



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.

HUNDREDS of high school pompon girls are in regional competition throughout the state, working for a spot in the state finals Saturday, Feb. 22.

Top contenders will compete on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus that day for championship trophies, ribbons and banners and camp scholarships.

The two-month-long competition is sponsored annually by Mid American Pompon Inc.

HE'S a scholarship winner. Michael Mooney of Farmington Hills has won a \$500 scholarship from the Michigan Restaurant Association.

Mooney is majoring in hotel and restaurant at Michigan State University, East Lansing.

MOVING on. Army Spec. 4 Stanley Bowling of Farmington arrived for duty with the 19th Engineer Battalion, Ft. Knox, Ky.

A combat engineer, he previously was assigned in West Germany.

AT the helm. George Sherman of Farmington Hills will serve a one-year term on the Retirees Association of Wayne State University's board of directors.

CONTACT Kathryn. Kathryn Briggs, Farmington Hills Historical Commission chairman, was chosen as the city's contact person for the 1987 Michigan sesquicentennial celebration.

HARVARD alumnus. Andrew Zago, a North Farmington High School graduate, has earned a master of architecture design degree from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

He earlier earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

COMING home. Marine Cpl. Carmen Hayes II has spent the past year in Japan. He and his wife, Brenda, will be returning to the United States soon.

Brenda is formerly from Farmington Hills. Her husband is formerly from Warren.

ON the dean's list. Students from Farmington on the dean's list at Madonna College, Livonia, are: Laura Ambinder, Claudia Clarizio, Lucy Coccimiglio, Kathryn Drioff, Dorothy Donovan, Sheila Easton, Frank Lauboff, Patricia Walter and Sibam White.

Those from Farmington Hills are: Elaine Carlson, Cynthia Carrier, Susan Curtis, Jennifer Dahlstrom, Nancy Delonis, Sonya Dollar, Mary Durnell, Julie Edlesmere, Jane Gertz, Zena Holden, Betty Houghton, Nathalie Howard, Sandra Jurdek, Donna Marrell, Patricia Mato, Deanna Miller, Barbara Richardson, Linda Sherman, Anne Marie Snyder and Cecilia Suh.

FOOTNOTES: Two Indian trails once crossed at Farmington and Shiawassee roads — the Orchard Lake Trail and the Shiawassee Trail.

In 1874, a Quaker settlement began to develop at the crossroads. In the 1890s, the settlement expanded southward toward what is now Farmington's central business district. The settlement, incorporated as a village in 1887 and as a city in 1926.

The First Baptist Church, at Farmington and Shiawassee roads and site of a Farmington Historic Commission marker, was organized in 1825. The original structure, built in 1861, is still in use as a church.

Cities weigh support for road millage

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A public survey will likely determine whether a county millage proposal for repairing roads will come before voters in the August primary or the November general election.

A seven-city consortium, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, will survey the public to get a reaction to a possible millage increase, said John Grubba, Oakland County Road Commission managing director.

The road commission recently determined — with local input — that \$740 million in road repairs are needed. A total of \$120 million is available for the proposed work, leaving a needed \$625 million. Each additional mill would raise \$15 million per year, Grubba said.

Because of extreme Oakland County growth, main thoroughfares are "hope-

'The congestion has no boundaries. We are incapable of meeting the demand (for county road needs).'

— Ralph Grubba, director, road commission

lessly clogged," handling nearly double the traffic they should, Grubba said. "The congestion has no boundaries. We are incapable of meeting the demand."

Most of the projects, totalling \$600 million in cost, involve widening roads to five lanes.

A MILLAGE increase would raise money immediately, Grubba added, although a millage proposal has not been officially recommended at the county level.

A property tax increase is one of several ways mentioned by Grubba to raise money for repairs. Other financing means discussed by county and local governments include: a fuel tax to be applied directly to road revenues, a special sales tax on automotive goods countywide, special assessment districts, and local tax increment financing authority (TIFA) districts, which could aid in the effort by recapturing a portion of future tax revenues for local public improvements.

Grubba also suggested involvement of the private business sector to aid road repair financing. This effort is working well in Troy, he said.

The road commission has no taxing authority. Its members are appointed by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for six-year terms to oversee the road system.

City consortium members prefer the fuel tax option over the millage increase, Grubba added. A fuel tax would require legislative action and a public vote, while the property tax requires no legislation.

"OUR PREFERENCE would be a Detroit metropolitan area gas tax," said Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager. "But our problems in this county are severe enough, we may have to develop other types of taxation." Farmington's public survey work will be bid out to professionals, he added.

Because 1986 is a legislative election year, Grubba does not believe the Michigan Legislature will raise an additional tax — whether sales or fuel.

Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick is "pleased to see the road commission take the initiative" in coordinating the project. He said, "a multifaceted approach" is needed for financing the effort.

"I think we need to come up with a financing scheme . . . to help us leverage whatever state and federal dollars we can."

Action is under way to rank the road projects as financing methods are discussed, Grubba added. He expects a priority report to be completed by late March.

Senior housing to grow

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Two new housing projects for the elderly are planned in Farmington Hills.

The city council last week approved rezoning requests from the Finnish Cultural Association (FCA) and the Chaldean Catholic Church of the USA to accommodate senior citizen housing.

"We are a microcosm of what's going on (around the country) regarding the need for senior housing." Anything the city can do to facilitate more development (for the elderly), that's our responsibility," said Councilwoman Jan Dolan, an ardent supporter of such housing.

The FCA's request was to rezone 2.1 acres north of Eight Mile, west of Gill, adjacent to the Finnish Cultural Center, from single-family residential to multiple-family residential.

The center already has 68 apartment units under construction in the area. The rezoning request will accommodate the construction of a second phase offering 28 additional units, said Paul Hendrickson, vice chairman of the FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation.

THE FIRST phase is expected to be done by the end of June, with the second phase complete about seven to eight months following. The idea is to complete the first building of phase one and have it leased as construction continues on the rest of the project. Apartments in the second phase will be in

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The Red Roof Inn, at Grand River and M-102, is in the heart of the area struck by the October 1981 flood that magnified the need for the Caddell Drain.

Flood control Price of new drain increases

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The long-awaited Caddell Drain — designed to prevent flooding in the 10 Mile/Grand River area — is expected to be completed within 1½ years, but at a price far higher than expected.

Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils last week agreed to sell additional bonds to pay each city's share of a \$1.2-million increase. The 20-percent increase in costs raises the project's estimated price to \$3.5 million. The project was first estimated at \$4 million.

Sharing the cost of the project are Farmington Hills at 60.5 percent; Farmington, 11.5; Novi, 3.8; Oakland County, 5.8; and Michigan Department of Transportation, 18.2.

THE ADDITIONAL cost is due to increases in engineering, construction and administration, Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said.

A construction bid for \$3.4 million is expected to be awarded this week, with work beginning as soon as possible. The remaining \$2.3 million is due to the purchase of easements, right-of-way, property for detention basins, engineering, permits, and hydrological studies required by the state Department of Natural Resources, Costick said.

Despite the increased costs, "we have no alternative but to proceed," Costick said. He doesn't believe the cities would receive a lower bid.

THE CADDELL Drain — named for an Oakland County drain commissioner — is designed to solve flooding caused by major storms such as the storm that struck the Farmington area in late 1981. Flooding occurred after eight inches of rain fell in five hours, causing extensive damage throughout Farmington and Farmington Hills.

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Motorists along M-102 had to dodge overflow conditions during the October 1981 flood.

New Great Scott! to open

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News line . . . 477-5450
Sports line . . . 591-2300
Home delivery . . . 591-0500
Classified line . . . 591-0900

One call does it all

OAKLAND COUNTY
644-1070
ROCHESTER
852-3222
WAYNE COUNTY
591-0900

Use your MasterCard or Visa

A Chatham Complete Food Center at 25780 Middlebelt will become a Great Scott! Jan. 29. A \$500,000 remodeling will continue through February.

The Farmington Hills store is one of five sold to Allied Supermarkets, parent company of Great Scott!, by Nu-Trax Inc., parent company of Chatham. The announcement of the sale was made Jan. 15.

The other stores are Chatham Complete Food Center stores in Warren and Royal Oak and two Pak-N-Save supermarkets in Westland and Taylor.

Great Scott! will upgrade, remodel and operate four of the stores and hire about 400 displaced Chatham employees. Abernethy Co., Allied's wholesale grocery subsidiary, will make the fifth store, in Royal Oak, available to an in-

dependent supermarket customer.

The 30,000-square-foot store in Farmington Hills will employ about 60.

ALLIED HAS agreed to start former Chatham clerk-cashiers with at least five years experience at an hourly pay rate of \$6, about midway on the union pay scale. New clerks will start at \$4.25 an hour. Allied also agreed to provide health, welfare, pension and sick-day benefits for the former Chatham employees.

"We're growing and we're going to need employees. And we're doing what we can to make the former Chatham workers feel wanted and welcome," Allied communications director Paul Coleman said.

The Chatham workers who fared lay-

off are members of Local 876, United Food and Commercial Workers Union, which represents clerks at both Chatham and Allied.

The new Great Scott! in Farmington Hills will have improved meat and produce departments, an expanded frozen food section, improved delicatessen and hot food departments, soup, salad and fruit bars, a fish department, a bakery, and clam and lobster tanks. It will offer such customer services as money orders, film processing and video rentals.

"[I'll] take four to six weeks to complete the remodeling," Coleman said.

After the acquisition is completed, Great Scott! will operate 21 supermarkets in the Detroit area.