

# Hear ye, Hear ye

## Judges now have own home

By MARY GNIEWEK

Farmington's 47th District Court has a new home.

Ten Mile Elementary School, closed last June because of declining student enrollment, is the site of an expanded (13,000 square foot) and centralized court operation.

Though boxes still line some offices and final touches — like outside landscaping — need to be completed, the court has been using the new facility for two weeks.

"I feel like I've died and gone to heaven," said District Judge Michael Hand in his new chambers. "I'm very pleased. It's a very adequate facility."

Before the move, the court shared working space with boards, commissions and city councils in rooms at Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls.

"The city needed space for other services which keep expanding," Hand said. "Everyone was waiting breathlessly for us to move."

Judge Hand worked with architect John Allen on the reconversion of Ten Mile School, located on Ten Mile between Power and Farmington roads. "I showed him four or five courts and we took the best features of each," Hand said.

The \$600,000 purchase and renovation price netted two courtrooms, a jury assembly room and two deliberating rooms, two cells for prisoners, a probation office, administrative offices, attorney conference rooms, a library and a staff lounge.

A storage room could be converted into a third courtroom if needed. And there is parking behind the building for 200 vehicles to be shared with adult students and staff at Ten Mile Community School next door.

"The school board was very generous. It sold the building at just a fraction of its value," Hand said.

He said the project cost \$27 a square foot.

"You can't build a doghouse for that," he added.

He contrasted the modest price to the cost of a new courthouse in Pontiac — \$2.1 million or \$80 a square foot.

"The taxpayers got their money's worth here," he concluded.

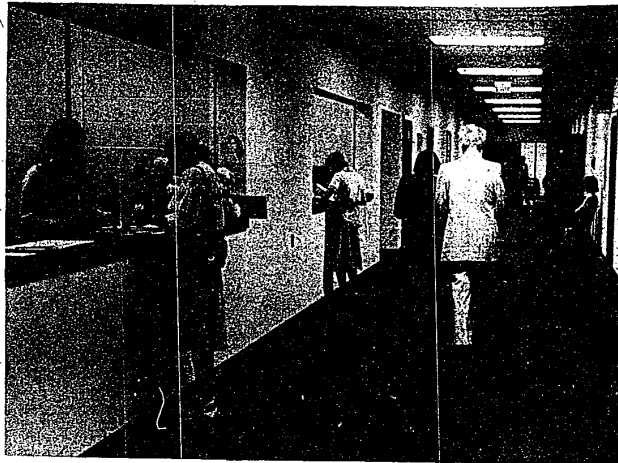
Criminal court cases routinely tried in Farmington Hills City Hall and civil cases heard in the city of Farmington are now coordinated at the new site.

The judges will no longer rotate between two courts at regular intervals. Cases will be assigned on a blind draw between Judge Hand and District Judge Margaret Schaefer.

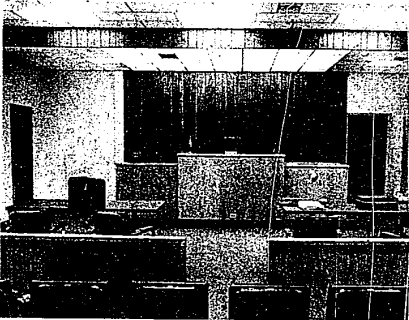
"Under the old set-up, that was impossible. Civil cases were heard in the city because they require less office space. Criminal cases require more room and were handled in the Hills."

"That system was easier on the court but tougher on the judges," Hand said.

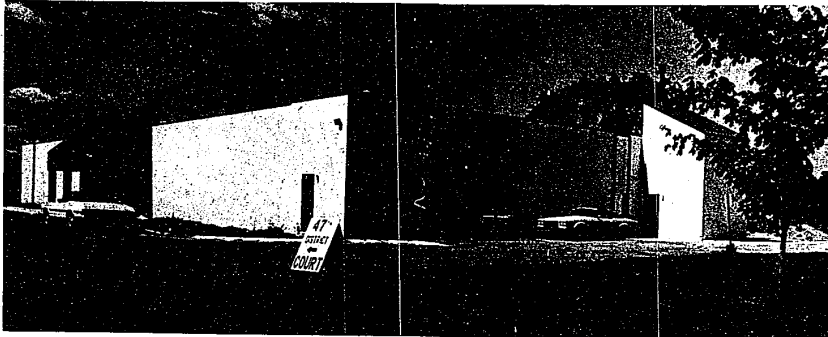
A formal dedication, complete with congressmen and city officials, is planned for early July. On the same as yet undisclosed date, the public will be invited to an open house.



It didn't take long after the new 47th District Court building opened before business was as usual in the brightly lit corridors. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



Judges will no longer have to share their courtroom with the various boards and commissions from Farmington and Farmington Hills. This is one of the courtrooms located in the new Ten Mile facility. (Staff photo)



What once was a portion of Ten Mile Elementary School has been transformed into a court building. The new facility is located on Ten Mile, west of Power. (Staff photo)

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

**HOLY CROSS CREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH'S** annual Glendi Festival was a success but its tent was a flop. During the strong wind last Sunday, the canvas tent took a beating from Mother Nature and toppled over. Persons eating inside the tent grabbed their kids and ran out as the poles fell. The rest of the festival was cancelled. Some persons suffered skinned knees. But the horror of the 12-foot-high poles falling was eased somewhat when the frightened festival-goers were taken into the church hall and given a drink of ouzo. Said one spectator: "Everyone had a good time."

**AUCTION FANS**, start practicing your bidding. Lucy's Oldies but Goodies will sponsor an auction in front of the shop at 34631 Grand River. The preview will begin at noon on June 16. The auction starts at 1 p.m. (Altogether now: "Going, going, gone! Do you take Master Charge?")

**SUNDAY BELONGS TO DADDY** That's the stance taken by the Farmington Community Concert Band which will perform for the public free at 3 p.m. June 17 in the Oakland Community College amphitheater.

**FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S** class of 1974 will be reunited on July 28 at Roma's of Bloomfield. The party will last from 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Tickets are \$18 per person, or \$35 per couple.

Ticket price includes dinner, cocktails and dancing. For further information or reservations, call the school at 474-8156. Deadline for reservations is June 30.

**OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S DENTAL HYGIENE** program has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Dental and Dental Auxiliary Education Programs.

**THE OAKLAND LIVINGSTON HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY** plans to develop jobs for youths looking for summer work. The jobs are expected to start on June 18 and will pay eligible participants \$2.90 an hour. Potential employees must meet low income guidelines and be between the ages of 14-21. The jobs will last from 30 to 40 hours a week depending on the position and the person. Such openings as teacher's aide, clerical work, supply clerks, food service jobs, ground maintenance work, parks and recreation and library aides will be available. The summer job program is funded through a grant from CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration) and will run through Sept. 30. OLISA will provide transportation to job sites, counseling for career and personal development and budget management for enrollees. Applications are available at OLISA, 4th floor, 196 Oakland, Pontiac.

**THE FARMINGTON MUSICALS** CLOSED its 1978-79 season on June 6 with a salad luncheon co-hosted by Anita Mallette and Fern Barber. Officers for the coming year were installed: President, Vivian Manwaring; 1st vice president, Fern Barber; 2nd vice president, Sharon Cardecia; Recording Secretary, Lois Swanson; Corresponding Secretary, Brenda Thalacker; and Treasurer Betty Walker. The Musical's new season begins in September. Anyone interested in joining can contact Mrs. Fern Barber at 691-4604.

**FLORENCE 'DINGHY' SHARP** of Farmington Hills has been recognized by representatives of the child care organizations in the metropolitan Detroit-area for her "outstanding community work on behalf of learning disabled children." Ms. Sharp began the local chapter of Bucket Brigade which helps learning disabled youngsters.

**FARMINGTON STUDENTS ARE ON THE MOVE:** Randall Amis of Farmington Hills is one of 13 students participating in an undergraduate premedical internship program sponsored by Albion College this summer. He will work 40 hours a week at Crittenton Hospital in Rochester under supervising physician, Dr. Bruce Kresge. A graduate of North Farmington High School, Amis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Amis of Farmington Hills. Ann Simanek, of Farmington Hills, was into weird sounds this past semester at Alma College. She was creating electronic music for a college course. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Simanek of 25194 Westmoreland, Farmington Hills. She is a 1977 graduate of Harrison High School.

### DEADLINE

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**HUDSON'S** tell dad he's special on June 17th