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Farmington Observer

Volume 102 Number 40

Monday, February 18, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

54 Pages

Fifty Cents



Gun buff won't post \$1 million bond

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

Considering "the tenor of the times," the attorney for a Farmington Hills man who may face federal weapons charges says he doesn't blame a district judge for setting a \$1 million bond that's keeping a 20-year-old in jail.

evidence," for a case against his client.

"He (Lang) is doing all right. He's in (a cell) with seven other guys. He's adjusted to it," Posner said.

Lang's parents' home on Briarcrest in the Franklin Knolls subdivision, south of 14 Mile, east of Northwestern Highway, was raided by Farmington Hills police and ATF agents just after 9 a.m. Feb. 11.

Firearms, military weapons and detonating devices were seized in the raid. Lang apparently lives in the basement of the home.

Size doesn't surprise lawyer

LANG, HOWEVER, has not yet been charged with any federal or state weapons charges. He faces a felony charge of receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100 in connection with two scanner radios police say were stolen from the Detroit Board of Education office.

Posner said Lang bought the radios from a Detroit pawn shop. The charge does not involve the weapons confiscated from Lang's house.

Lang will remain in the Oakland County Jail on a \$1 million bond, which Posner said will not be posted.

"Only Marlon Brando can post it. He's got the millions," Posner said.

Judge Fred Harris, elected to a six-year term of the 47th District Court last November, would not return the Observer's inquiries as to why he set the high bond for the concealing and receiving charge.

why the bond is so high.

"I find no fault in Judge Harris' bond. With the information the police gave without verification, he'd be stupid not to set that bond," Posner said. "It's preventive detention. I don't blame them for being overzealous."

BUT THAT'S WHERE Posner's understanding stops.

"He (Lang) isn't going around buying stolen guns," Posner said. Lang,

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Light is green; Gill to expand

By Casey Hens
staff writer

At Gill Elementary, sounds of musical instruments filter from behind a folding door in the cafeteria where Don Floss conducts his last class before the start of the noontime lunch rush.

In a nearby hallway where people travel to and from the media center, Bobbi Adams teaches music to several other students.

Despite a recent operating millage loss for the district, Farmington school officials say they will move ahead with expansion and renovations at Gill, saying the school on the district's southwest side is in "dire condition."

The Farmington school board approved only one phase of the project for \$142 million last November, but agreed with an administrative recommendation Feb. 12 to do the entire project.

THE NEW PRICE tag is \$3.35 million.

Only \$2 million is budgeted for the project this year, the remainder will have to be covered in the



Gill fifth graders Chris Compton (left), Kurt Ludke, Walter Guth, Todd Richardson and Ray Matsen must take musical direction in the media center hallway under the direction of music teacher Bobbi Adams. Musical equipment is also stored here.

1991-92 fiscal year which starts July 1. Doing the entire project on the 35-year-old school will save the district \$400,000 over doing it in a piecemeal fashion, officials say. They hope the current recessionary climate will also bring good bid prices.

"We feel... this would be a

good way to go, despite the loss of the millage," building and student services director Don Cowan told the board. "It was not an easy decision to bring to you."

"The building is falling apart. It's the worst building in the district," added superintendent Michael Flanagan. "We need space,

particularly in that part of the district."

Room for music, art and other so-called "extras" is only one problem facing the building. Siding appears to be coming off the building in several places, the cafeteria and media center are overcrowded, hallways are being used for stor-

age, and visitors can step right into the principal's office — from a side hallway.

CHANGES INCLUDE adding six classrooms to the building, giving the school capacity for 500 students. The project would also add

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She'll be missed Secretary to retire from school district



Betty Weisenburg, executive assistant in the Farmington superintendent's office, retires this month after 25 years with the district. She has worked in a variety of areas, including special education, secondary and elementary education and in the superintendent's office since 1979.

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Betty Weisenburg leaves behind 25 years with the Farmington Public Schools this month, and takes with her many fond memories and the hearty applause of those with whom she has worked.

"When you open the dictionary to the word 'dedicated,' you see Betty Weisenburg," said superintendent Michael Flanagan, lauding his executive assistant as she attended her final school board meeting Tuesday. "I could not have, and the district could not have, gotten to the point we are today without her dedication."

School trustee Helen Prutow recalls the long hours Weisenburg put in for the superintendent and school board, many times without vacations or breaks.

"She's given a lot," Prutow said. "She's just a super dedicated person, dedicated to taking care of our needs."

"We're going to miss her."

THE LONGTIME Farmington Hills resident — who now lives with husband Marty in their "ideal" retirement home in Bedford Township — came to work for the school district in 1966 after years of

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— Michael Flanagan
school superintendent

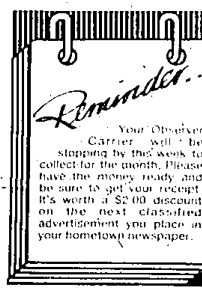
homemaking and motherhood, when she felt a need for the challenge of a job.

At the suggestion of her son's music teacher, Larry Freedman, who retired from the district as an assistant superintendent and is now a local restaurateur, she filed an application and was hired that afternoon.

She first worked for directors of special education Doug Smith and Hugh Watson, then for secondary education director Joe Nicita who now serves as president of the Macomb Intermediate School District and Freedman, who was then director of

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DRIFTY PLACE, that Farmington Hills City Hall.

The Hills City Council recently passed a resolution recently supporting the troops fighting in the Persian Gulf. Apparently an act carried out on 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills was noted in Washington, D.C.

"Eat your hearts out — I got a letter from the White House," said Mayor Aldo Vagnoni, who is active in local Democratic circles, even though Hills politics are non-partisan, during a recent council meeting.

Came a voice from the audience, "Yeah, it's a draft notice." Laughter rocked the council chamber.

SPEAKING of Mayor Vagnoni... he was the recipient of two letters from Farmington Hills youngsters of middle school age, and he discussed them at the council meeting.

One, complaining about snow at the school bus stops, wondered why the city couldn't keep those areas clear.

The other talked about what he saw as the rising youth crime rate among the "rubble kids." Said the writer, "I think we need a SWAT team in the city."

IF THE SNOW is falling and the mercury is plunging and winter generally has you down, think May — and Farmington's annual Memorial Day Parade.

This year, the parade actually will be held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, according to officials of American Legion Post 346 and 190 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2269, who make up the parade committee.

Anyone interested in planning this year's parade is invited to attend a meeting 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 19, in the downstairs meeting room of the American Legion Post, 31775 Grand River, Farmington.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Walter Christensen, parade chairman, 474-8554.

MEMORY LANE — From the Feb. 18, 1951 Farmington Enterprise:

• Around the Block item: "We can't help admiring the spirit of Rev. Orville Windell, whose little church at the corner of Grand River and Middlebelt was damaged by fire early Tuesday morning. Rev. Windell is a very patient man — he and his small congregation have worked on the church since 1945 when the cornerstone was laid. They performed all the labor involved in building the structure. It wasn't finished. There was no insurance covering the building. Yet Rev. Windell isn't discouraged. 'Sometimes these things are hard to understand,' he says, and 'looks for something good to come of it. We hope it comes — we hope it is somehow a blessing in disguise. We figure the church has it coming.'"

• Farmington Boy Scout Troop 45 celebrated its 15th anniversary with a pot luck dinner at the Methodist Church.

• Charles Stuart, manager of the Farmington Lumber and Coal Company, was to head the 1951 Farmington Red Cross Drive.