



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, call the Farmington office at 477-5450 or write to our downtown office at 3000 Grand River, Farmington, Mich.

SHE'S a finalist. Farmington Hills' Mary Beth School teacher Sangraeta Gandhi is one of 25 finalists in the U.S. Senior Youth Program scholarship competition. Selections were based on academic achievement, leadership ability, articulation and community involvement. Two delegates will be chosen to represent Michigan in Washington, D.C., Feb. 1-4. They will receive an expense-paid trip, a \$100 saving bond and a \$2,000 scholarship.

CALLING all Farmington-area poets. A \$1,000 grand prize is offered in World of Poetry's 11th annual poetry contest, open to all poets. In addition to the grand prize, there are 50 cash and merchandise awards totaling \$10,000. The rules and official contest terms, writer World of Poetry, Dept. 2801, 2801 N. Lincoln St., Chicago, Ill. 60647.

IN THE spotlight. Junior Andrew Young of Farmington played the Ghost of Christmas Future and also performed in the ensemble in the stage production of the musical "Scrivo" at Northern Michigan University, Marquette. He's majoring in theater.

CARISUS graduates. Six students from the Farmington area received degrees Dec. 6 at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Listed with their majors, they are Faruk Ahmad, master of science in electrical engineering; Anwar Elmaghrabi, bachelor of business administration; Julie Johnston, bachelor of arts in mathematical studies; Gina Kille, bachelor of business administration; Jean Marie Pajunen, master of arts in public history; and Brian Houshous, bachelor of arts in early childhood.

Robert Arrington of Farmington is listed as a member of the board of trustees in the publication "The Year 2000" from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

THEY'RE the winners. Twelve questions from the Farmington area were included in a recent issue of the Michigan University Yearbook. They are: Cheryl Bickelshies, Mary Ann Aho, Jeffery D. Brown, James M. Smith, Cheryl D. Brown, Elizabeth A. Brown, James M. Smith, James M. Smith, James M. Smith, James M. Smith, James M. Smith, James M. Smith.

COMMUNITY. The Farmington area is a vibrant community with many opportunities for growth and development. We are proud to be part of a community that values education, hard work, and family. Our schools are excellent, and our businesses are thriving. We are committed to providing a high quality of life for all our residents.

Man allegedly shoots wife to death

By Joanne Mallazowski and Bob Sklar staff writers

A 38-year-old man allegedly shot his 24-year-old wife to death sometime before 4 p.m. Thursday in their Farmington Hills apartment.

The man then shot himself twice in the chest, but he is expected to survive, police said.

Based on their investigation, police recommended to the Oakland County

Prosecutor's Office that a warrant be issued charging the man with murder, Sgt. Dennis Rochford of the Farmington Hills Police Department said. A warrant was pending Friday.

Urbine Lewis, 24, died of an apparent gunshot wound to the left side of her body, Police Chief William Dwyer said.

The suspect was reported in guarded condition Friday at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. He was under protective police custody, Dwyer said.

ALTHOUGH POLICE are not sure what happened between Lewis and her husband before the shooting, Dwyer said Lewis left her husband Dec. 17 and they apparently planned to file for divorce Dec. 28.

The husband appeared "to have been depressed about the pending divorce," Rochford said.

The shooting took place at the couple's two-bedroom apartment on Verdant Drive in Mulrwood Apartments and Terraces, at Drake and Grand Riv-

er. The couple's home was in a group of newly built units north of Grand River. The bullet that killed Lewis traveled through her upper body, then through the living room wall into a bedroom, Rochford said.

Police were called to Mulrwood about 3:50 p.m. Thursday on a report of a double shooting, Dwyer said.

WHEN THEY entered the apartment, police found Lewis dead with a gunshot wound under the left arm. Her

husband, found with two gunshot wounds to the chest, was still conscious and "made incriminating statements about himself," Dwyer said.

A .44 magnum revolver, with three spent rounds, was found on the living room floor near Lewis' husband. The gun appears to be the weapon used in the shooting, Dwyer said.

Police gave the following account of

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Effort's thrust: student training

By Michele Glance staff writer

Farmington-area executives may soon offer local students the benefit of their experience.

Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce hopes to get involved in a nationwide movement called "Partnerships for Education." The program encourages businesses to team up with local schools so each can benefit.

Chamber executives hope to meet with school officials early in the New Year to iron out specific plans for ways they can aid local students.

The idea stems from the prodding of Phillip Runkel, state superintendent of public instruction. President Reagan has given the program a plug, too, by declaring 1985 as the National Year of Partnerships in Education.

John Handley, chamber president, had several ideas of how the business community could aid the schools.

"Business people may be able to help in upgrading teacher skills," Handley said. "They may be able to show teachers the latest practices businesses are using in accounting, for example. Big companies are obviously using up-to-date business practices, and for someone who's teaching in the schools, it's not always easy to keep abreast of what's going on in that market."

ANOTHER BENEFIT local executives might be able to offer is the presentation of a seminar that would familiarize students with the business community.

Students also could learn from viewing how computers are used in local businesses, Handley said. This would show students how the things they are learning about computers in the classroom are actually applied in the business world.

Skilled professionals could also offer career guidance to students considering...

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A night-time view of Grand River, looking west toward Farmington Road.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Brightened up Downtown all aglow with holiday lighting

Downtown merchants size up the holiday shopping season: Page 2A.

By Casey Hans staff writer

An estimated 80 percent of Downtown Farmington merchants drew together in a spirit they hope will be ongoing.

Some expect this year's window displays of white lights and plaid ribbon, coordinated downtown lighting and a group advertising effort to snowball in years to come.

"I'd like to see a lot more people come to Farmington," said Andrew Baker, Pictures and More owner. "There's something to be some cohesiveness with the merchants that will allow us to do more things."

Baker and other members of the merchants' Christmas subcommittee put up tree lights in the Downtown Farmington Center. The lights were purchased by the shopping center's owner.

THE CITY purchased and put up lights on other downtown trees. Merchants paid for installation of exterior electric plugs for the lights, with the prompting of Civic Theatre owner Greg Hotler.

Subcommittee members went door-to-door selling their decorating idea to other merchants. "We got a very good response," said Kathleen Verstraete, manager of the Dress Barn and chairwoman of the subcommittee. The Christmas subcommittee was appointed in October by the 13-member steering committee of the

Downtown Farmington Development Committee (DFDC). "Everybody chipped in," Verstraete said. "Farmington has not done so much together in a long time."

"We want to continue this," she added, noting the effort would start earlier in 1986.

New ideas being discussed for the coming year include a downtown location for Santa Claus, new decorations for downtown lightposts, and additional white lights on buildings not decorated this year, including homes in the downtown area.

THE RECENT merchant spirit dovetails into a nine-month effort to rejuvenate Downtown Farmington, which began with the formation of the DFDC task force in April.

City-hired consultants will present results of a nine-month down-

town study at a DFDC meeting in January, detailing recommendations for future development in downtown Farmington.

Also scheduled in January is a proposal to Farmington City Council for a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in the central business district. A 1975 state act allows a city to establish a DDA with autonomous decision-making powers relating to public improvements although its budget is subject to city council approval. If approved, it is expected a DDA would take the place of the current DFDC.

Denise Taweyca-Nitz, a member of the DFDC's beautification task force and chairwoman of the group's downtown design subcommittee, believes "we've gotten to the exciting point" in downtown development.

Group homes State's concept widely misunderstood

By Mary Rodrigue staff writer

In 1978, the state Legislature established regulations for removing persons who are mentally retarded or mentally ill from state institutions and placing them into adult foster care facilities in local communities.

Seven years later, the concept of group home placement is still widely misunderstood.

"Morally, we are all in favor of group homes. But we object to the dictatorial policies of the state," said Ben Marks, a Farmington Hills councilman.

Marks joined city officials from Tecumseh, Flint, Michigan's thumb area and suburban councilmen and city managers Dec. 17 at Livonia's Holiday

Association, the forum highlighted speakers from the state departments of Social Services and Mental Health, law enforcement officers and social workers, the operators of several group homes and neighbors living adjacent to foster care facilities.

COMMUNITIES WITH several group homes in operation, and one city awaiting its first group home, pummeled panelists with questions on the often-controversial topic. Specifically, city officials said they

For related stories, see Page 3A.

Inn to study the foster care licensing issue. Sponsored by the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Township

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EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the holiday, we will be closed Wed., Jan. 1st. To place your classified ad in our Thurs. Jan. 2nd edition, please call Mon., Dec. 30 before 6:00.

Oakland County
644-1070
Rochester
852-3222
Wayne County
591-9900
Happy Holidays

- News line . . . 477-5450
- Sports line . . . 591-2300
- Home delivery . . . 591-2300
- Classified line . . . 591-0900