



Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

ARE YOU a woman who likes to sing? Then take heed. The Sweet Adelines invites women to join them in rehearsals to learn about and enjoy four-part harmony — barbershop style.

The Farmington Hills chapter sings under the direction of Julene Fabrizio at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Latvian Lutheran Church, 50523 12 Mile.

BREAK a leg, Donna. Donna Lewis of Farmington Hills is performing in the theater production of "The Three Sisters" at Albion College. She plays the role of Olga, the oldest sister.

A sophomore, she's a member of the Albion College Players.

EASTER Seal Society and Burger King are working to assure a safe and fun Irish-sea event for all youngsters through the sale of "50¢ Halloween Coupon" books.

A book of 10 coupons, each good for an order of regular french fries, costs \$1 at any Burger King restaurant.

Proceeds benefit the Easter Seal Society of Oakland County in its work with disabled children and adults.

A STUDENT from Farmington High School will attend the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State program on Central Michigan University's Mount Pleasant campus through the city of Farmington's generosity.

The city council has agreed to sponsor one Farmington High student for \$150.

The program encourages leadership and promotes a better understanding of government. City Manager Robert Deadman said.

FARMINGTON City Council has accepted Joyce O'Brien's resignation from the Farmington Area Arts Commission "with regret."

O'Brien resigned because of other commitments. She served as the city's representative for eight years.

NATIONAL Bible Week's coming up. And the city of Farmington will be prepared.

The city council has declared the week of Nov. 24 to Dec. 1 as National Bible Week in Farmington. The week is designed to promote the reading and study of the Bible. It is not an endorsement or promotion of any religious denomination or Bible edition.

FOOTNOTES: Reads the Michigan Historic Marker in front of the Farmington Municipal Building. In the 1870s, members of the Society of Friends played a key role in the settlement of several Michigan communities. Farmington was founded in 1824 by Arthur Power, a Quaker from Farmington, N.Y. In 1831, what was apparently Michigan's first formal Quaker meeting was organized at Farmington. Power in 1835 gave the land for the meeting house and the old Quaker Cemetery located one-half mile west of here on Hill Road. Starting in 1825, these Friends opened a school. This independent group provided the nucleus around which the present city and township developed. The Quakers were also active in the anti-slavery movement. Farmington had a station on the Underground Railroad.

Library's hours are increased

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

For the first time since 1979, Farmington Community Library will be open Sunday afternoons — Dec. 1 through May.

Library trustees agreed Thursday to restore Sunday hours, at an estimated cost of \$12,000, only at the Farmington

Hills branch, 32737 W. 12 Mile. The branch will be open 1-5 p.m. Sundays. Full services will be available — including the children's library, references and data base services. "If you are going to open the library, then you should offer a full coverage of services to the public," said Beverly Papal, library director.

Library officials hope to one day provide Sunday hours from September to June to conform with the school year. The cost to extend hours will be paid for from the wage and salary portion of the library budget. The money is available as a result of a decrease in salary costs this year, Papal said.

As the newly appointed director, Papal earns less than former director Gordon Lewis, who resigned May 15 after serving as director since 1974. Library officials also have not yet hired anyone to replace Papal, who was assistant director before being promoted.

OPENING ON Sundays, including overhead building costs as well as paying employees time and a half, should be covered by the estimated \$12,000, Papal said.

Restoring Sunday hours in the winter was suggested by trustees Aldo Vagnoni and Dorothy Stoufjesky, who make up the library board's relatively new public relations committee.

The majority of public complaints have to do with lack of weekend library hours, Papal said. When the library opened on Sundays in 1978 and 1979, it was found circulation was higher that day than throughout the week. Without Sunday hours, Farmington and Farmington Hills residents must go elsewhere to use a library that day.

A compilation of data gathered by library officials throughout metro Detroit shows many libraries of similar size in similar-sized communities are open weekends, Papal said. The communities include Grosse Pointe, Southfield, Rochester Hills, West Bloomfield Township, Millford, Oak Park, Oxford, Redford Township, Taylor and Trenton.

In 1978, when the library first opened on Sundays, the service was paid for by the Friends of the Library. In the second year, the cost of Sunday hours was incorporated in the library budget. After 1979, the library did not open on Sundays because of budget constraints, Papal said.

Police probe grows

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Suspected prostitution in five Oriental health spas in Farmington Hills — resulting in 17 arrests last week — may be connected to an international organization that recruits U.S. servicemen to marry Korean women and bring them into the country, said Police Chief William Dwyer.

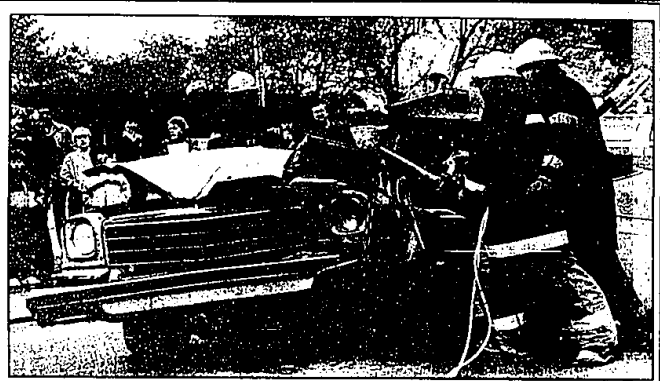
"I'm not saying necessarily that this is happening in Farmington Hills. But there is possibly a connection with the international organization," Dwyer said.

The organization, "controlled strictly by Koreans," pays servicemen approximately \$5,000 to marry Korean women and bring them into the United States. Once in the country, the servicemen receive another \$2,000 to \$3,000 to divorce them, Dwyer said.

The Korean women are then placed in health spas, similar to those in Farmington Hills, to work and repay the money owed to the international organization for the marriage and divorce proceedings, Dwyer said.

"Although the servicemen have been linked to bringing the Korean women into the country, they have not been

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Farmington Hills firefighters demonstrate use of the Jaws of Life extrication tool on an old car.

Playing up fire safety

Shutterbugs had a field day at the Farmington Hills Fire Department open house, held Sunday, Oct. 6 at department headquarters as a kickoff to National Fire Prevention Week.

The fare included demonstrations of the Jaws of Life extrication tool on an old car, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, donning a green fire with a fire extinguisher and an aerial rescue from the fire station rooftop.

Department equipment was on display. Fire safety movies were shown. Smoke detector batteries, balloons and door prizes were given away. And Sparky the fire dog and Robbie the robot greeted the youngsters.

"The purpose of this annual event is to make the public more aware of fire problems and the solutions to those problems," Fire Lt. Peter Baldwin said.

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Staff photos by Bob Sklar



Sparky the fire dog greets youngsters at the open house.

Comparing views

5 Hills candidates debate city's concerns

See Page 3A for candidate biographies. See Page 8A for candidate profiles.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

A proposed financing scheme to make capital improvements along the 12 Mile office corridor, beautifying the city and availability of sports facilities dominated the first debate between incumbents and challengers vying for four seats on the Farmington Hills City Council.

The five candidates met at the invitation of the West Bloomfield/Farmington League of Women Voters, the Farmington Area Republican Club and the Farmington Democratic Club Tuesday night in the Farmington Hills Municipal Building to discuss their political opinions. Approximately 40 residents attended the cable-telvised forum.

Candidates participating in the debate — the first sponsored cooperatively between the three groups — were challengers Jonathan Grant and Terry Sorer and incumbents Jan Dolan, Ben Marks and Jodi Sorocow. Talk of the city's proposed creation of a Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) along the 12 Mile corridor

election '85

drew the first dissenting opinion from candidates.

"I WILL not support a program that will take millions of dollars away from the (Farmington) school board," said Sorer. "No way will I shift the burden

(of financing improvements along 12 Mile) to the school district."

Under TIFA, city officials could create a special taxing authority and district to provide money for public road and drainage improvements along 12 Mile — the city's hottest stretch of major office development.

The TIFA proposal calls for freezing current property values in the proposed district along 12 Mile. The city has the option of taking all or part of any increased property-tax revenue

generated by increased property assessments. If city officials choose to take 100 percent of the revenue from increased assessments, Farmington Public Schools, Oakland Community College and Oakland County would not benefit from them. But the governmental units would continue to garner revenue from the pre-increase property assessments.

The proposed TIFA district would be

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Suspected marijuana is seized

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Five pounds of suspected marijuana were netted in a raid on a Farmington Hills apartment unit Thursday afternoon.

Armed with a search warrant for the residence and an arrest warrant for Melvin E. Ott, 47, Oakland County narcotics Enforcement Team officers, with assistance from the Farmington Hills Police, raided the Grand River residence shortly before 4 p.m. Tuesday. They arrested Ott and confiscated five pounds of suspected marijuana,

which carries a street value of \$500 per pound. About \$1,600 in cash also was seized, said Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Dennis Rockford.

OTT'S ARREST came after Farmington Hills Police told NET about information they received during an unreported investigation. That information led police to believe Ott was distributing large quantities of marijuana, said Farmington Hills Police Executive Ernest Miller. Ott allegedly sold a quantity of marijuana to an undercover NET officer sometime during the previous week.

Arraigned Friday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, Ott stood mute to two counts of delivery of marijuana. An innocent plea was entered in his behalf. The felony is punishable upon conviction by a maximum penalty of four years in prison and a \$2,000 fine. Schaeffer set bond at \$3,000 per count pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court.

The suspected marijuana will undergo testing at the Michigan State Police Crime Laboratory in Northville. Additional charges relating to the search warrant are pending, Sgt. Rockford said.

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