

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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## Expand recreation in new city budget

By DAN MCCOSH

FARMINGTON — A full-time recreation director is included in a budget request approved by the Farmington city council Friday evening.

The additional money budgeted for the recreation department director salary is expected to make the present part-time position a full time job, the Observer & Eccentric has learned.

The Farmington Area Recreation Commission has been preparing an expanded program for the coming year. Approval by Farmington, the Hills, and the schools is necessary to put it into effect.

The Farmington City Council was the first of the agencies to consider and approve the proposal.

Budgeted is \$10,000 for part of the salary for the director, up from \$3,000 last year. The city pays one-fourth of the total cost of the program.

The Farmington city council approved a \$1.5 million budget at a special meeting Friday night. The tax rate was set at 9.25 mills, the same as last year.

The council rejected the appeal of 46th District Judge Michael Hand, who appeared at a hearing Thursday to appeal for higher salaries for his clerks.

Representatives from the Farmington Democratic Club, including Farmington Hills resident Aldo Vagnozzi, also asked for an extension for three months of the Youth Employment Service, to help youth get jobs for the summer.

Vagnozzi's request was rejected, mainly because it was the Farmington Hills council which cut the funds for the program, Mayor Ralph Yoder pointed out.

Highlights of the new budget are mainly new equipment to be purchased for several city departments.

Improvements at Shiawassee Park are anticipated, as well as the replacement of heavy equipment in the DPW, and a new fire station radio.

A part-time clerk-typist for the city manager's office is included, as well as the proposed municipal building expansion.



Stopping speeders is Patrolman Raymond Lardie. (Evert photo)

## Lottery drawing has wet winner

FARMINGTON — "It's too good to be true, I can't think of anything," John Cunningham, of Rochester said after being told he had just won \$200,000 in the Michigan lottery.

The big drawing, held in the rain at Farmington's historic Botsford Inn, attracted stalwarts willing to get wet to see the big winner.

Cunningham, 47, is an experimental engineer for G.M. Truck and Coach in Pontiac. He said he has worked for 23 years, with seven to go to retirement.

Visibly shaken by the excitement, he said he was "going to take a vacation," and didn't know where. A regular player, the winning ticket was one of several he had purchased that week at Coachman's Lounge, Utica.

The lottery drawing was attracted to Farmington to help celebrate the town's 150th birthday. John Anhut, chairman of the sesquicentennial committee, as well as the mayors of Farmington and Farmington Hills, were among those participating in the drawing.

The lottery numbers are picked with a complicated system first getting numbers from a plastic drum, and finishing the selection by the results of a horse race.

The regular drawing was held first, without any winner in the crowd attending, but special bonus numbers earned a few special subscriptions.

The sesquicentennial committee used the occasion to present Mrs. Kathryn Briggs, widow of the man who helped design the commemorative coin for the sesquicentennial, with the first issue.



JOHN CUNNINGHAM

## How radar looks from inside a patrol car

By CARL STODDARD

It is uncomfortably hot inside Officer Raymond Lardie's patrol car.

He takes off his hat and rolls down the front window. The rear window stays closed; it's holding the radar unit in place.

Lardie swings the big blind-white set of the police department parking lot and heads east. A cooling breeze sweeps into the car.

As he drives the hips on the small radar monitoring unit on the dashboard. The MR-7 instantly begins computing the speed of the oncoming cars.

"It's called a hunter," he says. "It hunts. It picks out the fastest and the closest."

Lardie has the unit set on automatic. Anything moving more than 10 mph over the speed limit sets the unit squawking like a tattle-tale turkey.

The 10-mile-and-over limit is Lardie's own limit. The City of Farmington police department has no policy regarding where the line is drawn on enforcing the speed laws. Some officers, Lardie said, stick to the letter of the law. Others draw the line at 13 mph over the limit.

A glut of cars on the other side of the street passes the Patrol car. They are close together. The radar remains silent.

"This thing won't pick up anything in a pack. But if there's a little spacing it's ideal — it just jumps from one to another," Lardie says.

Lardie is not assigned exclusively to radar patrol. He simply cruises around his assigned part of town, checking subdivisions and commercial areas. He doesn't have to look for speeders; the MR-7 does it automatically.

"Squawk-squawk-squawk." MR-7 tells on a speeder. Lardie checks the small digital screen. The car is doing 43 mph in a 30 mph zone, but Lardie lets it go — today he is showing a reporter around. There will be time later to write tickets.

The radar unit consists of a small megaphone-shaped unit that usually hangs out of the window and a little monitor that sits on the dashboard. The whole thing runs off the power of the cigar-lighter.

One misconception, Lardie says, is that people think the radar must be

"I think a lot of people don't know what's hanging out there. They realize it's radar, but they don't know I can catch them while I'm moving."

---Patrolman Raymond Lardie

as he can pull the cars over.

When people see the radar attached to his window, and if they're speeding, they sometimes try to slow down, Lardie says. But by the time they see him and hit their brakes, it's too late.

The radar measures the speed of the car when it is 2,500 feet away. The speed is computed in a second. "It's instantaneous," he admits.

When the young patrolman pulls someone over speeding, he tries to be "courteous and business-like."

"You tell them you had them on radar and ask if they want to look at it — a lot of them do."

But few dispute the findings.

"I've been in the department five years and I've had one radar ticket go to court," he says. "If you check with the other guys I think you'd find it was the same way."

The unit, the first in the City of Farmington, cost about \$1,200. They plan to get one or two more within the next year.

Lardie would probably like to see the units added. As it is, he notes with a smile, the officers carry on a good-natured fight to see who will get to use the radar while on the patrol.

"Rain or snow, nothing bothers it," Lardie says as he pulls back into the parking lot. "All in all, it's a good unit."

Another misconception people have about radar is that the patrol car must be parked while clocking cars. That too is false.

"A lot of people just don't comprehend," he says as he swings onto Grand River. "They're used to the old stationary radar."

"I think a lot of people don't know what's hanging out there. They realize it's radar but they don't know I can catch them while I'm moving."

"Most of us work it while traveling," he adds, "although it 100 percent better than our old (radar) unit for sitting."

One of Lardie's favorite operations is to park on a side street, 50 feet off a main road, and point the device at the cars as they whiz by.

"I love to work it like this," he says as he holds it in both hands and aims it at a passing car. If he clocks a speeder, he says, "I can just sit it down and take my pursuit."

During a regular eight-hour shift, Lardie might stop seven or eight cars. If he is assigned to patrol a specific area to cut down on the number of speeders, he may write tickets as fast

## Pre-trial exam begins on embezzlement charge

By CARL STODDARD

FARMINGTON HILLS—The first day of testimony in the hearing of Frances Lane, charged with embezzling funds from the Farmington Hills Police Department, yielded little new evidence.

Mrs. Lane is charged in connection with the embezzlement of about \$700 from the police department while employed as a secretary in Public Safety Director Ronald Holko's office.

Much of the evidence covered during the four hours of testimony May 17 was concerned with how the police investigated the money loss and who had access to the funds.

Another large part of the hearing was spent as both the prosecuting and defense attorneys attempted to learn the extent of qualification of a handwriting expert.

JAMES STEGGALL, a document examiner with the Michigan State Police, was finally ruled qualified to testify by 47th District Judge Michael Hand.

In his testimony, Steggall told the court that he had examined copies of Mrs. Lane's signatures and compared them with receipts she had signed while working in the director's office.

In most instances, he said, it was "probably" that her signatures on the receipts were authentic. In a few instances, Steggall added, there were not sufficient letters in the signature to make a valid judgement.

Other persons who testified included Det. Lt. Russell Conway, the officer who investigated the embezzlement; Joanne Lucas, a secretary in the record bureau who handled the money involved in the case; and Debbie Roberts, a secretary who worked with Mrs. Lane.

About the only new evidence to come from the hearing was a remark by Mrs. Roberts. She testified that the first time she spoke with Lt. Conway during the investigation she failed to mention something that might be important.

She said she later went back to Lt. Conway and volunteered this information. Mrs. Roberts did not say what that information was.

The hearing was scheduled to resume May 31 in the City of Farmington court.

## Women Realtors will hear talk on economic trends

Featured speaker for the May 23 luncheon of the Western Wayne County Women's Council will be Dr. Martha Segar, vice president and economist of Detroit Bank & Trust, who will focus her talk on "Economic Trends."

The luncheon of the women's Realtors council will begin at 11:30 a.m. in Valadimir's, 28125 Grand River, Farmington. Price per person for the luncheon is \$3 and reservations may be made with the United Northwestern Realty Association, 11877 Beech Daly, Detroit.

Dr. Segar of Detroit has bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees from the University of Michigan. She previously was an adjunct lecturer at the U-M Dearborn Campus, and a financial economist for the capital markets section, board of governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington, D.C.

## Deadlines

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will publish Tuesday, May 28, instead of Monday, May 27, because of the Memorial Day holiday.

News deadlines for the May 28 and May 30 issues will move up 24 hours.

All advertising for the May 28 issue is due by 5 p.m. Thursday, May 23. Advertising for the People and Creative Living sections for the May 30 issue is due 5 p.m. Friday, May 24. All other May 30 advertising deadlines remain the same.

## New Optimist club forming

A new Optimist Club is forming in Farmington Hills under the sponsorship of the West Bloomfield Optimist Club.

The new club will meet for breakfast every Wednesday morning from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at McInerney's restaurant, 25501 Northwestern Highway.

The Clubs temporary co-chairman, Bruce Frankel and Tom Kukes have invited all interested men in the Farmington Hills Community to attend the next meeting Wed. May 22.

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## Planners holding PRD zone hearing

FARMINGTON HILLS — A hearing on a proposed rezoning from single-family to planned residential (RP-1) for property east of Halstead Rd., between 13 Mile and 14 Mile is on the agenda for the Farmington Hills planning commission May 23, at 8 p.m.

Developer Melvin Rosenhaus is petitioning for the change.

A second parcel, east of Middlebelt, between San Sueli and 10 Mile, is up for a hearing. Albert Siefman is requesting a change from single-family to RC-2, multiple.