

Appraiser retires after 21 years of service

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Residential appraiser Margaret Romer spent most of last week cleaning out her desk in Farmington Hills City Hall.

"She's been willing everything to everyone," assessor Dean Babb said. "I'm going to miss her."

Babb has been Romer's boss for the last four years since her husband, former assessor Bob Romer, retired.

Now it's Margaret Romer's turn to take it easy and retire. Her last day was Aug. 26. With

the retirement of city clerk JoAnn Reynolds following the Aug. 2 primary, Farmington Hills is minus its two longest serving city hall employees. Reynolds served for 23 years and Romer, 21 years.

Romer and her husband, whom she married four months after his retirement from city hall, are preparing for one of the biggest journeys they'll probably ever take.

"We've sold everything — the house, the boat, the cars. We've got an RV and we're going to hit the road. That's going to be our address," Romer said.

Exactly where they're going, the Romers

aren't sure. But the furniture and other belongings will be in storage if they decide to settle down again.

AFTER CLIMBING the professional ladder in the assessor's department, Romer said it's just time to retire. And she said she wasn't too sure Bob Romer was going to wait much longer to start traveling.

"Today (Aug. 26) is his last day as a home husband," Romer said of her husband, who took over household duties when he retired.

After working as a clerk in the assessor's office for 10 years, Romer went into the field

appraising property. She is retiring as the department's senior residential appraiser.

Arriving at city hall in the late '60s, Romer had the opportunity to watch what was then Farmington Township (now the city of Farmington Hills) grow and thrive. She used to live behind city hall, at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

"There used to be a horse that looked in my kitchen window every morning," Romer said, reminiscing about the city before the building boom.

But she knew the rural days were over when she stopped seeing horses run down 11 Mile.



Margaret Romer road-bound after 23 years

Mercy Health sponsors fall marketing seminar

About 300 key executives and line managers from Mercy Health Services (MHS) and its subsidiaries will be introduced to marketing principles through educational program this fall.

It is estimated that 15,000 work hours will be devoted to the two-week seminar, representing a strong corporate commitment to health care marketing.

Edward Connors, president of Farmington Hills-based Mercy Health Services and chair-elect of the American Hospital Association, said, "Marketing within our Catholic health care system takes on new meaning for us. It provides our hospitals with powerful ways to offer service that is responsive to human needs. This is very consistent with our mission and values."

"The Sisters of Mercy have always placed emphasis on meeting the needs of people in a contemporary way. We believe so strongly in the importance of marketing that we are committing major resources to this educational effort."

Faculty of five nationally known speakers will conduct sessions in Des Moines and Farmington Hills beginning the first week in October.

The speakers include:

- Terrence J. Rynne, president of

Rynne Marketing Group, Chicago.

- G.A. Roderick, president of Roderick and Roderick, Montecano, Wash.

- Mori Spiegel, president of Mori Spiegel Consultant Inc., Great Neck, N.Y.

- Arthur Sturm, Jr., president of The Sturm Communications Group, Chicago.

- B. (Sid) Venkatesh, managing director of The Burke Institute, Cincinnati.

In a six-month program, participants will explore the areas of marketing distribution, service development, service management, pricing, marketing research and promotion. Each presentation will incorporate a case study of ambulatory care programs.

Participant teams will make marketing decisions regarding each case study, which will later be analyzed for financial performance using a sophisticated computer model.

Arrangements are being finalized with Mercy College of Detroit to grant up to three hours of master's-level credit to eligible participants.

MHS is a multi-hospital health care system and a sponsored work of the Sisters of Mercy-Province of Detroit.

campus pipeline

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, Farmington Observer, 3202 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

NEW GRADUATES

Philip Ross and David Rogers of Farmington Hills graduated from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

NEW STUDENTS

The following Farmington-area students were accepted for admission to Siena Heights College for the fall semester: Darrin Newman, Peter Van Vleet, Kathleen M. Hollaway, Hollace Derby, Marianne Punni and Chad Marcoux.

DEAN'S LIST

Scott Schutt of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Petty Lynne Latimer of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Eastern Michigan University.

Tammy Spengler of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio.

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medical training, including education in the basic and behavioral sciences and clinical rotations through ambulatory care centers and hospitals.

Mary Ann Herrmann of Farmington Hills received a master of physical therapy degree from Hahnemann University, Philadelphia. She is a 1982 graduate of Farmington Hills Mercy High School and a 1988 graduate of Kalamazoo College, where she received a bachelor's degree in health science.

Eric Alstrom and Tara Twomey of Farmington and Paul Amendt of Farmington Hills graduated from Kalamazoo College.

Alstrom majored in history and completed a concentration in American studies. He participated in extracurricular activities, playing the tuba for the Kalamazoo Concert Band, editing two editions of The Cauldron, a literary/arts magazine, and editing one edition of the Forum, a magazine of poetry. This fall, he

plans to attend the University of Michigan's information and library studies program.

Twomey, a health science major, won the Catherine A. Smith Prize in women's athletics.

Amendt graduated with honors from the theater and communications arts department and received the Senior Fellowship in Theatre. During part of his sophomore year, he participated in the GLCA New York Arts Program, interning at the Gene Frankel Theatre Workshop and taking classes as compensation for his administrative work.

Almost his entire junior year was spent in London, England, where Amendt participated in the British and European Studies Group's acting program, taking classes in voice, movement, mime and improvisation and stage combat.

He wrote, directed and produced a film during his senior year to fulfill the college's senior individualized project requirement. He hopes to settle in Los Angeles to pursue a career in film and television acting.

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