

# Farmington Observer Eccentric

Volume 86 Number 90

Thursday, August 28, 1975

Farmington, Michigan

40 Pages

Fifteen Cents

## Hills council sinks teeth into developing park area

By STEVE BARNABY

The City of Farmington Hills administration has been directed to start the ground work in studying development of a park system.

Councilmember Joan Dudley made a plea at this week's council meeting for consideration of park plan development, saying that if the city waited any longer it would be too late because of increased expense.

"The time will come when residents of the City of Farmington expect us to carry our own burden," said Mrs. Dudley. Presently, the City of Farmington allows Hills residents to use its two parks.

"With a population of 63,000 it isn't a problem. But soon we will be growing much larger. We can't wait. It is our job to prevent problems rather than face them," she said.

**IN MAKING HER presentation,** Mrs. Dudley said that besides cost and space requirements, private recreation facilities could prohibit some from having opportunities in using recreational outlets. She also warned that other cities may get federal funds if Farmington Hills is without a program.

"We must have a project plan ready. It may be a humble beginning, but it will be definitive," she said.

Mrs. Dudley suggested that a professional be hired to study such things as locations, topography and soil.

The first big step is in committing ourselves," she said.

Development of a park system has become an issue in the council campaign election. At a recent candidates' night, disagreement arose over what type of park system was needed

for Farmington Hills. Presently, the Hills has one five-acre park.

Councilmember Jan Dolan said the park commission had come up with a number of ideas for park development and that various concepts should be studied.

"We should keep in mind that recreation means a lot of things to different people," she said.

Councilman William Ortman pointed to the City of Dearborn as an example of diversification of park facilities. He cited Dearborn's large park facility in Milford, land purchased in Florida, combined with small community parks within the city, as examples of that diversification.

"I think we have talented people in this community that could get into this study project. We have large

areas of disagreement so we have to make a study," he said.

**MAYOR EARL OPPERTHAUSEN** clarified his stand on the park issue. At the candidate's night, he said he preferred development of parks around school facilities.

"I do know the difference between a playground and a park. The school board has a great deal of acreage around school sites. I was talking of much more than playgrounds with swings and slides," he said.

Opperthausen warned his council colleagues they must be wary of talking of a plan without fulfilling the plans. He said funding was a major concern.

"We've got to look at the priorities of city funding. We've got to make sure that no stone is left unturned for county development of parks," he said.

He urged the council consider parks to which children can walk. One large park could be difficult to get to by foot or bike for those residents in the south end if the park was located in the north section of the Hills. Farmington Hills south end is nearly fully developed with housing developments and leaves little room for a large park.



### Communication

Talk to the animals? Seven-year-old Eric Wine (left) of Farmington Hills looks like he's ready to. Eric and his younger sister Kathy are visiting the animal touch farm at the Michigan State Fair where baby chicks can be cuddled.

## Weapons

### Police find them everywhere

By STEVE BARNABY

To most folks, Farmington Hills is a nice, quiet place to live. But to Police Safety Director Ron Holko and the men of the Hills Police Department, the collection of potentially deadly-dealing weapons tells another story.

Weapons ranging from skull crushing ball and chain to a fully automatic AK 47 have been confiscated from, or turned in by, Farmington Hills residents. An impressive display on the wall of police headquarters reveals only the tip of iceberg in weapons collected by the force.

"One of the dangers of these weapons is that many times the people that possess them don't realize their potential," says Holko as he points to the array. "Take that blackjack, for instance, it could crush a person's skull. That ball and chain could easily kill a person."

While some weapons are confiscated after shootings or crimes, many have been turned in by residents who feared getting in trouble

with law enforcement agencies, he says.

"Many persons don't realize that automatic weapons of any kind have to be registered. When they find out they usually come in and turn it over," he said.

Persons possessing such weapons risk a five-year prison sentence or a \$5,000 fine, he says.

While most weapons confiscated are 22 caliber and shotguns, regular length and sawed-off, some unusual weapons have passed through the Farmington Hills station. Pointing to an odd version of a 410 shotgun made in Italy, Holko comments:

"That could be used as an excellent assassin's weapon. It can be broken down easily for concealment, and all that is needed to make it totally effective is a scope."

Other odd weapons are brass knuckles, German bayonets and a medieval looking mace.

"Some kid probably made that in a shop class," says Holko.

The department is allowed to keep some of the more common weapons.

such as 45 calibers, for undercover work, says Holko. Other weapons are stockpiled and sent to the state police who melt them down.

"A lot of these weapons are really beautiful, and being a gun collector myself, it breaks a my heart to think they are going to be melted down. But that's the way it has to be." Holko reached into a box and draws out a formidable looking .45 caliber.

"You see this thing. Looks real, doesn't it? Would you believe this is a toy gun easily bought in a store?"

Such weapons, he says, are often used in hold ups and robberies.

"When you see something like that pointing at you, who's going to argue?" he says. Other "phony" weapons used are starting pistols and pellet guns.

The department remains light in use of high-powered weapons, having only a few shotguns and one machine gun. Holko stresses that law enforcement agencies also have to register their automatic weapons.

"We really have more than enough weapons," says Holko.

## How librarian fights that old stereotype

By SHERRY KARAN

The young woman who will be senior librarian at the new Farmington Community Library when it opens in downtown Farmington doesn't want it to be a "bubbly place."

Because one of Jill Locke's favorite occupations is working with children, she hopes that young people "will feel they can talk to us."

She added: "I also want them to think the librarian is a nice, warm human being, not someone to be afraid of."

**WHILE HER NEW job** will involve staff scheduling, creating exhibits and personnel and building problems, she will also continue to serve as children's librarian.

This is the job she has at present in the library at its Twelve Mile location.

And it is there ever a treat in store for young readers when the new building opens in November at Liberty and State. In the children's library on the lower level, they will see a tree house. It's probably the only tree house "growing" in the middle of a city. All by themselves, the children will be able to climb the ramp into the house and curl up with a good book.

"They will be on their own up there. There is no room for man or dog," she smiles. Miss Locke, a former Farmington resident who now lives in Birmingham, "I'm sure the children will really enjoy it."

The tree house is the result of creative thinking applied to construction requirements. Structurally the library needed four posts in the children's library. Why not use them for a tree house, library officials decided.

"I like children," said Miss Locke. "They are very spontaneous and open and I enjoy that."

She not only reads to pre-schoolers at story hour, she adds guitar music to the event, specializing mostly in folk songs.

### Class offered on alcoholism

A 15-week course on alcoholism treatment will be offered this fall by Mercy College of Detroit for health, social work and law professionals, beginning Sept. 2.

The course will be 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, for adult or three hour's credit. Films, lectures and class interaction will be employed in the class instructed by Donald Warner Jr., a certified Michigan alcoholism counselor.



JILL LOCKE

"Children have a special built-in sense that knows if you like what you are doing," she noted. "If that feeling of enjoyment doesn't come out of you, the child will feel that something is lacking."

She believes that if a parent can help a child learn to enjoy reading, with emphasis on enjoy he has helped that child make a big stride in life.

How does she suggest doing this? Not by putting the child's nose to the grindstone.

"Parents can start singing nursery rhymes, letting their children experience the sounds, the rhythm and the rhymes," she advised.

"In this way the parent is teaching them basic skills the fun way. They clap and giggle and enjoy it."

"When they get older you can tell them stories, changing your voice for the voices of the main characters. After that they soon make the big step into reading for themselves."

"They have to be able to read material that is interesting to them. We try to find things at the library that they will enjoy. Sometimes a child becomes very interested in science and loves reading about animals and other things."

"But once they find that reading is enjoyable, they'll soon expand into other fields."

MISS LOCKE has decided that the library can be both educational and enjoyable. To help the little ones understand this, the library will not only offer pre-schoolers the usual story hour this fall. There also will be creative dramatics and an art class.

For the elementary students there will be a junior great books class and a Saturday program that will teach weaving, offer a study of silent films, and sponsor an old-fashioned Halloween party.

"Our library staff is so talented and diversified that we can present programs like this," Miss Locke said. Variety appeals to her and that is one of the things she likes about her job.

"I have to know my collection, I do art things, I read stories and sing," she noted. "It's diversified and I like the children."

"Right now I have about three of them hanging over my shoulder because I'm not out in the library with them."



### An amazing collection

Public Safety Director Ron Holko points to an AK 47 turned in by a Farmington Hills Vietnam veteran who smuggled it back from overseas. The weapon is the type used by the North Vietnamese. Directly above the AK is an

Italian-made 410 shotgun. Above that is a sawed-off shotgun. Other weapons on the display board were either confiscated or turned in by Hills residents. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

### inside

News 18  
Columns 18  
Editorials 18  
Letters 18  
Obituaries 18  
Farmington Life 18  
Classifieds 18  
Sports 18  
Business 18

Section A 18  
Section B 18  
Section C 18  
Section D 18

#### QUICK RESPONSE

Mr. William Kuffer, of Bloomfield Hills, found out how quickly our fast action report ads work. He advertised his office furniture through our classified ad section and sold everything in less than 48 hours, and he received by asking price for all the items. He reported that he received more than 20 calls in response to just one ad.

Subscribe our second issue in The Observer & Eccentric Classified Section and sell more than 15,000 families in Wayne and Oakland counties what you have to offer. Mr. Kuffer says he keeps with the results and you will, too. Call today.

6-14-1070