

Dads and daughters dance to the beat, 1B



Volleyball tourney, 1D

14 Mile-Drake crash claims child's life, 13A

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WHEN IS IT OK for a city council member or a member of a city board or commission to do business with the city?

When business is awarded on the basis of sealed written bids and full disclosure of any potential financial interest.

That's what the city council decided in a 7-0 vote during a study session Feb. 4.

The vote will provide a direction for the city's code of ethics committee — city manager William Costick, Mayor Terry Veeger and council members Aldo Vagnozzi and Philip Arnold.

SPECIAL talk. Deborah Haller of Farmington Hills was among eight Oakland Community College students who met former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in a student forum after the Feb. 6 luncheon meeting of the Economic Club of Detroit.

Metro Computing of Troy presented a gift to the OCC Foundation so students could attend the luncheon.

Quote of the week

Cecil once told me he couldn't believe how this stuff (crack cocaine) had such control of him.

— Lois Wilson, talking about her husband, Cecil, a suspected armed robber and crack cocaine addict shot to death in a confrontation with a Farmington Hills patrolman (see story this page).

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 2B
- Business C
- Cable connection . . . 9C
- Classifieds. Sec. C, E, F, G, H
- Index 1H
- Auto Sec. C, H
- Real estate . . . Secs. E-G
- Employment Secs. C, G, H
- Creative living E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 6F
- Entertainment 5C
- Obituaries 7B
- Opinion 14A
- Points of view 15A
- Police/110 calls 6A
- Recreation news . . . 10C
- Sports D
- Suburban life B

SUBURBAN LIFE'S MONTHLY ALBUM

COMING... Monday, February 20, 1989

Drug probe targets Hills home

See related story, 4A

By Rich Periborg staff writer

A Farmington Hills home has been identified as the central operations point for what drug enforcement officers say was a \$16 million cocaine distribution network throughout suburban Detroit.

Arthur Sterling Abrams, who lived at the home at 30285 Shawassee until his arrest on drug charges in December of 1987, is listed repeatedly in a 27-page federal grand jury drug indictment announced Tuesday at the U.S. Attorney's office in Detroit.

Abrams is not among the 21 men and women indicted but drug enforcement officials describe him as an undicted co-conspirator.

"Here's a guy who was running a multi-million-dollar drug organization," said John Hedrick, a Farmington Hills police sergeant who has been assigned to SEMCO, a regional police organization investigating major drug dealers in Michigan.

Abrams is described repeatedly in the indictment for selling or arranging the sale of kilogram-sized quantities of cocaine to many of the 21 listed in the indictment. A kilogram of cocaine is about 2.2 pounds.

THE INDICTMENTS announced Tuesday are the first major achievement for the newly formed SEMCO which worked closely with similar drug enforcement units from Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

SEMCO stands for Southeast Michigan Conspiracy Organization and is staffed by investigators from nine law enforcement agencies.

U.S. Attorney Roy C. Hayes said the indictments will "send a message" to cocaine users and sellers that "you take a risk if you deal dope. There are no safe harbors."

"We hit every level of the organization, from the financier to the person who was driving it around," said Michigan State Police Lt. Lawrence R. Rodriguez, who was in charge of the operation for SEMCO.

Rodriguez said that the investigation revealed that at least 500 kilograms of cocaine were distributed by the operation through the Detroit area. Based on an average price of over \$30,000 per kilogram, Rodriguez said the total value of the cocaine approaches \$16 million.

Among those indicted were two Southfield men: George Katsakis, 46, the owner of the Grand Coney Island restaurant on Telegraph in Hedford Township, and John Thomas Adamian, a Corvette restorer.

They, like the others, face what could amount to sentences of life in prison if they are convicted of the conspiracy charges.

Katsakis declined comment when contacted by the Observer and Adamian could not be reached.

Katsakis and Adamian were among 17 of those indicted who were arraigned Tuesday. Four were still at large on Wednesday. Most of those who were indicted are from metropolitan Detroit, but four are from Florida and one is from New Jersey.

Abrams moved from Farmington Hills after his December 1987 arrest by narcotics officers. Oakland County records indicate he was given probation.

FOLLOWING ABRAMS' arrest, law enforcement officers embarked on an extensive investigation that peaked Saturday morning with the execution of four search warrants.

Among those indicted was Lawrence John Genoa, a Dearborn

arraigned Tuesday. Four were still at large on Wednesday. Most of those who were indicted are from metropolitan Detroit, but four are from Florida and one is from New Jersey.

Abrams moved from Farmington Hills after his December 1987 arrest by narcotics officers. Oakland County records indicate he was given probation.

'I think he wanted to die'

Wife of suspected addict recounts his life

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Lois Wilson believes her husband, shot to death by a Farmington Hills police officer fearing for his life in a confrontation on a dead-end road Saturday, had lost his will to live because of crack cocaine.

"I think he wanted to die, but he couldn't do it himself," she said Monday from her home in Marshall, Mo.

"I think he realized he never was going to whip this thing. He couldn't handle it. This was an opportunity for somebody else to do it for him."

She said he threatened suicide at least twice since he started using crack in 1986.

Although she called her husband's violent death shocking, she said he had "periods of depression for a long time."

Police say the 31-year-old officer feared for his life when Cecil Wilson, 42, a suspect in at least seven armed robberies, drove toward him at the end of Albion, a residential dirt road southwest of Grand River and Middlebelt.

"Kill me, I want to die," Wilson yelled through the open driver's window moments before he was killed with a single shot from the officer's 12-gauge pump shotgun at 7:35 p.m. Saturday.

A loaded black pellet gun, identical in appearance to a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol, was found on the passenger seat of Wilson's car, lying next to his outstretched right arm, police said.

THE OFFICER, standing outside his patrol car with shotgun in hand, three times ordered Wilson to surrender but fired when he feared the man would drive alongside and either shoot him or pin him against his patrol car, police said.

Police theorize Wilson pulled robberies to get money for a recently revived drug habit. The recovered pellet gun is the one believed used in the armed robberies. No gun was ever fired during the holdups and no one was hurt.

Lois Wilson, 50, said she never saw her husband with a gun during their 10 years of marriage. The couple



Detective Patrick Monti surveys where a shotgun bullet fired by a Farmington Hills patrolman grazed the door window frame, just above the rear-view mirror of a 1989 Pontiac Grand Am, before hitting Cecil Wilson in the chest through the open driver's window Saturday.



Cecil Wilson 'depressed for a long time'

Police plan 2 reviews

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Farmington Hills police will conduct two separate investigations — one by a board of inquiry — into the shooting death of a suspected armed robber and crack cocaine addict.

Cecil Wilson, 42, of Marshall, Mo., shouted he wanted to die moments before he was shot and killed by a 31-year-old patrolman on a dead-end road flanked by five houses Saturday night.

Police say the patrolman, a five-year department veteran, feared for his life when the man drove toward him in a 1989 Pontiac Grand Am at 7:35 p.m. on Albion, a dirt road southwest of Grand River and Middlebelt.

In addition to a department investigation headed by Inspector Thomas Godwin and Sgt. Charles Nebus, a board of inquiry will be established with other command officers not involved in that investigation.

"I'll review our findings and make a recommendation to the chief as to whether the shooting was justified," Godwin said.

Police plan 2 reviews

Police say the patrolman, a five-year department veteran, feared for his life when the man drove toward him in a 1989 Pontiac Grand Am at 7:35 p.m. on Albion, a dirt road southwest of Grand River and Middlebelt.

Groups line up against rezoning

By Casey Hens staff writer

Members of two Farmington city-appointed boards, plus homeowners of a large Farmington subdivision, took public stands this week against a proposed property rezoning in neighboring Farmington Hills.

Representatives for the groups said concerns include traffic congestion and the negative impact on the smaller city's downtown district just one mile away.

The Farmington Planning Commission, the city's Downtown Development Authority, and homeowners

from the Chatham Hills subdivision all took positions Monday opposing rezoning property at the northwest corner of Grand River and Drake by Bestak Building Co.

Farmington Hills-based Bestak has proposed rezoning, demolishing and rebuilding an expanded Mulwood Square shopping center. The expansion would be in an area currently zoned for apartment development, or other "multiple residential" projects.

Because the expansion "would adversely impact the city of Farmington," the groups said.



Joe Alkateeb

Alkateeb says job comes 1st

For related view, 14A

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills city councilman Joe Alkateeb made it clear: His commitment to his work as an electrical engineer and contractor precedes his service as a councilman.

"I don't think this job (serving on the city council) puts bread and butter on my table. My commitment is to my business first," Alkateeb said.

The three-term councilman came under fire Monday from 12 Mile resident Masha Silver for his noticeable absences from regular and special city council meetings in late 1988 and so far this year.

"I feel this does reflect badly on you and does not allow you to function as well as a city council person (should)," Silver said.

Silver referred to recent absences from a joint meeting of the planning commission and city council Jan. 30 and a meeting with state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, and

Please turn to Page 3

Please turn to Page 2

Please turn to Page 4

Please turn to Page 2