



# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item, feature story idea or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

**MAKE** no mistake: Farmington Public Schools graduates are no slouches when it comes to academic achievement.

Eighty-three 1984 graduates enrolled at the University of Michigan are maintaining 3.08 grade-point averages, according to university statistics given to Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent for instruction.

The grade-point average for all freshmen students enrolled at U-M is 2.9.

**EVER** want to be a TV star? The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission will hold auditions for the second awards night presenters.

Tryouts will take place at the SWOCC office. Participants will be critiqued on presence, ad lib capabilities and sense of humor regarding television.

"This is the perfect opportunity to take part in community activities and to get to know the people involved with the programs that you see on Channel 17," said Lark Samuelson, SWOCC executive director.

Call John Virley or Lenore Golob at 473-7266 to set up an audition.

**TALKING** about television, Elizabeth Berkley of Farmington Hills will appear on Channel 4's "Gimme a Break" at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 8. The 13-year-old and her mother have returned from a seven-week visit in Los Angeles.

Game show viewers can watch Linda Zyren of Farmington Hills win a car when the contestant appears on "Wheel of Fortune" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6. The show is broadcast on Channel 4.

**SHE** knows her prose. Dawn Holland of Farmington Hills won a second-place trophy in prose interpretation in the Michigan Community College Speech Contest Feb. 14 at St. Clair County Community College.

Holland is a student at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus.

**WILL** the Michigan Supreme Court hear an appeal for reinstatement of a Class C liquor license for Pol Joey's, Inc., also known as Bootleggers, at 32305 Grand River, Farmington?

No answer has been received, according to Farmington Hills attorney Norman Farhat, who made the request to the state's high court last August on behalf of the Farmington business.

Bootlegger's lost its case in the Michigan Court of Appeals for a liquor-by-the-glass license renewal early in August. This followed a recommendation to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission by the city of Farmington that the bar's license not be renewed. The city council filed a continuing objection Feb. 17 to any possible renewal.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Two Detroit-area men are in the Oakland County Jail facing charges in connection with the \$2,000 robbery last Friday (Feb. 22, 1985) of the Bloomfield Savings Bank on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington.

## Assessor sees rise in values

By Joanno Maliszowski staff writer

With a raging housing sales market, the value of many houses is on the increase. Yet, Farmington Hills residents will see, on the average, small property assessment increases this year.

Commercial and industrial property assessments, on the other hand, will, for the most part, remain static while the Oakland County Equalization Division heads toward completion of a total reappraisal of these properties.

"Assessments generally are going up, especially residential," Farmington Hills Assessor Dean Babb said. "Overall, residential increase is about 3 percent. That's very conservative, although some will get more (of an as-

essment increase).

"We have tried not to make major increases," Babb said. "There are still some areas where assessments are at 50 percent and will not get an increase."

Last year, he said, residential assessments increased 3 percent.

Hills property owners can expect to receive assessment notices either today or Tuesday. But only those property owners whose assessments are being increased will get a notice.



Dean Babb

## Cases of hardship increase

By Casey Hans staff writer

As Farmington's median age rises, city assessor John Saller's regular customers — those on fixed incomes who need property tax relief — are also increasing, he said.

"Our hardships seem to be building up."

Of 89 appeals filed through the Farmington Assessor's Board of Review last year, 30 involved hardship cases. Michigan has not changed the Homestead Property Credit refund allowed for seniors on income tax returns, so even a minimal tax increase is a lot for them, he added.

Yet many taxpayers don't know the city's procedure for assessing proper-



John Saller

**FOR THOSE** who wish to appeal their assessments to the Farmington Hills Assessor's Board of Review will meet officially for three days, although more meeting dates may be added, depending on need, Babb said.

The three-member board will meet from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1-5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, March 10 and 11. On Wednesday, March 12, the board will meet 1-5 p.m. and again 6:30-9 p.m.

Board of Review members are Harlen Morris, Gordon Meyers and Joan Lennis. Board members earn \$15 an hour.

Property owners who wish to appeal their assessments must make an appointment by 4:30 p.m. March 12. Appeals can also be made by letter. Letters must be received by the Board of Review by 4:30 p.m. March 12.

With 750 appeals made last year, Babb said he expects at least 700-800 again this year. "I would hope we don't have that many. But I expect we will."

Most appeals are made by residential property owners, which makes

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**By Casey Hans staff writer**

Farmington was one of six Oakland County communities approved Thursday for 1986 loan subsidy money.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

"The how-I-feel-today is the bottom line, and it all connects up with your own self-esteem, your own worthwhileness, and sometimes that has to be learned," says Margaret Cotter.

## Motivated Aiming to make her life happy

By Loraine McClain staff writer

Margaret Cotter is surrounded with an aura of well-being stemming from a positive approach to living that brushes off and spreads to those she meets whether in her home, her office, her classes or the lecture halls.

She lives with the philosophy that happiness is a do-it-yourself project and that it is her responsibility to make every day as happy as possible.

### people

tom line, and it all connects up with your own self-esteem, your own worthwhileness, and sometimes that has to be learned. And sometimes there is a lot of unlearning that has to be done to learn it."

Cotter joined her husband, Dr. Jude Cotter, as a counselor and psychotherapist in Farmington Hills Counseling Services about eight years ago.

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## Business loan subsidies OK'd

**By Casey Hans staff writer**

Farmington was one of six Oakland County communities approved Thursday for 1986 loan subsidy money.

The city could be awarded up to \$41,911 Commercial Assistance Plan (CAP) dollars, generating \$231,349 in private seven-year business loans through Manufacturers National Bank. The money can be used for rehabilita-

tion and improvements in downtown-area buildings.

The recommended CAP plan was unanimously accepted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners at Thursday night's regular meeting, and previously won approval from the county's Community Development Department, the Community Development Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Public Services Committee of the Board of Commissioners.

The six Oakland County communities approved for CAP dollars include Farmington, Rochester, Madison Heights, Keego Harbor, Berkley and Springfield Township, according to Susan Aftick-Childs, CAP program coordinator for the county.

Six were chosen — instead of last year's eight — because of the uncertainties in federal funding, and to allow

larger sums for each community, she added.

**FEDERAL MONEY** estimated between \$37,042 and \$41,911 from Oakland County's CAP program would subsidize between \$204,472 and \$231,349 in low-interest loans for merchants and property owners in downtown Farmington, at a current net rate of about 7 percent, officials said.

An additional \$10,830 in 1985 CAP money, allowing about \$50,000 in loan improvements, is immediately available for local merchants and property owners. Farmington was not selected as one of the eight CAP recipients last year, but received this lesser CAP amount, which was never used.

Ten Farmington merchants and property owners attended a seminar at

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Outdoor ed

Gary Sine (left) lends a helping hand to Barri Singer, a fifth grader at Forest Elementary. Students and teachers from the school spent the day at the Walled Lake Outdoor Educational Facility, learning skills that included photography, animal tracking, skiing and hiking. Sine, a teacher in the Farmington Public Schools for the past 18 years, also enjoys skiing after work as part of a cardiovascular fitness program. For the story behind the day outdoors, see Page 3A.

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Sports line . . . 591-2300  
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