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VOLUME 100 NUMBER 61

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1998 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 48 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Candidates profiled: Five candidates — four Republicans and a Democrat — in the 15th District state Senate race are profiled in today's Farmington Observer. Three Republicans will be eliminated in the May 19 primary. The general election will be held June 4. The winner will replace David Honigman, who resigned due to ill health. The sprawling 15th District includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and several communities to the west. /3A

Putting out the call: Walled Lake school officials are asking residents to share their thoughts concerning the possibility of another bond issue. /GA

TASTE

Special event: Cranbrook Schools celebrate 18th Le Gala de Cuisine and the 100th year of the automobile. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Behind the Label: Meet Wall Street's menswear designer Alan Flusser who asks, Where have all the sharp dressers gone? He offers a new suit system at Saks Fifth Avenue. /10A

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Plan board sends council Kroger-ing



BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

A potentially hot development issue is making its way to the Farmington Hills City Council.

The city's planning commission split April 18 on a request to rezone about 16 acres of property at Haggerty and Nine Mile from office to business so that a Kroger grocery store and "neighborhood" shopping center could be built.

Several residents from Novi and Farmington Hills (Haggerty separates the two cities) came to the meeting asking commissioners to deny the request.

Commission Chairwoman Jeri

Says a developer: Let's go Kroger-ing — at a new grocery store in a new shopping center at Nine Mile and Haggerty. Some nearby residents aren't happy with the plan.

VanHouten and Commissioners Carol Freedman, Sharon Garna and Michael Sweeney voted for the proposed change. Commissioners Paul Blizman, Barry Brickner, Bob Bruckner and Glen Fletschhacker voted against.

John Ovington of the Midland Group, the St. Louis, Mo., real estate company that develops sites for Kroger, said a plan for a 60,000-square-foot Kroger store in a center totaling 100,000 square feet would be submitted — if the city council approves the zoning change.

"We have a site plan," Ovington

said. "This would be a good use for the area because there is a demand for a grocery store and a neighborhood center with something like a dry cleaner, barber shop or that type of business."

Ovington said the center would not be too large for the same reason that it could not be sold previously for office use — there is no good highway access.

Lack of adequate roads was one of the reasons Commissioner Brickner turned down the proposal.

See KROGER-ING, 2A

Her volunteer spirit shines through



Honored by Hills: Top volunteer Betty Jean Van Dorpe, 77, gets roses from Richard Daguanno during an honors ceremony Thursday. Lenore Romney also presented the award. For a story, please turn to page 2A.

Arson/murder suspects to be arraigned today

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

The sexual assault and arson-murder of two Farmington Hills women is probably the most grisly crime in the history of Farmington Hills.

At least Hills Deputy Chief Mimi Spencer believes so.

"It's right at the top," said Spencer, a member of the Hills department for 32 years.

Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer had called it the worst crime in the city's history when police arrested Arthur Hollingsworth Cayce, 23, of Farmington Hills, and George Tyrone Davis, 23, of Westland, for the killings on Dec. 19, 1996.

The two men will be arraigned on the charges today, Monday, April 20, in Oakland Circuit Court before Judge Barry Howard. They are being held without bail in Oakland County Jail and face a mandatory life sentence if convicted of the first-degree murders.

Spencer said the city has been fortunate to have avoided a lot of crime, but some stand out. A drug deal gone bad that resulted in a 1991 murder in the Eight Mile and Inkster area, the killing in 1969 of a beauty shop operator in the Eight Mile and Grand River areas are two.

Spencer said another horrible case was the rape and murder of a 10-year-old girl that took place in another community, but ended with the body being found in Farmington Hills.

"I think the only thing that could have made this one (murder of Louise and Melissa Boyd) worse would have been if a child had been involved," Spencer said.

Spencer said police have worked hard to solve some high profile crimes in the past few months, which have resulted in arrests.

"We have been able to catch the suspects," he said. "But this one was pretty horrible when you think that these women were raped and burned. It was gruesome."

Former student says thanks, nominates teacher for award

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Years have passed, but time hasn't diminished the appreciation a former student has for an O.E. Dunckel Middle School teacher.

John Carter, who has taught 28 years in Farmington, received the Harold's Homestown Heroes Award for Educational Contribution. Some 25 people were recognized in a ceremony at the Detroit Public Library Friends Auditorium April 3.

The award surprised Carter, who couldn't attend the reception. What's more remarkable, though, was that the teacher was nominated by a former student who hadn't been in Carter's basic math class since 1981.

"I wanted to give my thanks by nominating him for this award," said Bill Monson, 26, who lives in West Bloomfield. "He's a great teacher. He really does a lot of things for students."

Said Carter: "It was very nice for him to do that."

Monson remembers a teacher who went out of his way to encourage him, not only academically but socially. Monson had moved to the district after attending a Catholic school.

He arrived at O.E. Dunckel with an assortment of disabilities, including epilepsy. Monson later found out he had Attention Deficit Disorder.

Others teased him. His grades plummeted to D range before he entered Carter's basic math class.

Things quickly turned around.

What were one or two friends at most had expanded to 10, Monson said. He started pulling Bs in classwork.

"He brought out the best in me in terms of my qualities," said Monson, who has kept in touch with his former teacher through the years.

For his part, Carter remembers that class in particular because many students had learning disabilities. Monson and others needed a boost.

Patience plus understanding was the equation to hold it together.

"I knew I had to go back and keep explaining things," Carter said. "I knew he had some limitations that way."

"I just figure I saw in the long run, he'd do OK in life."

Monson picked up on Carter's confidence.

He went to graduate from North Farmington High in 1988. He works as a delivery person for Amvond in Wixom.

Through the years, Monson would stop by Dunckel to say hello to Carter.

"I think he was trying to say, 'Look I'm doing OK,'" Carter said.



John Carter

What's more remarkable, though, was that the teacher was nominated by a former student who hadn't been in Carter's basic math class since 1981.

Gardeners take note

Gill Elementary School's annual plant sale is under way. Orders taken by May 3 will be delivered by May 17.

Flowers are available by flat, pot and hanging basket. Proceeds go to Gill's playground maintenance fund. Additional information may be obtained by calling 489-3690.

A walk cropping up

People in the world are starving . . . but folks in the Farmington area and West Bloomfield are trying to do something about it.

The 11th-annual Crop Walk Against Hunger will bring together members of about 20 churches for the fund-raising event on Sunday, May 5. The walk will begin and end at the First United

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River, Farmington. It will take place rain or shine.

Registration begins at 1:15 p.m. with the walk starting at 2 p.m. The 10-kilometer route winds through the streets of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Some 25 percent of funds raised will be divided between the local Salvation Army, Neighborhood House, St. Alexander's Food Cupboard and the Baldwin Community Kitchen. The remainder will go to Church World Services to help fight hunger worldwide.

"Last year, we raised \$35,500," said Sue Broadwell, a Crop Walk backer. "We were in the

top 10 in Michigan and tops in the metro area." Representatives of churches or individuals who wish to walk can contact Broadwell at 682-8976.

Meet the candidate

Anyone want to meet Steve Kaplan, Democratic candidate for Oakland County Prosecutor? He'll be on hand from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at the law offices of Levitt & Associates, 33730 Freedom Road, Farmington.

Kaplan's backers stress that no solicitations will be made. Refreshments will be served.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48338; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literature, the Internet E-mail address is: packy@oonline.com.