

She coaches owners  
of small businesses, 5B



Hawks  
netted, 7B

Oh, those heavenly  
cheesecakes, 1B

# Farmington Observer

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Farmington, Michigan

40 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

## Sobriety checkpoints in works

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Michigan State Police promise that the controversial sobriety checkpoints will begin sometime before Memorial Day weekend, but they aren't providing details. "It's confidential. But I will tell

you we are going to be conducting them before Memorial Day," said checkpoint program coordinator Lt. Al Slaughter of the Michigan State Police traffic services division. Gov. James Blanchard first proposed sobriety checkpoints — a measure to help curb drunk driving — in his state-of-the-state address

Jan. 30. Despite opposition from some state lawmakers, the random checkpoints were instituted by executive order.

State Police plan to invite local police agencies to participate in the checkpoints, Slaughter said.

"All of our programs are cooperative. Each and every time

(the checklanes are conducted), we are going to invite the locals. There are 700 police agencies throughout Michigan. We hope they will be willing to extend their help," Slaughter said.

BUT FARMINGTON Hills Police Chief William Dwyer and Farmington

Public Safety Director Frank Lauhoff say their departments have not yet been asked to participate.

"Deploying a checkpoint would take four to five officers and we don't have the manpower," Dwyer said, adding he is still uncertain

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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 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

### TOP volunteers

Farmington Youth Assistance celebrated another successful year by honoring their volunteers at an annual dinner April 30 at the Fairmont Park Apartments. Volunteer of the Year award winners included Carol Loesche, summer activities center chairman, and Anne Borg, public relations chairman.

WITH the Farmington Board of Education election three weeks away, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Democratic Club will host a candidate night at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River.

Informal discussion will follow formal remarks and a question-and-answer period. On Monday, June 5, challenger Paul Blizman will join incumbents Janice Rolnick and R. Jack Ingh in the race for two four-year terms on the seven-member, policy-making board.

### WORK displayed

The photography and weaving work of Farmington Hills resident Jill Stoll was displayed in a weeklong senior art exhibit at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen. The annual exhibit is a requirement for graduating art students, who are responsible for planning, hanging and lighting the show.

### COMING aboard

Janet Corey has been appointed to the Farmington Hills Board of Canvassers for a three-year term expiring Dec. 31, 1989. She replaces Nanig Manoukian, who is leaving the area.

### ODDS and ends

Farmington Hills City Council awarded a contract for a loader/backhoe and hired a contractor to cut weeds in vacant lots.

The city will buy a backhoe from Case Power and Equipment for \$30,415. With trade-in, the cost will come to \$18,915.

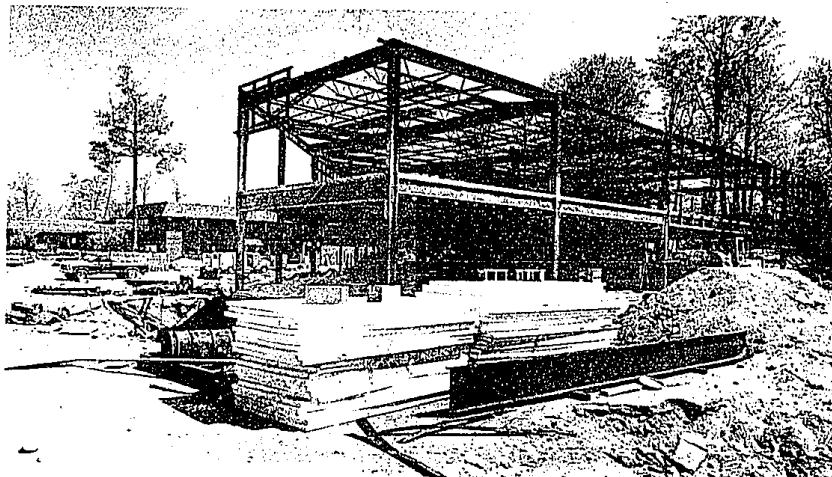
The city will hire F. J. LaFontaine to cut weeds at a cost of \$20,099.

### HELPING hand

Farmington Public Schools employees contributed \$20,210 to the United Foundation and \$3,430 to the Salvation Army, school officials said.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Clarencville and Farmington school districts will continue their cooperative gift program effort.

With the help of a state grant totaling about \$22,000, the two districts for the past year have been working together in developing and offering teachers training programs, in-service workshops and guest speakers — all having to do with gifted education.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Going up

AT LEFT: By November, Farmington Hills Police Department's 158 employees will move into a spanking new 32,000-square-foot facility. Construction of the \$3.3 million, two-story, triangular-shaped building began last August. A courtyard will stretch between the new building and existing city administrative offices. More parking and landscaping will be provided throughout the entire city complex at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. The new building will feature a firing range in the basement, a 10-cell jail providing areas for juveniles and women, a self-contained emergency dispatch center and expanded office space. A training room, conference rooms, expanded locker rooms, evidence storage rooms and three-bay automobile service area also will be provided.

## Muirwood murder exam opens

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Urine "Rene" Lewis told her sister she was only "using" her husband — who she believed was a former Central Intelligence Agency employee — to find her two brothers who were somewhere in Europe. Lewis told her husband of one month several days before she was found shot to death in her former Farmington Hills apartment. He was

"smothering her" in a possessive way, according to district court testimony last week by her sister, Remie "Cindy" Rexhepi of Irving, Texas.

Lewis apparently decided to leave her husband shortly after their November 1985 marriage in Las Vegas, according to Rexhepi's testimony Tuesday in 47th District Court, Farmington.

Lewis' husband, John Allen Vermeulen, 38, of Farmington Hills,

faces a first-degree murder charge in her death.

"She couldn't go anywhere without having to explain or go through a third degree," testified Rexhepi, who said she spoke at least once per week with her sister. "She didn't love him, she told me."

LEWIS' FAMILY is of Yugoslavian descent, according to testimony. Lewis had an appointment Dec. 26

— the day of her alleged murder — to consult with a Farmington attorney about a divorce. Rexhepi was scheduled to pick up Lewis at the Muirwood apartment where Vermeulen was living to accompany her that morning.

Lewis returned to her husband on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 1985, because he threatened not to give her a divorce, Rexhepi testified. Rexhepi allegedly saw the loaded murder weapon at the Muirwood

Apartments and Terraces on Verdant Drive late that day, where she and Lewis visited Vermeulen.

Lewis was found on the floor of the Muirwood apartment in the late afternoon of Dec. 26 with a fatal gunshot wound to her left upper torso. Vermeulen was found nearby with two gunshot wounds to the chest.

The defendant's preliminary examination began last week before District Judge Michael Hand of

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## Hills man holds a love of nature

By Susan Steinmueller  
staff writer

"Don't hurry  
Don't worry  
And don't forget to smell the flowers."

"That's my motto," said Fred Harrison, pointing out the words framed in the kitchen of his Farmington Hills home. The words seem fitting for Harrison, 76, a retired business owner who has spent much of his life developing on his property into a tranquil haven where one cannot help but stop and "smell the flowers."

With his help, a stream meanders 1,000 feet as it rolls down through the woods and wildflowers. Man-made bridges and natural resting places follow the winding course on a well defined wood-chip path.

"It's a labor of love," says Harrison about the property he has worked on for 45 years. HARRISON, WHO is originally from Tuscola County in northern Michigan, was living and working in Detroit when he decided to buy land away from the city. He told the real estate agent he was looking for something "rough and tough." When first shown the densely thicketed, hilly area, Harrison remembers saying, "I think we'll take it."

He originally bought three acres

"I try to maintain it (his property) like a state campground. That's about the way I like it."

— Fred Harrison,  
Hills resident

— "for \$10 down" — then added five more shortly after.

Harrison married his late wife, Marie, a year later. In 1940, The young couple moved into the house which Harrison was still building at the time, and where he still lives today. The site he selected was on top of a hill sloping down to a branch of the River Rouge.

"We lived without electricity or water for six weeks," he said. "My wife was such a good sport about it, she was working at the time. Otherwise, we would never have made it." The property reminds him of his first home in northern Michigan. However, he said, "I know that I'm prejudiced — but it's better than up north."

THE COUPLE had two sons.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Eight acres of woods and streams mark Fred Harrison's Farmington Hills property.

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

### EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the holiday, we will be closed Mon., May 20, 1988. To place your classified ad in the Thurs., May 20 edition, please call Tues., May 27 between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Call  
591-0900  
(Real Estate Display-Fri., May 23)

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE  
MEMORIAL  
DAY