

Dialing for dinner,
other delights, 6D



Wrestling
results, 1C

Informal party
is just super, 1B

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Fifty Cents

War spurs understanding, stress

See related stories on 3A

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Continued fighting in the Persian Gulf has had a varied impact on the community's psyche.

In counseling sessions, area psychologists have seen some patients with additional stress, others who are realizing their everyday problems are small compared with the big picture, and some who show little impact from Operation Desert Storm.

"It's hard not to dwell on it," said Keith Levick, a Farmington Hills psychologist who handled family counseling for many years, and recently changed his focus to stress seminars for corporations. "It's living history. We're all at the front lines with CNN."

"Certainly there's more anxiety, more tension. It's just accentuating the problems."

While the war brings on stress for some, others are discovering their problems might not be so bad, said Susan Shapiro, a Farmington Hills resident and executive director of Southfield Psychotherapy.

THE GULF

WAR

Hitting Home

"The most important thing it's given my patients is a very healthy perspective on their own problems," she said. "They realize, 'How silly it is for me to worry about my problems when people are dying in the Gulf...'"

"I THINK people are caring about each other a lot more. The media is making us realize how vulnerable we are."

Bloomfield Hills psychologist Jane Maddox, a Birmingham resident, said she has had little response from patients. "None of my patients have voluntarily brought it up," she said. "I haven't found anything — and these are people going through personal tragedies. This week, my patients come in and talk to me about the issues that are theirs."

The only impact is with people who are in the so-called "helping" professions, she said, many of whom

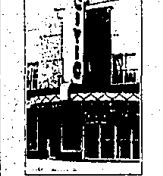
are "caught up in the peace movement and are very upset."

Professionals say this war is different than the Vietnam conflict. Not only is there moment-by-moment media coverage, but many people have relatives in the Middle East region either living there, or serving in the armed forces. And, despite demonstrations against the war, the country seems to have pulled together behind those serving overseas.

Levick said his patients "like how the country is pulling together —

Please turn to Page 2

FARMINGTON



FOCUS

ATTENTION, relatives of local armed service personnel in the Persian Gulf war:

Don Cowan, director of building and student services for the Farmington Public Schools, is looking for the names of Farmington high school graduates who are on duty in Saudi Arabia.

Cowan said he hopes to link current students at the district's three high schools with the graduates through letters.

"I just want to bombard them with letters," Cowan said. "My hope is that the idea might also spread to teachers and members of the community."

Anyone with information about Farmington-area graduates in Saudi Arabia, or elsewhere, should call Libby Panetta at 489-3342. If possible, callers should give the graduate's name, year of graduation and military address.

SPREADING OF the Persian Gulf war... those troops will be well-supported. If you're the Farmington Hills City Council has anything to say about it.

The council, at a recent meeting, passed a resolution of support for "our troops on the front lines in the Persian Gulf and their commander in chief."

The resolution continued: "We, the City Council of Farmington Hills, Michigan, in behalf of all our local citizens, many of whom have sons and daughters in the armed services, want the President of the United States to know we stand with him and the United Nations in this courageous phalanx against aggression."

"We applaud the United Nations in its steadfast resolve to assure the fruits of aggression are not tolerated by a civilized world."

A REAL "looker" that Farmington Hills councilwoman Jean Fox, Well, Southfield attorney Jim Ginn might think so, if only he could find his glasses.

During a recent council meeting, attorney Ginn, representing developer Mel Kalfan in a rezoning discussion, fumbled for his eye glasses.

"Remember when I didn't need glasses?" Ginn asked Fox. "You're not missing anything, Mr. Ginn," answered Fox, a septuagenarian. "I'm not as beautiful as I used to be."

MEMORY LANE — From the Jan. 25, 1951 Farmington Enterprise:

Fire of an undetermined origin destroyed an unfinished house worth \$15,000 on Valley Drive in Wood Creek Farms.

Gene Hymes, Farmington radio and TV dealer, was named chairman of a committee which was to work with a group from the local American Legion to plan the 1951 Mid-Winter Festival.

Farmington Mayor Delos Hamlin announced that a civilian defense committee would be named to serve during the Korean War.

Rita Pieron rolled a 200 game to top her record 183 in the Farmington High Girls' Bowling League.

Short ribs were 39 cents a pound at C.F. Smith Co. Eight Mile and Grand River. Apples were 25 cents for four pounds.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



Farmington Hills residents Jeannine Gundie (left), Kurt Yockey and Roy Lindhardt point to animal tracks in fresh snow white-tailed deer, west of Farmington Road.

Great land debate

Use of Peltz-MDOT site is master plan key

By Joanno Maliszowski
staff writer

It's simple. Farmington Hills needs to buy more land for athletic fields.

That was the overwhelming opinion shared by residents — including the so-called birdwatchers and jocks — as well as Farmington Hills planning commissioners Thursday.

Yet the 72-acre Peltz-MDOT land, south of I-696 and west of Farmington Road, remains controversial and at the center of attention.

"The reason that's where the controversy is is because it's the only piece of land we have," parks and recreation commissioner Jerry Ellis said. "If more land isn't bought soon, we'll fight over Peltz-MDOT forever."

The planning commission adopted the parks and recreation master plan Thursday, 7-0. Two commissioners, Jack Joyst and John Traflet, were absent. Joynt has resigned.

The city council is scheduled to discuss the master plan at 7:30 tonight.

"I'm not 100 percent happy," said 10 Mile

Road resident Joe Derek, who has led the debate on maintaining the wooded and hilly Peltz-MDOT land in its natural state. "I thought (the planning commissioners) could have been tougher."

ROY LINDHARDT, who also wants as much of Peltz-MDOT preserved as possible, was a little more optimistic about the planning commission's actions. He believes city officials are waking up to the need to save Peltz-MDOT.

Please turn to Page 4

Bye, Barb

Retirement to be adventure for longtime Hills secretary

By Joanno Maliszowski
staff writer

For Barbara Balmforth, retirement will be yet another adventure.

"I just feel there are so many things I want to know that I don't have time when I'm working," said Balmforth, who will retire at the end of January after 17 years as the secretary to the Farmington Hills city manager.

She's been the constant in a city and city hall that's undergone tremendous change over the years.

Balmforth has worked with three city managers, 17 mayors and what mathematically works out to 102 city council members in her 17 years at the city administration building at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

know your neighbor

"I've had six titles since I have been here. I was the first secretary. They didn't know what to do with me," said Balmforth, a widow and Farmington Hills resident.

She recalls a well-known city hall personality — who no longer works in city hall — who approached her shortly after she was hired, told her she didn't know anything about city

Please turn to Page 4



DANIEL LIPPITT/staff photographer

"I go back before copy machines," says Barbara Balmforth, secretary to the Farmington Hills city manager. In her 17-year tenure in city hall, Balmforth has witnessed the computer age change the way of doing business and has watched the city evolve.

Bomb threats on rise

Crisis rouses crank callers

The Persian Gulf crisis is bringing out crank callers with their bomb threats, Farmington Hills police say. The latest occurred at the Farmington YMCA on Farmington Road north of 12 Mile, and the Farmington Community Library, Hills branch on 12 Mile between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

Though it's unknown whether both callers were one in the same, both bomb threats were similar. At 6:59 p.m. Wednesday, a YMCA employee answered the phone to a male voice who whispered, "There's a bomb in the Y." The man paused and then hung up.

YMCA officials evacuated the building. Farmington Hills police arrived, checked the building and found nothing. The YMCA then closed for the night.

An hour after the YMCA received a bomb threat, the library received one. The male caller whispered, "there's a bomb," and then hung up. The library was evacuated. The police arrived and found nothing.

"EVERY PUBLIC administrator has to realize we are living in threatening times and we have to be

Please turn to Page 2

what's inside

Building scene	1F
Classifieds	Sec. C,E,F
Index	2F
Auto	Sec. C,E,F
Real estate	Sec. E
Employment	Sec. F
Creative living	1E
Crossword puzzle	3E
Entertainment	2D
On the agenda	5A
Police fire calls	3A
Sports	Sec. D
Street Scene	Sec. D
Taste	Sec. B

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