

# Farmington Observer

Volume 102 Number 8

Monday, October 29, 1990

Farmington, Michigan

54 Pages

Fifty Cents



Don't be tricky . . . we've got an eye on you. Ghoulish greetings from the Observer & Eccentric.

## Missed chance

### Toxics hearing passes with little comment

By Joanne Mallezewaki  
staff writer

Take a balloon and put a pin in it. We came and we missed the whole thing.

Those were just a couple comments made in Farmington Hills City Hall Thursday night by several residents who attended a public hearing on proposed changes on the use of toxic-hazardous materials in the industrial-research-office and light industrial districts.

Armed with prepared statements, the residents — without knowing it — missed their opportunity to tell planning commissioners what they thought about the proposed changes.

"I thought there would be an opportunity for a discussion," said Independence Hills resident David Kandi, who asked commissioners a question about the changes. But he thought they were seeking questions at that point, not comments. He also said it was difficult to hear commissioners over the council chamber's new microphones.

"This has been discussed over many previous meetings and with input from a great many people," commissioner Paul Blizman said, when there was no in-depth discussion among commissioners about the proposed changes.

Commissioners voted 9-0 to recommend approval of the proposed changes to the city council, which also will have a public hearing.

THE PROPOSED changes are a result of a report by a committee that studied toxic-hazardous materials in Farmington Hills.

Pharmaceuticals and laboratories engaging in genetic research would be excluded as principal uses in the IRO and LI districts under the proposed changes. The two uses are now allowed in those districts.

Also to be excluded in those districts are industrial landfills and incinerators.

In the LI district, however, pharmaceuticals would be allowed by special approval from the planning commission. Solvents, degreasing and metal cleaning materials, pesticides, chemicals and surface coatings also would need special approval. A 300-foot setback from residential districts also would be required.

"The planning commission would have to make a finding in each case that the use would not be injurious to the surrounding area," said Farmington Hills planning consultant Claude Coates. "These particular items . . . are not spelled out in ordinances at the present time. There's no distinction to these materials in the present ordinance."

Commissioners also propose including performance standards, which would specifically state that with toxic or hazardous materials, any use permitted would be subject to state, federal and municipal requirements.

## No political earthquake

### Budget impasse not seen as election swinger

By Tedd Schneider  
staff writer

Although they expect to gain some support from voters fed up with the month-long stalemate over the federal budget, challengers for local congressional seats know they still face an uphill battle.

And a Bloomfield Township political analyst said incumbent Congressmen in those races are so well entrenched that it would take a "political earthquake" to unseat any of them.

"It's going to be very hard, in the metro (Detroit) area, for challengers to capitalize on discontent with Washington," said Jack Casey.

The budget Congress approved Saturday cuts \$40 billion this year

and \$500 billion in five years. In that same time, the deficit is expected to rise from \$3 trillion to \$5 trillion.

THE NEW BUDGET raises tax rates for the wealthiest people from 28 percent to 31 percent. More taxes will be added to gasoline, beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, airplane tickets, and luxury cars and boats. Medicare deductibles are increased and Medicare taxes added to higher incomes.

Voting against the budget were Reps. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, and Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth. Voting to send the budget to the President were Reps. Sander Levin, D-Southfield, and William Ford, D-Taylor.

Casey sees voters in those districts



— 2nd, 14th 15th, 17th and 18th —  
opting for the status quo on Tuesday, Nov. 6, unless there's a "political earthquake in the eight range (on the Richter scale).

He cited factors including well-established incumbents with clean reputations, the way Michigan congressional districts are drawn and the lack of high-profile challengers.

NOT THAT people are satisfied with current leadership, Casey said. "It's the institution they are railing against, Congress as a whole, not 'our guys,'" Casey said.

A challenger would have to be a dynamic candidate from outside the political world to capitalize on the current situation, said the political analyst, former owner of Southfield-based Casey Communications. A "George Romney-type" who swept into the governor's office in 1964 on a wave of disenchantment with government by voters.

Republican Blaine Lanford, a Royal Oak businessman running against Levin, said he has been calling attention to the budget deficit

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## Harris tries to win job on his own

By Tom Beer  
staff writer

Frederick L. Harris likes the job the governor gave him. He wants to keep it — if that's OK with the voters.

"I look forward to coming to work every day and making a contribution to the community," said Harris, appointed to replace the retired Michael Hand as judge of the 47th District Court in Farmington in April 1989. "It's very rewarding."

Now, 18 months and a couple of heated controversies later, the 60-year-old Harris is preparing to face the voters in the Nov. 6 general election.

If he outpolls challenger Rick Knauer, he'll have the \$93,800-a-year judgeship for the next six years. Harris — an electrician, a naval

aviator during the Korean War and a holder of a college degree in television production — has been a practicing attorney since 1963.

In a recent interview, the judge said he is concerned with an increase in substance-abuse cases coming before the court, which covers Farmington and Farmington Hills.

A JUDGE CAN do something about it, said Harris, a 20-year Farmington Hills resident.

"With respect to alcohol abuse . . . I get many requests from people who don't think they should be on probation for any great length of time," he said. "I feel to the contrary. I think we have to keep these people under supervision. We have to monitor them."

"I think you have to impress upon them that this is a very serious



crime. If you don't think it's important when it hits your pocketbook in increased insurance rates, then look at it from the standpoint of sitting in jail for an extended period of time."

And drug cases? "What I do, if they don't go to jail, is make them submit to a monthly urine sample for marijuana cases. They know that I'm looking at them for an extended period of time. If

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Frederick L. Harris

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Look for the Farmington Hills Suburban Cable Weekly



## First roses, then death

"It looks like she did not expect it."

— Lt. Doug Cedras

last Christmas," Cedras said.

A Dearborn Heights resident when involved with Abbott, Brewer later met another man and moved to Sterling Heights to be near him. At one point, Brewer had filed a harassment complaint against Abbott with Dearborn Heights police, Cedras said. Abbott also apparently attempted suicide previously and had undergone counseling.

Cedras said it appears Abbott was unaware of where Brewer lived until that morning when he arrived at her apartment after 7 a.m. with roses, which appeared to have been bought a couple days before the killing. "The killing took place sometime between then and 10 a.m. when we were notified," Cedras said.

A 24-year-old Farmington Hills man took his former girlfriend roses before he shot and killed her in her Sterling Heights apartment Thursday morning and then turned the gun on himself.

"There were no signs of forced entry so it appears he approached her when she was leaving for work," said Lt. Doug Cedras of the Sterling Heights Police Department.

Robert Abbott shot his former girlfriend, Deborah Brewer, 23, several times with a .45-caliber automatic handgun. "It looks like she did not expect it," Cedras said.

Don Cowan, Farmington Public Schools director of building and student services and former North Farmington High School principal, said records do not show Abbott as a student at North or Harrison high schools.

AFTER SHOOTING Brewer, Abbott went into the bathroom of the apartment near Van Dyke and Ulta roads, and shot himself. "He had a relationship with the victim for several years that terminated on or around