

Farmington Observer

Volume 96 Number 69

Thursday, June 6, 1985

Farmington, Michigan

78 Pages

Twenty-five cents

©1985 Subscription Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Village Mall has own ideas for downtown

By Julie Brown
staff writer

While many downtown merchants are working with city planners to improve the shopping atmosphere, the merchants at the Village Mall in Farmington have some definite ideas of their own to suggest.

"We'd like to see them do a few changes," said Edna Malotke, owner of Kitchen Creations, which carries cake decorating and candy-making supplies.

"Parking, I think, is number one. That's one of the main things we hear when people come down here. And the fact that there are no public restrooms. I kind of like what Plymouth has done," she said of that city's parking structure. "They can really use the space to more advantage than just one flat parking lot."

"We've seen what some of the other towns have been able to do. I like Northville's main street, where they've got the old-fashioned lights and the old-fashioned atmosphere, and yet there's so much there."

Malotke's store has been in the mall for approximately two years.

"It's pretty good," she said of business. "I would like to see it improve. I

know there's more business out there."

The merchants have formed an association, known as the Village Mall Merchants Association. A variety of businesses are in the mall, including craft and gift shops, a clock shop, a hair salon, an attorney's office, a tax service, a resale shop and others.

The building was built in the late 1920s, Malotke said, and renovated into a mall in the early 1970s.

Malotke would like to see promotional efforts geared at getting people into downtown Farmington.

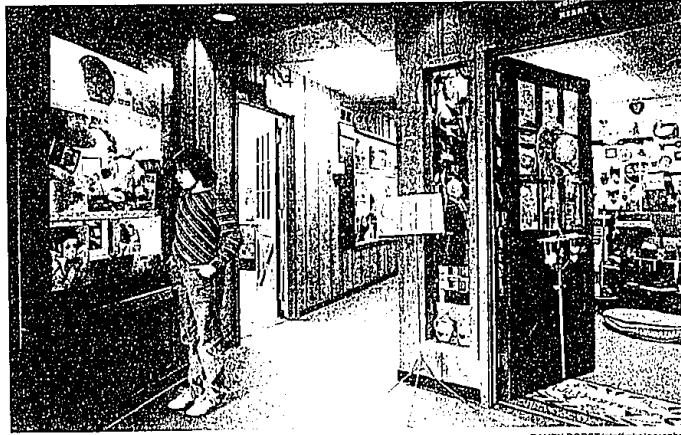
"A lot of people don't even think about Farmington anymore." Promoting downtown is essential, she said, if the downtown businesses are to compete with the large shopping malls.

"I think the difference is in the type of thing we offer here, compared to what you find in the malls. You have to have something to draw them."

Offering classes in cake decorating and candy making helps Malotke promote her business.

"Anything we can do to generate interest. When I'm out doing the classes, I tell people about the mall."

THE MALL IS at the intersection of



Kristin Malotke browses in the Village Mall in downtown Farmington. Mall merchants would like to see some changes downtown and they have some ideas to make them happen.

Farmington Road and Grand River Avenue.

"It's a high traffic area, but it's hard to get people to stop, because they're just driving through. That's why we've been trying to promote it as the Village Mall, to get more interest in it."

Perry Swartz is also interested in attracting shoppers to downtown Farmington. He and his wife, Valerie, own

Ferry's Clock Shop in the Village Mall.

"I think there's a lot of room for improvement. I would like to see the downtown Farmington area improved."

"I would like to see the city council consider some businesses that would be an asset to downtown development," Swartz said. He would like to see one or two more formal restaurants move into the downtown area.

"I think that would be an asset to the downtown community. If there was a nice restaurant, people could go out to eat and then go shopping."

Improved parking would also be helpful, Swartz said.

"I think probably we could use more parking facilities," he said. "We could

Please turn to Page 24

Two face trial in robbery

Two men will be tried in Oakland County Circuit Court on charges involving an armed robbery last month. One is also charged in connection with the shooting of a Livonia police officer that took place after the robbery.

At a preliminary examination Friday, 47th District Judge Michael Hand bound over for trial Douglas Barton, 23, of Inkster and Casimir Edward Bagacianis, 20, of Westland. Each is charged with three counts of armed robbery and three counts of possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Barton also will be tried on one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Bond was continued at \$1 million for Barton and \$600,000 for Bagacianis. Both are in the Oakland County Jail in Pontiac.

BARTON ALSO faces trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on a charge of attempted murder in connection with a May 6 shoot-out on the Jeffries Freeway. In that shoot-out, a Garden City man was killed and Livonia Police Officer Gregory Henderson was wounded. Arthur E. Sherman, 25, of Garden City was killed, and both Barton and Bagacianis were wounded.

The armed robbery in which Barton and Bagacianis are charged took place in Farmington Hills at 11:15 p.m. May 5 at a house at 28706 Nine Mile Road.

Two brothers who live at the house on Nine Mile Road were tied up and the girlfriend of one of the brothers was sexually assaulted.

The robbers apparently demanded drugs, money and other possessions, ransacked the house and then drove away shortly before 3 a.m., police said.

Ingenuity saves day during power outage

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Michigan was spared the worst of the recent bad weather. Even so, some local residents had to cope with the inconvenience caused by power outages.

Coping with those outages called for ingenuity on the part of local business owners.

At the House of Lee restaurant on Grand River Avenue in Farmington, it was business as usual Friday night — well, nearly so.

"Our business has been here for 11 years," said Mi Lee, who manages her father's restaurant. Although the restaurant had lost power before, it had never lost power during the busiest hours.

"We had a full house in here," Lee said. Some children in the restaurant began to cry when the lights went out at 7 p.m. Friday, she said.

When the restaurant lost its power, employees hastily searched for candles.

"WE FOUND candles, so we set candles at each table," Lee said. Most customers remained.

"I told them we could cook their meals if they'd like to stay." The restaurant's gas appliances helped make the meal preparation easier. Even so, lighting was a problem in the restaurant, which has no windows.

"When people went to the restroom, we had to give them a flashlight." Cooking the meals also took a bit longer, as the cook had to search for different items in the semi-darkness.

Business didn't seem to suffer much, Lee said. "Apparently, a lot of people didn't have power. That night, we served over 100 meals in the dark."

The night's business was "pretty typical, and it might have been a little more," she said.

THE RESTAURANT'S telephone wasn't working, which cut down on the carry-out business.

"If it weren't for that, we would have been even busier, I think."

'We found candles, so we set candles at each table. I told them we could cook their meals if they'd like to stay.'

—Mi Lee
House of Lee manager

The restaurant closed at 10 p.m., and the employees held a party.

"After three hours of serving in the dark, we just couldn't handle it anymore. I have never seen anything like it."

"We really have a good staff. They did a tremendous job."

The restaurant's power came back on in mid-afternoon Saturday, and the doors were opened at 5 p.m.

"We had another very busy night. I guess a lot of people were still without power."

The restaurant's customers remained good-natured despite the darkness, she said.

"They just wanted to stay, they thought it was a lot of fun. The customers were very nice about it."

THE SALON ST. GEORGES hair salon is in the World Wide Center, as is the House of Lee restaurant. Salon owner Anka Korica has her own problems to cope with during the power outage.

The salon had one light working, but that went out at 11:15 a.m. Saturday.

"We were dependent on the daylight to do the customers," she said. "We washed their hair and put them out."

Please turn to Page 19



Mi Lee, House of Lee manager, brought out kerosene lamps and candles for customers who were dining when the lights went out during recent heavy winds.

RANDY BORSST/staff photographer

Gun battle probed

By Teri Banas
staff writer

James Douglas Barton, charged with attempted murder in the shooting of a Livonia police officer last month, Tuesday was bound over to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Livonia Judge Robert J. Brzezinski said he "was satisfied" that a crime had been committed and that there was "probable cause" that Barton was responsible — two criteria needed to continue the case against the accused.

Barton, 23, dressed in the same black suit and shirt he wore two weeks ago when the court exam began in Livonia's 16th District Court, sat silently through the brief proceedings before returning to the Oakland County Jail, where he is being held on a \$1 million bond.

Please turn to Page 15

oral quarrel

How do you feel about court prayer rule?

Recently the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a law that permitted a daily one-minute period of silent meditation or prayer in Alabama's public schools. Justices said the Alabama law "intended to characterize prayer as a favored practice."

Opponents to the court decision are seeking a constitutional amendment allowing a moment of prayer. Some 25 other states have similar laws which could be challenged, according to the court opinion.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is: How do you feel about a constitutional amendment allowing prayer in schools? How do you feel about the recent court decision?

To answer today's question call 477-5468. You will have until Friday at 11 p.m. to respond.

what's inside

Community calendar . . . 7B
Club circuit . . . 3B
Cable connection . . . 10A
Editorials . . . 22A
Obituaries . . . 22A
Recreation news . . . 14A
Sports . . . Section C
Suburban Life . . . Section B
NEWSLINE . . . 477-5450
HOME DELIVERY . . . 591-0500
CLASSIFIED ADS . . . 591-0900

"WILL DEFINITELY USE YOUR PAPER AGAIN!"

W. Ratliff was delighted at the response of the Observer & Eccentric CAMPER, TRAILER & MOTORHOMES Classified ad placed. "Great response! Very effective! Many, many calls - couldn't handle them all!"

Remember...

One call does it all.

591-0900

Use your MasterCard or Visa

Police, fire get new recorder

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Farmington City Council members Monday unanimously authorized the purchase of a telephone/radio recorder system for the city's Department of Public Safety.

The recording equipment will cost \$14,978 and will be purchased from the Dictaphone Co. The funds will come from the city's 1985-86 General Fund budget.

"It's 14 years old," Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said of the current system. "We've been experi-

encing about a 10 percent downtime on it. When it's down, of course, none of the emergency calls or emergency transmissions are being recorded."

As the equipment has gotten older, getting parts has become more difficult, Deadman said.

"There have been some problems with some of the parts recently, because of its age. The parts are not as readily available."

The eight-channel system currently uses one channel to record times.

"The time element on the machine

Please turn to Page 10