supports their goals — improved race relations and a climate that includes all people — to join them in the parade.

Parade participants are asked to meet at Frank's Nursery at Mooney and Grand River no later than 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Memory Lane

From the July 14, 1955 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

FARMINGTON FOCUS

■ The Clarensville Board of Education accepted a bid of \$18,200 from Jacob's Electrical for installation of lights at the high school football field.

■ Youngsters in the Farmington-area summer recreation had a treat in store. They were to attend the Detroit Tigers-Baltimore Orioles at Briggs Stadium July 31 as guests of the Tigers.

■ Darryl Allen of the Cubs was the top batter in the Farmington Little League with a .800 average.

His Cubs were in second place with a 5-0 record.

The Cardinals led at 8-2.

■ Short item: "What we all want and seldom get is time to think."

Share your stress

Attention, Farmington-area residents who think they are stressed-out over a job or personal situation. The Observer would like to hear from you.

The newspaper is planning an article on the subject of stress. Reporter Bill Couant wants to meet some local folks who are coping with stressful situations.

Those with stressful stories to tell should write the Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; call the paper (477-6450 voice, 477-9722 fax); or stop in at the office in downtown Farmington.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office.