

Is it a bird? A plane?
Nope, just a flier, 1D



North wins
district, 1C

Eateries face tough
new smoking rules, 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 101 Number 46

Monday, March 12, 1990

Farmington, Michigan

48 Pages

Fifty Cents

farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-0922.

SAY what? Addressing the Farmington City Council during a public hearing Tuesday, Chuck Bongiovanni, who lives on Laurelwood in the Farmington Road-Eight Mile area, said: "I live down in the Meadows, which figuratively speaking, is the pistol grip of this community."

He, of course, was referring to his subdivision's position on a city map.

AT the helm. Did you know Mike Sullivan of Farmington Hills chaired the 32nd annual Detroit St. Patrick's Parade, held Sunday afternoon on Michigan Avenue? Dunleavy's Pub & Grub in Farmington co-sponsored the St. Patrick's Corktown Races that preceded the parade.

Memory lane

25 years ago:

- The Oakland County College board of trustees has approved the first phase of the \$10-million, 147-acre Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Township.
- The Farmington Township zoning board will review plans for the proposed Heritage Hills and Colony Park subdivisions and the proposed Hunters Ridge apartments.

— Farmington Enterprise, March 17, 1965

This week

WATCH for the Luck O' the Irish on Saturday — St. Patrick's Day, always a special day for the Farmington-area businesses with Irish ties.

what's inside

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Observer & Eccentric Classifieds Work!

"TREMENDOUS" Denise, from American Ladies Fitness Club, called about the General Help Wanted "Line" ad she placed with us. "We had an unbelievable response to our ad. After 137 calls, we turned the phone tape on. Our ears are still ringing!"

One call does it all!
WAYNE COUNTY
591-0900

Haggerty threat called precedent

By Darrell Clem
staff writer

A threat from the Environmental Protection Agency that it will recommend denial of permits for a multi-lane boulevard near Haggerty Road unless all local communities adopt wetlands rules appears to set precedent, a state official said Tuesday.

"After 20 years of environmental policy, it would be precedent to say all projects would be handled like that in the future," said Mike Flajole, project engineer with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Flajole expressed hope that wrangling between the EPA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA),

which has said it doubts it could require communities to adopt wetlands-protection rules, will not stall the Haggerty Road project, scheduled for a fall start-up and mid-1990s completion.

But those opposed to the six-to-eight-lane boulevard proposed to be built a half-mile west of Haggerty, from 12 Mile to Pontiac Trail, appeared pleased with the EPA's stance.

"I do view it as a sign of hope," said Lorna McEwen, co-president of Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield. "But it's sad that the way to avoid a project like that is from Washington, as opposed to having the local governments take the stand that would be a slow-growth stand."

McEwen, saying the project would prove "disastrous" because of urban sprawl, said, "I would certainly be pleased to see it stopped in any way, shape or form."

THE PROJECT, tagged at \$79 million or more, has been put on hold as MDOT continues efforts to develop an environmental impact statement that it hopes will help the so-called Haggerty Road Connector win federal approval.

But Flajole conceded that mixed signals from the EPA and the FHWA appear to be causing some problems.

"The EPA interprets things one way, and the Federal Highway Ad-

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Hills leaders regard Connector as big plus

Despite the mixed signals, Farmington Hills leaders are dedicated to the Haggerty Connector.

"That connector to the expressway system and to 12 Mile — and, in the future, up to Pontiac Trail — is something that is of ultimate importance to Farmington Hills," said assistant city manager David Cail.

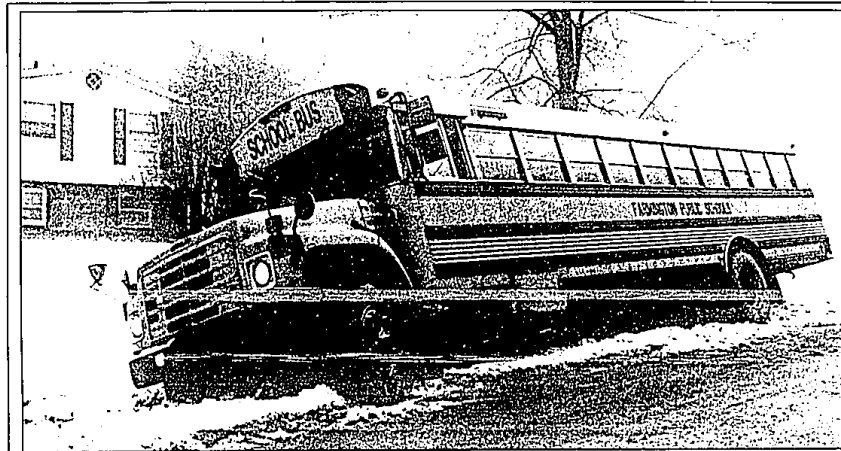
"Haggerty Road is overloaded with cars, with no plan from the Oakland County Road Commission to widen it, basically because the

connector has been in the planning stage the last 3-4 years."

Cail sees the Haggerty Connector interchange at I-696 relieving the freeway interchange at Orchard Lake Road and 12 Mile.

He also sees the connector filtering off lakes area traffic that otherwise travels 12 Mile to Orchard Lake Road — and contributes to tie-ups along both those roads.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

School bus mishap

No students were hurt Friday, when a Farmington Public Schools bus slid off icy Biddlestone, northeast of Farmington Road and 11 Mile, shortly after 8 a.m. Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Ray Cranston said although the accident was first reported

as a rollover, it turned out to be minor. Students boarded another bus brought to the scene. Witnesses said the dirt road was glazed with ice. A dense fog advisory was posted for Oakland County until noon Friday.

out of business all the time. I'd just as soon sell and reorganize."

MACGRIFF SAID he filed for bankruptcy some time ago but would not specify when. He declined to disclose specific details of the paper's current financial problems.

The Suburban News, which publishes each Thursday, last published its editions Feb. 1, MacGriff said.

"In the meantime, I'm trying to reorganize. I'll see how it goes in the next few days before I will decide

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Red ink shuts paper down

By Bill Casper
staff writer

For 90 years the family-owned and -operated Suburban News has been serving readers with weekly editions in the Farmington area and five other suburban communities, plus northwest Detroit.

But the small, community newspaper group has temporarily halted publication because of financial difficulties, according to publisher Jack MacGriff of Farmington Hills.

The Suburban News also circulated in Livonia, Westland, Redford Township, Southfield and Novi, MacGriff said. However, he declined to reveal the paper's circulation figures at the time publication was halted.

Locally, the paper was called the Farmington Forum.

MacGriff said Wednesday that he

hopes to reorganize under bankruptcy provisions and get the paper back on the news stands.

"I'm in a little trouble and I closed one office temporarily," said a somewhat despondent-sounding MacGriff during a telephone interview from the Suburban News office on Lahser, south of Grand River in Detroit. "The IRS is after us. We owe them some money."

"I'm getting real tired. I'm in and

Farmington grew on safety chief

By Casey Hana
staff writer

Farmington has welcomed Frank Lauhoff with open arms.

He's happy about that. The transplanted east slider from Mount Clemens has made the west side his home now for 16 years, and has enjoyed a law enforcement career with the city of Farmington since 1974.

"I've always said Farmington kind of grows on you," the city's 38-year-old public safety director said about the community he serves. "There's a binding that comes from knowing people."

LAUHOFF, WHO rose through the ranks from the position of public safety officer, credits his move to Farmington police and fire department to Vicki, his wife of 18 years who works in the purchasing department at Bosch in Farmington Hills. While seeking law enforcement work in the early 1970s, an application from the Farmington public safety department came in the mail. Lauhoff threw it away.

"I saw 'public safety' and said 'what is this?' When the second one (application) came, my wife encouraged me to call and find out. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be here."

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Frank Lauhoff, Farmington Department of Public Safety director, checks out the city's 9-1-1 emergency phone num-

ber system with public safety officer Chris Guinan.

Special day is coming

If you know of or are planning a special activity or event on Friday, March 30 or Saturday, March 31 — and it's taking place in Farmington or Farmington Hills — we'd like to know about it.

We're planning special coverage in an effort to capture our community in pictures over a 24-hour period.

Call our receptionist, Rose Butler, at 477-5451, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Leave your name, address and phone number and the date, time, place and nature of the special occasion. We'll call you in advance if we're coming.

Thanks!
— Bob Sklar, editor