

Sit back and listen —
it's a piano bar, 1D



Volleyball
honors, 1C

Builder's cleanup job
to be monitored, 2A

Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 50

Monday, March 28, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

50 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

DON'T stay away when sidewalk, lighting and road improvements begin in downtown Farmington this spring, says Wendy Strip Sittsamer, Downtown Development Authority executive director.

"All the construction is being done with business owners and shoppers in mind. You'll never be denied access to any establishment. Front and back entrances will never be done at the same time. Only one lane of traffic will be closed at one time and we hope for not long periods."

"There's lots of parking available both on the street and in the municipal lots and best of all, it's all free."

TAKE note. The Oakland County Community Mental Health Division will host a town meeting Wednesday, April 6 in Farmington Hills to take testimony from area residents about the state of mental health services.

The meeting will run from 7-9 p.m. in the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile.

After a brief presentation about mental health services in Farmington, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake and the western half of Keego Harbor, questions will be fielded and testimony taken.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — After eluding police for more than two weeks, a third suspect was apprehended and charged with murder and conspiracy in the slaying and robbery of a 61-year-old chauffeur at Hunters Ridge Apartments in Farmington Hills Feb. 28 (1987).

what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 7B
Business briefs . . . 3A
Classifieds . . . Secs. C,E,F
Index . . . 8E
Auto . . . C,F
Real estate . . . 1E
Employment . . . 8E
Creative living . . . Sec. E
Crossword puzzle . . . 2E
Entertainment . . . 7D
Obituaries . . . 8A
On the agenda . . . 6A
Police/fire calls . . . 6B
Sports . . . Sec. C

The CLASSIFIEDS

Classified makes good dollars and sense. Get the most for your money—buy or sell classified.

591-0900
Use Your MasterCard or Visa



Residents blast large-lot splits

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Splitting acre-sized lots is angering residents in neighborhoods along the Nine Mile-Middlebelt area.

"By no means, do we protest development, but our country setting and large lots are at risk," Linden Street resident Marie Niemczyk wrote in a letter to the Farmington Hills City Council.

A Stockton resident agreed. "In our neighborhood, all our houses are on 1 1/4 acres. I notice there is a lot of subdividing going on. . . . If you can't develop the area in the right of way, you may be better off just letting it

stand still rather than I think moving backwards with these small lots and ruining the rest of the neighborhood."

Farmington Hills City Council met residents' demands to maintain their neighborhood's larger lots by establishing a moratorium on lot splitting.

The moratorium will provide time to study areas in RA-2, RA-3 and RA-4 single-family residential zones where smaller lots are allowed but where larger lots have generally been the rule.

"Let's rezone it back to what it's been developed as," said councilwoman Jan Dolan, who called for the moratorium.

She didn't restrict the moratorium to any

specific area, but said she had in mind the Nine Mile-Middlebelt area and an area north of 12 Mile to be studied.

IN ADDITION to the moratorium, city planning staff and planning commissioners have been asked to look at specific areas, such as Linden and Stockton in the Nine Mile-Middlebelt area, that are zoned RA-3 single-family residential. In this zone, lots can be 12,500 square feet. But most of the lots in these areas historically are about 20,000 square feet.

In the RA-3 zone, lots can be 12,500 square feet; in RA-4, they can be 6,500 square feet. Consequently, acre lots can be split in these zones as long as they are not smaller than the

minimum required size.

"The zoning is incompatible with the size of the lots," said Jean Fox, who requested that planning commissioners reconsider the RA-3 zone in Middlebelt-Nine Mile area.

"Some of the lots are bigger than the RA-3 to the east. I feel it's improperly zoned. We should have the zoning reflect what is there," Fox continued.

City staff plans to study areas zoned as RA-2, RA-3 and RA-4 in both the Nine Mile-Middlebelt area as well as some neighborhoods just north of 12 Mile that historically have had larger lots but could be split because of zoning.

Please turn to Page 6

Rookie settles into cop work

Editor's note: This is the second part of an occasional series following a Farmington Hills police recruit through his field training, which he hopes will culminate in confirmation as a police officer.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Images of what might happen roll through Gary Bradley's mind as he takes the marked Farmington Hills police car through his assigned patrol district.

"I don't know if everyone does this. I picture different scenarios and how I would handle them. I try to be prepared. But I don't dwell on the negative. I don't sit around waiting for something tragic or terrible to happen," Bradley said.

It's clear that confidence has emerged in the 22-year-old police recruit since his graduation from the police academy late last year and the start of a five-phase field training officer program in Farmington Hills. He's more settled, more sure of his decisions and procedures.

The Centerline resident is about to complete the fourth training segment, which culminates in the shadow phase.

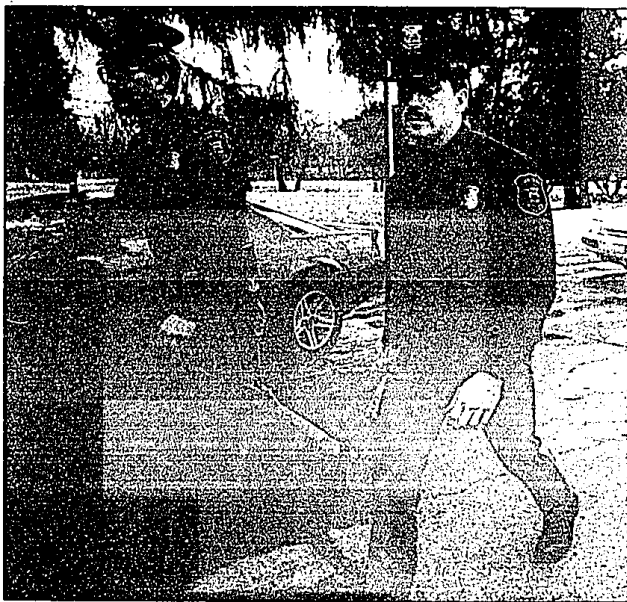
In this phase, Bradley is basically on his own. He must prove to his plainclothes training officer, more an observer than a working partner, that he knows his stuff.



"I do have more confidence, more control. But it's probably going to get stressful as I go to the solo phase. I want to do well. I want to impress them," said Bradley, whose future as a police officer in Farmington Hills depends entirely on how he rates in the 18-month probation and training program.

AS HE takes the patrol car through the neighborhoods along Northwestern Highway, Bradley's motions are resolute. His eyes move across the landscape, checking for anything that just doesn't seem right.

Please turn to Page 3



RANDY BONST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills training officer Dave Gilewacki, left, and recruit Gary Bradley respond to a fight. The officers rely on police dispatchers to provide them with enough information to know how to respond to a complaint.

Swedish Club chief is proud of ethnic roots

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

Late on a bright Michigan spring morning, Bengt Brogren walks through a house dedicated to the preservation of his ethnic heritage.

Pictures of King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden and of children romping around the traditional maypole line the walls of the Swedish Club of Metropolitan Detroit's banquet room.

Brogren, president of the Farmington Hills-based club, strolls with quiet pride through the ranch home he helped renovate into a clubhouse. Outside, the sun sparkles and chickadees and squirrels claim the club's 4 1/4 acres as their own.

"Fourteen years ago, I got involved but I wasn't active until about five years ago when the club moved to Farmington Hills," Brogren

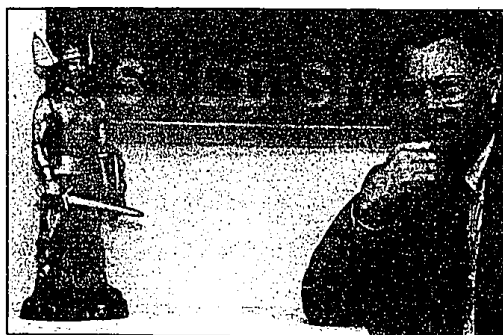
people

said. "Now that I'm retired, I've had to find something to do."

It was natural that the quest for something to do should bring him to the Swedish Club and its 300 members. Born in Sweden, Brogren was 7 when he accompanied his parents to the United States.

Although his experiences reflect in many ways that of the vast body of immigrants who came to the U.S., it remains Brogren's own story.

Please turn to Page 6



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Swedish-born Bengt Brogren in the Farmington Hills-based Swedish Club. He's the club president.

Area picks Dukakis in Jackson landslide

By Tim Richard
staff writer

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, beaten badly in most southeast Michigan suburban communities, found his salvation in Detroit and other large metropolitan communities en route to winning the Michigan caucuses Saturday.

Jackson's stunning defeat of Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis prolonged the Democratic search for a front-runner, but it may also have hastened the narrowing of the field. Rep. Richard Gephardt's campaign,

weakened by a distant third-place showing, is reported to be moribund, and might be terminated this week.

But in the Farmington area, Democrats gave a heavy support to Dukakis' presidential nomination hopes, awarding him almost double the vote pollsters had predicted.

An unofficial tally late Saturday showed the combined votes of Farmington and Farmington Hills as: Dukakis, 946 votes or 45 percent.

Jackson, 223 or 15 percent.

Gephardt of Missouri, 137 or 10 percent.

Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois, 71 or 5 percent.

Sen. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee, 63 or 4 percent.

There was a scattering of write-in votes for New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, Chrysler Corp. chairman Lee Iacocca and New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley.

Polls a week ago showed Dukakis with only about 35 percent of the state vote.

DUKAKIS IS LIKELY to take all but one of the 18th Congressional District's handful of national convention votes in July, according to calculations by Mary Ryan Taras, former Oakland County Democratic chairwoman and Birmingham real-

estate agent.

Jackson, by reaching the "threshold" figure of 15 percent, is assured one national delegate from the 18th, she said.

"Dukakis had the organization" locally, said Taras, who wore a Gore button. "I still made my choice, but I knew how it was going to go."

"I've been driving all over Oakland County, trouble-shooting (at caucus sites). It was so-o-o-o slick," she said of the smoothly running caucuses.

WORKING FOR Gephardt at the city of Farmington caucus was his home town sheriff, Walter (Buck)

Burger of Jefferson County.

"He's my congressman and a good friend. I've known him eight years," said Burger. The sheriff said he had worked for Gephardt in four other states, all of which Gephardt had carried.

RESULTS WERE tallied in Oakland Democratic headquarters in Ferndale Saturday afternoon and evening.

"It was a good turnout and well organized," said current Oakland Democratic chairman Louis L. Miller, who visited 15 of the county's 51 sites.