

Memorial service scheduled for Margaret Yoder

By Tim Surr
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When the city of Farmington named Yoder Drive in 1990, it was done to honor the man, long-time Councilman Ralph Yoder.

But now, it is also viewed as an appropriate tribute to the woman, Ralph's wife of 40 years, Margaret Yoder. She died Sunday, Jan. 17, at the couple's home in Poincianna, Fla.

Margaret Yoder, 68, lost a several-month battle with a recurrence of cancer. She apparently had beaten the disease in the late 1970s.

"I chuckle now when I see Yoder Drive," said Farmington City Councilman Bill Hartsock, a longtime colleague of Ralph Yoder and friend of the family. "It was named in honor of Ralph. But now, she can lay claim to that honor as well."

Mayor Mary Bush concurred, calling the Yoders "very special people" who are deserving of the street name.

Yoder Drive was named in spring 1990, for the roadway between Slocum and Orchard streets. Ralph Yoder served on the council from 1965-90.

Bush described Margaret Yoder as "a classic example of someone behind the scenes," and as someone who always had a strong opinion, whether it was popular to have or not. "She was always there for Ralph."

According to Hartsock, Margaret Yoder was first diagnosed with cancer in the late 1970s. It seemingly was cured. However, she started complaining of pain in her leg last summer, and a tumor was found. She began treatment in the fall.

During the last month or so of her life, nurses from Good Shepherd Hospice in Winter Haven, Fla., helped make Margaret as comfortable as possible, said Hartsock, adding that "She was a very strong person right up to the very end."

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Bill Hartsock

—City councilman and longtime family friend

That hospice nurses comforted her was fitting, noted Hartsock, because Margaret was a registered nurse who took care of people's health problems even after retiring from that profession.

"It was more a passion of hers than a profession," Hartsock said.

Ralph Yoder, added Hartsock, was understandably devastated

by Margaret's death. As of Thursday, the former councilman and mayor was on route back to the Farmington area for a Saturday, Jan. 30, memorial service in the city.

"Ralph has said that it's hard to prepare for something like that," Hartsock said. "Having known him for so long, (the death) is going to be a tremendous loss."

Hartsock also said he didn't know whether Yoder would move back to the Farmington area, where many friends and family members live. Ralph and Mar-

garet Yoder moved to Florida about four years ago.

Besides Ralph Yoder, survivors include son Joel of Keego Harbor, daughter Julia (Bill) Chamberlain of Milford, grandchildren Charlie, Billy and Annie Rose Chamberlain, brothers C. Wayne Nowels and Robert Nowels.

The memorial service for Margaret Yoder is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland in Farmington.

Memorial tributes may be made to Salem United Church or to the Good Shepherd Hospice, P.O. Box 7129, Winter Haven, Fla. 33883.

Funeral arrangements were by the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington. Burial will take place at Oakwood Cemetery in Farmington.



Memorial: Margaret Yoder is described as the perfect behind the scenes person who had her own opinions and supported her husband, Ralph, former city councilman and mayor.

Cub Scouts learn about government

Learning about the role of local government were members of Cub Scout Troop 235, from St. Fabian Church in Farmington Hills.

The troop visited Farmington City Hall before Tuesday's council meeting. They listened to Mayor Mary Bush and other officials as they discussed local government, what city councils do and the differences between the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

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TROOP 235, ST. FABIAN

"It's important that you learn about local government," said Bush, noting that it is the one level of government that affects residents most.

There was an opportunity for questions, both from Bush to the troop members (who were seated at the council table) and vice versa.

Bush asked the scouts about how local government helps

them.

"It fills potholes in the road," replied one of the youngsters. Councilman Arnold Campbell mentioned a few differences between the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills: Farmington has a public safety department, which contains officers who handle police and fire duties; in Farmington Hills, there are separate police and fire departments.

The scouts then stayed for the beginning of the regular council meeting, leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

MILITARY NEWS
Roger Berry II, son of Mary and Roger Berry of Farmington Hills, enlisted in the Air Force Dec. 29.
He will receive technical training as a precision measurement equipment laboratory apprentice after completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.
Berry is a 1997 graduate of North Farmington High School. He will earn credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools.

CLARIFICATION
A story in the Sunday, Jan. 17 Farmington Observer, about historical displays at Flanders Elementary School, should have stated that student Jonathan Lindblad's family lives in the "old parsonage" on Freedom Road, and not the Cook Building, and that the area's first school was on Shawwassee, not Sherman Street.

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Farmington Observer
(ISSUE 187-040)
Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers, 808 E. Macle, Birmingham, AL 35209-0910. Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL 35209-0910. Second class postage at Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers 808 E. Macle, Birmingham, AL 35209-0910. Telephone 644-1100.

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