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# Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 10

Monday, November 7, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

## farmington FOCUS

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**T**HE count is in. A grand total of \$17,600 was collected in pledges from the 350 walkers who followed a 10-kilometer route through downtown Farmington in last spring's CROP Walk to help feed the hungry worldwide. Twenty-five percent of the total will be distributed equally to three local agencies before the holidays: Farmington Hills Salvation Army, Farmington Head Start for its food kitchen, and Baldwin Avenue Kitchen in Pontiac.

The CROP Walk is sponsored by 13 area churches. The amount pledged has increased every year since its inception in Farmington three years ago.

**SERVICE honors.** Two Farmington-area women were honored for their service since the opening of Havenwyck Hospital, a 120-bed psychiatric facility, five years ago.

Adele Weisler of Farmington Hills and Helen Lockman of Farmington were honored by Richard Dorff, chief executive officer of the Auburn Hills hospital.

## Memory lane

50 years ago:

The oldest Farmington citizen voting in the general election is Charles Andrews, 96, who first went to the polls to cast a vote for Abraham Lincoln.

Farmington city and township reassert their staunch Republican bent by giving every GOP candidate a clear majority.

Smith-Bradley Drug Co., advertises developing and printing of any size roll of eight-exposure film for 35 cents.

— Farmington Enterprise, Nov. 10, 1938

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Kathy Dorman  
Farmington Hills city clerk

## Clerks predict busy polls

By Casey Hans  
and Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writers

It won't be just Michael Dukakis and George Bush who will grab the attention of a record number of Farmington and Farmington Hills voters in Tuesday's general election. Well-known locals reaching for another rung on the political ladder are expected to help push voter turnout at least to the overwhelming 1984 levels of more than 70 percent in both cities.

"We had an exceptional turnout in 1984 — 72 percent. That was above the national average of 54 percent,"

Dorman said. "I'm thinking we'll do at least the same."

In Farmington, 79 percent of active, registered voters turned out in 1984, and city clerk Josephine Busbey predicts the city will have at least 70 percent this year, despite some lack of feeling from voters.

"They don't seem to be too excited this year," she said. "The mudslinging (in the presidential election) — people are getting turned off to it." THE 69TH state House race between Democrat John E. Dolan of Bingham Farms and Republican Jan C. Dolan of Farmington Hills, as well as the Oakland County Board of Commissioners races, are expected to serve as an added lure to voters.

If registered voters and absentee ballots are any indication, Tuesday's race should be busy.

More than 3,000 Farmington Hills voters have registered since the August primary when the city had 4,303 registered voters. Heading into Tuesday's race, the city has 47,362 registered voters.

"What's happening is it's not necessarily new people who have come into the city but you've got people who are here hadn't registered and are now ready to vote for president,"

Dorman said. Absentee ballot applications are on the increase as Tuesday draws near. Dorman has issued 8,150 absentee ballots compared to the 4,000 is-

sued in 1984 and the more than 5,000 issued for the August primary.

FARMINGTON HAS sent out the same number of absentee ballot applications as it did in 1984 — about 1,700 — but there are about 300 fewer active voters than in 1984, Busbey said. The absentee ballots were "pouring in," she said Friday.

This year, Farmington has about 8,000 registered voters, of which 7,676 are active. In 1984, the city had 7,962 active voters and 6,288 turned out to cast ballots.

Absentee ballots may be returned until 8 p.m. Tuesday, when the polls close nationwide. Clerks urge voters to return absentee ballots to the city halls, not their voting precincts.



photos by RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Michael O'Connor of M.J. O'Connor & Associates, Marine City, and his counterpart, Robert Mitchell of Energy Quest Inc., Lansing, told residents they couldn't say where drilling

might take place or what other areas of Farmington Hills are targeted for mineral rights leasing.

## Residents still oppose drilling

□ Mineral rights leasing agents  
pitch benefits, 2A

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The lure of money did little to change residents' or city officials' opposition to natural gas and oil development in Farmington Hills.

Some thought a film shown by industry representatives to an audience of about 50 at a symposium on oil and gas exploration Nov. 1 clearly illustrated residents' concerns. "That film spoke to our issue . . . how it doesn't belong in residential areas," said Farmington Square resident Peggy DuPont, one of the symposium's five speakers.

Hosted by the Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills, the symposium, at the Farmington Community Library, offered residents a chance to question industry representatives Michael O'Connor of M.J. O'Connor & Associates, Marine City, and Robert Mitchell of Energy Quest, Lansing. The two are seeking mineral rights leases in southwest Farmington Hills for Pangborn Exploration of Traverse City.

"You didn't concern yourself with the people around it (natural gas or oil development). What we're concerned about are the benefits versus the risks," said Heritage Village

Homeowners Association president Fred DeLong.

The \$2 million to \$3 million that residents could earn over the life of a well represents only about 2 percent of the value of the houses in subdivisions targeted for mineral rights leasing, DeLong said.

**SOME RESIDENTS** were surprised to learn the state does not require a certain percentage of signed leases or acreage signed for mineral rights leases for forced pooling.

"There are no specific limits of acreage set forth in the statute. In most cases, it's the majority," said symposium speaker R. Thomas Segall, Michigan Department of Natural Resources assistant supervisor of wells.

But DuPont was disappointed in Segall's responses. "That was the one question the people wanted to know. And they failed to answer it. I think the DNR has to know what ballpark figure they're talking about. What is the tradition in the DNR? He's got to know what typical amount of percentage they need," she said, adding she doubts the leasing agents will get 100 percent signed leases in Farmington Hills.

Another resident Sam Rolick questioned the makeup of the state oil and gas advisory board with six in-

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Farmington Square resident  
Peggy DuPont has led the effort  
for information on gas  
and oil exploration.



R. Thomas Segall of the  
Michigan Department of Natural  
Resources explained the  
state's role in exploration.

## Cities spend money now for '92 primaries

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

They're not needed until 1992. But the party preference cards that voters are entitled to fill out for presidential primaries already are causing problems in Farmington Hills.

Local costs associated with the new state law, enacted in July, could top \$2,500, city clerk Kathy Dorman said.

"It's created more work for us just in the time spent to register some-

one," Dorman said. Voters who have registered since Sept. 1 must have a chance to fill out the card. Voters must declare a party preference, Democrat or Republican, by Feb. 17, 1992, if they want to vote in the March 17, 1992, presidential primary.

Voters who declare "no party preference" or who reject the card won't be able to vote in that primary but can still vote in all primaries for state and local offices.

The cards will be available on tables near the exit in each of the

city's 27 voting precincts during Tuesday's general election. The tables will hold a dropbox for completed cards.

BECAUSE THE cards can be taken home to complete, Dorman's staff has had to hand-stamp 45,000 of them with the city's name and address. That's equal to the number of registered voters in the city. The task has taken three weeks — since the cards arrived from the state.

There'll be an estimated \$800 cost associated with revising the city's voter registration computer software package, "not to mention the manpower, time and cost for someone to include the forms as part of everybody's voter file," Dorman said.

Absentee voters will be mailed the cards.

Voters who declare a party preference will receive a new voter registration card — and continue to receive a new one each time they change their mind, Dorman said.

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## Suicide attempt delays hearing

By Bill Casper  
staff writer

An Oct. 25 court hearing was postponed for two 20-year-old men because one of them attempted suicide in the Redford Township jail.

The two men are being held on assault charges stemming from an Oct. 11 incident in which two knife-wielding men, dressed in identical black ninja outfits and black cloth masks, broke into a Redford Township house demanding money.

TWO DAYS after his arrest, Brandon L. Glod of Farmington was found trying to hang himself in a jail cell, Redford police Lt. Thomas Street said.

"He fashioned a noose with his shirt and tried to hang himself from a cell bar," Street said. "A jailer found him standing on his tiptoes with the shirt tied to a cell bar and the noose around his neck."

The jailer discovered the attempted suicide at about 10:15 p.m. Oct. 14 during a routine check of prisoners, Street said. Glod was taken to Redford Community Hospital but was

not injured and was released, he said.

Glod was then admitted to a Westland mental clinic for psychiatric evaluation and will be returned to police custody after the testing has been completed, Street said.

The evaluation is expected to be completed in time for Glod and the other suspect to appear for a rescheduled preliminary examination on Nov. 8 in Redford's 17th District Court, Street said.

In the meantime, the other suspect, Thomas B. Bodner of Livonia, has been released on \$10,000 personal bond, meaning he was freed with the understanding that he will appear at the Nov. 8 court hearing or owe the court \$10,000.

**BOTH MEN** previously stood mute at district court arraignment to charges of assault with intent to rob. Redford District Judge Robert Brang entered a not guilty plea on behalf of both defendants.

They face a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted on the felony charges.

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## North Farmington gives academic letters shaky hello

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A new school policy that awards letters for academic achievement was off to a shaky start this fall at one of three public high schools in the Farmington district.

But officials believe the mood will

become more positive.

"It was not well received at North Farmington," said 1988-89 Student Round Table president Carrie Rice, who gave the board of education a report on Round Table discussions Nov. 1.

Some North football players, apparently upset with the new policy,

had planned, then canceled, a demonstration over the new academic letters, said Rice, a student at North Farmington.

The Student Round Table is a student board that meets regularly to discuss issues relevant to high school students throughout the district. It represents each school.

The first academic letter ceremony was held in September at both Farmington High and Harrison High, and last month at North Farmington.

THE NEW policy was implemented this fall after being approved by the board last April. Impetus came

from last year's Student Round Table board, which recommended an academic letter policy to school trustees in March after a split vote of the student board.

Students with a 3.3 grade-point average for the school year, who are

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