

# Praise heaped on Hills' finest by safety chief

Farmington Hills' Director of Public Safety Ronald Holko presented citations and letters of commendation Monday to ten police officers and two volunteer fire fighting units for their dedication to the department last year.

Capt. Russell Conway received two citations from Director Holko.

In recognition of his service May, 1973 through August, 1975, Conway was honored for conducting an "outstanding" investigation and exhibiting dedication in determining the person responsible for the murder of William Loren Day, Holko said.

This investigation led to the subsequent conviction of Day's killer.

In recognition for services rendered July, 1973 through January, 1976, Conway received another citation this time for "conducting a highly professional, investigation and exhibiting dedication in determining the persons responsible for the bludgeoned murder of James Henry Johnson and the subsequent conviction of those criminals," the director said.

Sgt. Richard Niemela also was present.

ed citations by the public safety director.

Niemela received the citations for his investigative role and dedication in the Johnson and Day murder cases, Holko said.

Sgt. Gordon Bass, officers Daniel Massey, Martin Blomquist and Melvin Dale were presented citations in recognition of their service during 1973 as members of the Special Patrol Operational Team (SPOT).

As members of the undercover unit, they performed surveillance follow-up work resulting in the first suppression and apprehension of criminals in the act of crimes.

During the year the unit has been in operation, the officers contributed to the arrest and conviction of a "considerable percentage of the department's arrest statistics."

Through their dedicated efforts, the community is made safe through the reduction in crime," Holko said in presenting the citations.

Chief William Gearhart and the firmness of Station 2 were cited for "donating time, presents and cheery spirits" to help the

young and aged in hospitals enjoy the Christmas holidays.

Gearhart was recognized for his service on visits made by Station 3 personnel in the hospital.

Chief Larry Schreffler and the firmness of Station 2 were cited for performing outstanding service to the community by donating their time and talent during the Farmington Founders' festival.

Schreffler was honored for his service on the festival for 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Officer Ray Marchewitz received a letter of commendation from Holko for demonstrating dedication to the department over the last three years as the Hills police division range officer.

Through your extra efforts the fire-arm proficiency of the department has been improved and remains at a high standard," Holko said Monday while presenting the letter.

Sgt. Niemela also received a letter of commendation for demonstrating to the department during January and February

his dedication in the investigations of the East Junior High School electrocution death.

Officer Larry Ekhardt was honored for his dedication as a police officer during 1973 for not using any sick leave from the department.

Officers Edmund Wasmah and Douglas Anderson were rewarded for their diligent efforts on Jan. 23, 1974 which resulted in the arrest of a suspect for breaking and entering of an occupied dwelling with the intent to commit a larceny.

The suspect was carrying a dangerous weapon in his vehicle when apprehended by the two officers in the area of Oak Forest and Creek Bend roads in Farmington Hills.

The two were originally dispatched in a routine suspicious vehicle complaint.

While investigating the incident, they demonstrated ability to apply sound judgment. Their thorough knowledge of the patrol area's crime problems resulted in the closing of two burglary cases and the recovery of several thousand dollars worth of stolen property," Holko concluded.

## Farmington Observer Eccentric

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### Superintendent hunt

## Trustees search for the best

By RON GARBINSKI

Farmington school board trustees have narrowed their choice of applicants to less than 12 for the new district superintendent of schools.

The school board has been searching for a new Farmington school superintendent since the district's head administrator, Martin Van Ameyde, announced his retirement Dec. 2, 1975.

Van Ameyde, 61, will retire July 1 after 19 years of service to the Farmington School District.

The school board's selection process has been progressing "quite well" and trustees are pleased with the number of applicants for the position, says Mrs. Anne Struble, board vice-president.

The board has reduced the number of

applicants to less than a dozen and I am really pleased with the progress the board and the university placement officers in our search for a new superintendent of schools," Mrs. Struble says.

"THE BOARD has had several study sessions to discuss the selection of a new superintendent and we have put in many hours deciding which candidates are best suited for our district," she continues.

"At our March 29 study session, we met with the university placement director, a visiting board of candidates and board members selected the candidates they felt most qualified."

"We discussed our choices with the

placement directors and decided which ones we would consider," she says.

The board received 143 applications for the superintendent position from candidates within the district, county, state and nation.

But the board has put its selection process in abeyance because of several other important events happening in the district.

Board President William Corliss and Trustee Gary Luchman have been out of town attending the National School Board Convention in California.

"This is much too important an issue to work on without all seven board members present," Mrs. Struble says.

Mr. Corliss and Luchman have been away and the district had the millage and several other important matters to consider during the past several weeks.



This mixed media painting, Family Tree, by Farmington artist Sara Fox (seated) is one of two which she plans to enter in the spring exhibit and sale sponsored by the Farmington Artists Club. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Wealth, growth highlight profile of Farmington area

Farmington schools are located in one of the fastest growing expansion corridors in the southeastern Michigan seven-county region. Roberson Reports of Farmington Hills reveals in a recent community profile study.

It also is in one of the wealthiest counties in the United States and, in terms of average family income, is one of Michigan's most dynamic areas.

"Farmington Hills still has 50 per cent of its land available for future growth."

"Located at the crossroads of Interstate 480 and the new I-275, the school district is midpoint between two regional shopping centers, Northland in Southfield and the proposed Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi."

"Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College has an estimated enrollment of 4,000, providing advanced education to area students."

"The area has two Class A industrial parks with more than 3,000 employees."

"During the past six years, the historic growth of the community has been 800 new households per year. In January 1975, 50 homes sold at an average price of \$52,139.

"The area ranks seventh in residential construction during 1974 and 1975 among the 285 minor civil divisions in the seven-county region."

"The school district has a 1975 average family income of more than \$25,000 plus and supports two K-Mart Centers, plus a central business district."

In addition to these demographic aspects of the Farmington School District, Roberson researchers also revealed several important features about Oakland County that the district will benefit from during the next decade.

"Oakland County is an integral and expanding part of lower Michigan's north-west development corridor, which extends from Detroit through Pontiac in Oakland County and beyond Flint to Saginaw."

"In the next 20-year period, Oakland County's population is expected to increase more than 500,000. In 1970, it was 900,000 and project figures are estimated in excess of 1,300,000 by 1990."

"Oakland County's income for 1974 was \$20,528 per household."

"Oakland County had 580,000 undeveloped acres in 1970 which are adequate to meet the needs of the projected population growth figures expected to increase from 1980 to 1990 at 44 per cent net migration and 54 per cent from natural increase."

"The anticipated age distribution of Oakland County's population by 1990 has important implications for educational facilities. The expected growth in the under-15-year-old age group from 300,000 to 500,000 by 1990 suggests the demand and need for a hard evaluation of educational facilities in the region."

"The county is somewhat independent of Detroit and is in the process of developing large urban nuclei and an industrial life of its own."

"In 1970, one of five residents in the county was employed in a professional or technical position within the county. County employment levels usually are above national rates, indicating both cyclical and seasonal fluctuations as a result of heavy reliance on durable goods production."

"Oakland County median family income of \$13,828 was the highest in the state of Michigan last year."

"The Farmington School District and Oakland County may expect a national recession in 1978 which will affect enroll-

ment. Since World War II, the United States economy has suffered through six recessions. Recessions have gripped the economy 25 per cent of the time since 1948.

	7 COUNTY	OAKLAND COUNTY	FARMINGTON HILLS	FARMINGTON
1960	4,182,140	650,603	25,526	6,881
1970	4,734,508	907,871	46,767	10,329
CHANGE %	52,368	217,268	21,241	3,448
CHANGE %	13.2	31.5	83.2	50.1
1970	4,735,965	907,871	48,694	10,329
1974	4,770,965	995,700	52,000	11,800
CHANGE %	34,935	47,829	3,306	1,471
CHANGE %	0.7	5.3	6.8	14.2
1970	4,735,965	907,871	48,694	10,329
1974	4,765,100	965,400	52,900	11,800
CHANGE %	29,135	57,529	4,206	1,471
CHANGE %	0.6	6.3	8.6	14.2

Population trends show the number of residents in the Farmington School District—the combined populations of Farmington and Farmington Hills—almost has doubled since 1960. These trends indicate the district is in one of the most dynamic and fastest growing communities in the state. The seven-county column records the population in the southeastern Michigan region while the other three columns show the number of residents living in Oakland County and the Farmington community.

## Individual style marks artist club

By CORINNE ARATT

There are probably a number of reasons why the Farmington Artists Club continues to be a dynamic force in the community.

Yet, none may be more important than the fact that each of the artist members is his own person with a positive identifiable style.

Sara Fox of Farmington, now promoting the spring exhibit at the Twelve Oaks branch library, April 30-May 2.

This pretty 27-year-old wife and mother of two sons is a surrealist painter. She likes the term "social surrealism."

Sara said this means she has a deep commitment to social reform and is trying to bring about changes through her art.

SHE COMMUNICATES her concerns through acrylic paintings, collages and mixed media, pen, ink and pencil drawings depicting the hungry, neglected and the down-trodden.

Two of her large acrylics, "In Bondage to the Mechanized Society," and "Family Tree" will be in the spring exhibit.

The first is a statement on what happens to people caught in the gears of the machine age who become non-feeling, non-caring robots. Family Tree speaks of the artist's philosophy that all persons start from the same roots, but are molded by the society into which they are born.

Mrs. Fox is rare among artists in that she freely explains the meanings of her paintings and elaborates on how they follow her personal philosophy. But then, she is an artist with a mission.

I'd love to leave something beautiful behind and do something to help others," she said.

She speaks of a "pressure cooker world," and a "rat race life," saying: "I am intensely interested in people and the things that are happening to them. Some times they are so involved in the race to live, living and working that they forget what life is all about."

She walks over to an acrylic in the hall way of her home on Tulare. This shows a person struggling to reach the top, but what society pictures as reaching the top is really an illusion.

Another painting is a statement on old age. She compares it to the fall season.

In relating life to the changing of seasons, I show fall as the most beautiful when all the colors are in bloom.

She mentions that many people look at old people and see only age and not the wonderful colors.

WHILE SHE IS WORKING on the Farmington Artists Club exhibit, Mrs. Fox is also doing some projects for the Pontiac Bicentennial celebration and attending Oakland Community College taking courses in commercial art. She will receive her degree in June.

Her work at OCC she said has been particularly helpful in the areas of design and color. She said she will continue to study and work at anything that will help her get her messages across.

"Through art I strive to focus on things that call for change and to motivate people to improve harmony with each other," she said.

The Farmington artist exhibit and sale will feature both open and juried galleries and an unfurnished section where all art is \$25 or under.

The public is invited. There is no admission charge and refreshments will be served.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

## Money man tapped at Hills city hall

The City of Farmington Hills has hired Girard C. Miller, 25, as its new finance director.

Miller was hired to replace Richard Ray, who resigned last October after accusations were made by a city employee that city-owned materials were disbursed to private individuals with Reingold's knowledge.

City Manager George Majors had words of praise for Miller, who is leaving the position of township administrator in West Windsor, Princeton Junction, New Jersey.

"Although he is young, he is intelligent and mature," said Majors of Miller, who will be staffing his post on June 1.

Miller is a graduate of the Maxwell School of Public Affairs, Syracuse University, where he earned a masters in public administration. He is a Mellon scholar and was a trainee in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare gerontology program.

He maintained a 4.0 grade point average while at Maxwell.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political economy from the University of Washington, Seattle, where he graduated magna cum laude.

Miller was lauded in the local press in West Windsor for his fairness in dealing with local bidding procedures. Mercer County, in New Jersey, had problems with corrupt bidding practices in the past. Miller was praised for setting an example of honesty, according to the local newspaper, the Trentonian.

As West Windsor Township administrator, Miller was responsible for a \$7-million operating and \$10-million capital budget preparation, central personnel functions, purchasing and labor relations.

He is a member of the International City Managers' Association, the New Jersey Municipal Managers Association and the American Society for Public Administration.

### inside

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