

Slashed program yielded big return, 1B



Hawks beat Falcons, 1D

The Persian Gulf war and the home front, 3A



Farmington Observer

Volume 102 Number 34

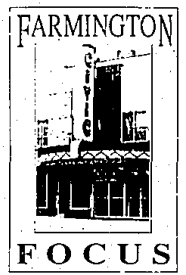
Thursday, January 31, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

68 Pages

Fifty Cents

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Emotions run high as election nears

See Community Corner, 4A
Related editorial, 14A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A visibly tired Farmington school chief said Monday the district has "never had such a hotly debated millage election," as he spent 2 1/2 hours

explaining the district's needs to a crowd of about 200 residents representing both pro and con factions. Although trying to keep his remarks informational in nature, superintendent Michael Flanagan said he remained concerned about what would happen to the Farmington district if a millage effort failed next Tuesday and he had to consider a laundry list of cuts, much of which he said would include staff and

School Millage

transportation cuts. "I can't be immersed in this job the way I am, and not be concerned with the outcome," he said. "I really

believed, and now this seems foolish, we wouldn't need to make any list (of cuts) at all. I thought it would be so self-evident we lost money."

VOTERS WILL go to the polls in a special election Tuesday, Feb. 5, when they will be asked to approve two 10-year propositions for increased operating millage in the district, which includes all of the city of Farmington, most of Farmington

Hills and a small portion of southeast West Bloomfield Township. The first proposition asks for 2.7 mills, which will bring the district about \$6.74 million; the second asks for one mill for capital projects, which would bring the district \$2.5 million each year.

The measures are supported by a political action committee of some

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CITY OF FARMINGTON

employees and members of the city's Downtown Development Authority are making a special comment about the conflict in the Middle East.

Last week, yellow ribbons were tied on pedestrian lightposts along Grand River and Farmington Road, and flags were hung at the signs marking each entrance to the city. Banners were donated by Michele Marc's Flowers, a downtown Farmington merchant.

"We did it because downtown Farmington is part of the world community too," said DDA executive director Wendy Strip-Sitamer. "Although it's business as usual, it's really not."

SHE'S NOW A VP, the library's B.P.

Beverly Papi, director of the Farmington Community Library, has been elected vice president of the Library of Michigan, a state organization that meets the information needs of state legislators and other state officials, among other things.

Papi was appointed a Library of Michigan trustee last April. The 16-member board includes State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Southfield.

"(Papi) was pleased and flattered," said Gerald Furl, assistant director of the Farmington Library. "It's quite an honor. I suppose she'll be rotated into the presidency."

THE PLAY'S THE THING

... or it will be when the Farmington High School Players take to the boards with "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" Thursday.

There are 8 p.m. curtains Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday at the school on Shawnee Road.

Margaret Koltz, chorale director at the school, said the production will be "the greatest" mainly because the cast is heavy with some of the best singers and dancers she's seen in an audition.

Stars in the musical comedy are Jennifer Hoemke and Charles Starkey. They're backed by second leads Stephanie Bedikian and Brian Biddle.

Tickets at \$5 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens and students may be purchased at the door.

MEMORY LANE

From the Feb. 1, 1951, Farmington Enterprise:

The Rev. Fred Fisher, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Farmington the past nine years, resigned because of ill health, according to Albert McDonald, secretary of the church. Fisher had been granted a two-month leave of absence the previous December, McDonald added.

Farmington High School's debate team, coached by Lloyd Smith, was to participate in the state elimination tournament in the Tackham Building in Detroit. The team included Myrna Hurkett and Donald Stephen, June Turner and Charles Tulip. The school's debate squad compiled a 7-1 record over the season.

Short item: "John Millette and Bruce Hahermeil saw the hockey game at Olympia Monday night." Bob Godette scored eight points in Clarenceville's 35-28 loss to Clarkston in high school basketball.



Evidence confiscated by Farmington Hills police in Sunday night's gambling raid is displayed at the police department.

32 arrested in gambling raid in Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It was Super Bowl night. But an alleged illegal high-stakes gambling operation — not football — prompted an early Monday morning Farmington Hills police raid on a Colony Park subdivision house in which more than \$52,000 was seized and 32 men were arrested on felony and misdemeanor charges.

Eight of the 32 men arrested in the raid may face state felony gambling conspiracy charges and the remaining 24, many businessmen from Oakland and Wayne county suburbs, could face misdemeanor betting charges.

"The gamblers were a majority of businessmen whom we would characterize as high rollers," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said. "The people who were actually the operators are charged with felony gambling."

THE MEN WHO face charges are from Southfield, Birmingham, Livonia, West Bloomfield, Garden City, Royal Oak, Detroit, Oak Park and Farmington Hills. All 32 men have been released from police custody. Arraignments are expected sometime later this week in 47th District Court in Farmington.

Some 15 police officers, including Dwyer, executed a search warrant at 12:05 a.m. Monday at 28834 Lake Park, in the Colony Park subdivision, south of 13 Mile, between Farmington and Drake roads. The house is owned by Jamal Abo, 46.

"It alleged gambling operation has been in operation in Farmington Hills for the past three years undetected," Dwyer said. "This was an

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— William Dwyer
Farmington Hills Police Chief

intensive investigation conducted strictly by the Farmington Hills police.

A dice table, too large to move, was destroyed at the scene, dice, cards, a blackjack table and other equipment used in a "casino-style gambling operation," were seized, Dwyer said.

"This is a floating game. This was strictly a dice game and a blackjack game," Dwyer said. Reported beta ran as high as \$5,000 on the dice game and \$200 on the blackjack.

POLICE ARE continuing to investigate the alleged gambling operation. There is a possibility that it is tied to a structured organized crime cartel," Dwyer said.

Some of the eight men whom the police call the operators were previously arrested on gambling charges when the Michigan State Police raided the so-called Tiger Club in Detroit several months ago.

Illegal gambling has not been a major enforcement effort among most police agencies since the 1970s. "To a certain degree there has been a lack of enforcement in gambling, if only because the commitment of enforcement has been on narcotics," Dwyer said.



Deputy Chief Miri Spencer

Hills deputy chief aids choking victim

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Judy Palmer of Walled Lake doesn't recall Miri Spencer standing up, going to her aid and saving her from choking on some food that had lodged in her throat at lunch Thursday in the Brass Pointe restaurant in Farmington Hills.

"I just cut off. I couldn't talk. I couldn't breathe," said Palmer, who was lunching with a friend when she began choking. "I stood straight up. I was probably holding my throat. I don't know how it happened. I don't

call him getting up," said the Farmington Family Physicians employee. But Farmington Hills Deputy Police Chief Spencer remembers everything, including the fact that only at the last minute did he decide to join police Chief William Dwyer for lunch at the restaurant on Orchard Lake Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

As Spencer glanced around the restaurant like most people do while waiting for their meal, he saw a woman at a nearby table with "a look of consternation." Then he saw the woman's companion "grasp her throat. She

tried to say something, she pushed her chair back and stood up. Her face started turning blue."

SPENCER JUMPED out of his seat — while Dwyer ran to the phone to call 911 — told Palmer to remain calm and put his arms beneath the woman's shoulders and performed the Heimlich maneuver.

"I was as calm as I have ever been in my life. It seemed a very natural thing to do. I was glad I learned how to do the Heimlich maneuver," Spencer said.

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Hills man has beef with Wendy's over snow-covered parking spots

By Susan Buck
staff writer

George Mell is frosted at Wendy's — and it has nothing to do with the soft dessert they serve.

Mell, a Farmington Hills resident with a handicap, drove to Wendy's Restaurant on 12 Mile Road Sunday morning hoping to take advantage of the free coffee on his special card. But he discovered both handicapped parking spots were piled with snow and ice.

Mell, who has a heart condition and a walking problem, was miffed.

All the other parking spots were cleared except for the two handicapped spots, he said. It looked to him as though the snow had been purposely piled there.

closer to the door, Mell turned thumbs down to the whole situation. "The space was totally blocked," Mell said.

Monday, Mell called Wendy's International Headquarters in Southfield and talked to Dave Wexall, who informed Mell that because the restaurant is a franchise he couldn't demand that the snow be cleared. Wexall said he'd be willing to call the restaurant and discuss the problem.

CURTAINSTY GOT the better of Mell, who made a few return trips to Wendy's to check on any progress.

There was none. On Tuesday he complained to Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Traffic Bureau. To Mell's surprise

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