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Hills chief 'appalled' at NAACP probe

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer is "appalled" that his police department is one of several suburban police agencies under investigation by the NAACP for racial harassment and intimidation.

"I'm appalled at the NAACP that they are investigating this department. They have never contacted me or this department," Dwyer said after a story about the investigation appeared in the Detroit News Tuesday.

The NAACP is apparently investigating four complaints from people who say they were harassed or intimidated by Farmington Hills police. Farmington Hills, however, is not alone. The report also mentions Southfield, Livonia, Dearborn, Ferndale, Oak Park, Mount Clemens and Romulus.

"I have no idea where they are getting their information," Dwyer said. "This whole article is welcoming people to make false complaints."

Dwyer called such complaints a "spin-off of the L.A. incident," in which a black man, Rodney King, was kicked and beaten by police officers March 3. Four white Los Angeles officers were charged with felony in connection with the beating, which was videotaped by a nearby resident.

SOME FARMINGTON Hills officers have felt under pressure when stopping minorities for traffic violations since the well-publicized L.A. incident, Dwyer said.

As for the four complaints the NAACP is investigating, Dwyer says he's unaware of who and what they involve. He says he's never been

contacted by anyone from the NAACP.

Robert Willis, an attorney for the Oakland County NAACP, was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

Two men, Raymond Baker and Larry All, are quoted in the News story regarding their complaint against the Farmington Hills police. The men are quoted as saying they made one call to the department but didn't follow up because they felt intimidated.

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MOTORISTS who got a cheap fill — 80 cents a gallon — at the Shell gasoline station at Grand River and Halsted recently have good old Ty Marvin to thank.

Tyrus (he was named after Tiger great Ty Cobb) Marvin, who handles the full-serve pumps, was 80 years old on May 21. Station owner Guy T. DiPlacido celebrated the event by slashing the price of the gas that day to a penny for every year of Marvin's life.

Marvin, a South Lyon resident, has been a pump jockey most of his life. He's worked at that Shell station three years.

"I pumped my first gasoline at a White Star station at Cass and Burroughs in Detroit in 1928," Marvin said. "I was a student at Catholic Central then. No, I don't remember the price, but we pumped it out of a glass jar."

Marvin, who is semi-retired and works four days a week, said he has no plans to quit.

"I like working," he said. "If I didn't work, I'd probably eat myself to death."

Said DiPlacido, who's owned the station 23 years, "We had to do something to honor the man. He's been in the service station business something like 63 years. And besides, how many times do you get to be 80?"

The were long lines of cars during the price cut, DiPlacido said. Next day, however, things were back to normal — \$1.17 for for regular unleaded, self-serve.

LET THE MUSIC play... every Thursday night at Farmington Hills' Heritage Park.

A series of free summer concerts by the Farmington Community Band begins at 8 p.m. tonight, May 30, at the park on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

"Bring your blankets and lawn chairs," said a park official, "and enjoy the park's new amphitheater seating."

A variety of popular band music and marches will be featured. The concert series, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, will continue Thursday evenings throughout the summer.

ABIG DAY is coming Friday for members of St. Gerald Catholic Church in South Farmington.

Archbishop Adam Maida will preside over the ceremony dedicating the church's new worship facility. The ceremony begins at 7 p.m. Friday, May 31.

The facility, which took 10 months to build and cost \$1.8 million, was financed jointly by a parish building fund and a loan from the Archdiocese of Detroit.

The old sanctuary will be used as a social hall and religious education center.

MEMORY LANE — From the May 31, 1991 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

John J. Schulte, municipal justice of the peace, announced he would "take a firm stand" with speeders whose autos had faulty brakes and lights. The crackdown was a response to the rising accident rate on highways of the Farmington area.



Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson is dressed for a Memorial Day parade as she rides with her husband, John.

photos by SHERIE DUBOY, staff photographer

Desert Storm vets focus of parade

By Susan Buck
staff writer

How sweet the victory. How glorious the celebration.

This year, more than ever, the Farmington area had reason to celebrate with its Memorial Day parade.

With Operation Desert Storm now history, city fathers finally had a chance to say thank you on an individual basis to hometown military service personnel who served in the Persian Gulf War.

The main speaker this year was, ironically, a Vietnam war veteran and helicopter pilot, someone for whom there were few ticker tape

celebrations or welcome home pats on the back.

Yet, Frank Daniel Chaffee, 47, a lieutenant colonel in the Michigan National Guard, openly applauded the efforts of his Persian Gulf brothers as well as troops who served in previous wars.

In the light for preservation of American liberty and ideals, only the names and faces change in opposing "the naked aggressor" be Saddam Hussein or Adolph Hitler, Chaffee, a Sylvan Lake resident said.

There will always be those tyrants who will crush the weak," Chaffee said. "There will always be

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Hills to participate in cleanup of Eight Mile Road next week

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Drive along Eight Mile Road the week of June 3-8 and you might see a difference.

"It's good for business. It's good for the city. It's a mutual cause," said Richard Lampi, Farmington Hills community development coordinator.

During that week you'll probably see people from the communities bordering the thoroughfare — from I-275 to I-94 — cleaning up and sprucing up.

Businesses along Eight Mile, from Farmington to Inkster roads in Farmington Hills, have been notified of the big clean up and are being urged to do their share. City officials are asking businesses to pickup trash and debris, paint buildings and tidy up shrubbery.

"That's really our most intense development area," Lampi said.

City staff also plan to meet specifically with business owners along Eight Mile, from Middlebelt to Farmington roads. "We're going to talk code enforcement, clean up and about technical assistance to make improvements to the sites," Lampi said.

"Let's say someone wants to pave their parking lot. We'll tell them about the procedures and ordinance requirements and we can provide suggestions or a landscape plan to help them spruce up the site."

THE THREE-MILE stretch from Inkster to Farmington roads will be cleaned up by Oakland County crews

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Hills to look at older areas

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

For a long time, the focus of Farmington Hills — with the furious building boom of the 1980s — has been on the new.

New houses. New neighborhoods. New shopping areas.

Now that everyone can take a breather, Farmington Hills wants to take a look at what exists in the city. That's primarily the older areas of the city that have been here long before the building boom that put the city on the map.

"If we don't think about existing areas, we'll miss the train," said Dale Countegan, Farmington Hills community and development director. "We're going to address their needs."

How that's going to be done is outlined in a target area document. The idea is to go back to the older or established areas of the city and ensure that the neighborhoods and shopping areas, as well as roads and sidewalks remain healthy.

"This type of analysis has not been done. With all the new construction in the city, we've been reacting. This is now going back into areas and being more reactive," Countegan said.

CITY STAFF plan to pick one area a year. But it won't just involve the city and its staff. Residents and business owners are the essential ingredients.

This year's target area is primarily an older area just east of Middlebelt, Nine Mile and Shawwassee on the south and the residential street, Purdue, on the west.

Letters have been mailed to residents and business owners in the area. A meeting for the group to meet with city staff was scheduled for Wednesday, May 29.

"We're going to get with residents and plan certain improvements and get results," Countegan said.

The road in the Middlebelt-Nine Mile area has already been improved. The city has done some landscaping in the area and there's new construction. "There's a good mix there: a mobile home park, residential, commercial," Countegan said.

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