

O&E THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1991

IN BRIEF

Named senior exec

TRACY L. White has been promoted from account executive to senior account executive at Hermanoff & Associates, a public relations firm in Farmington Hills.

As senior account executive, White will manage the Michigan Podiatric Medical Association account. She also will hold additional responsibilities for a number of the firm's health care, real estate, transportation and service industry accounts.

White joined Hermanoff & Associates as an assistant account executive in June 1989. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication studies and a master of business administration degree from the University of Detroit.

The White Lake township resident serves as a board member of the U of D's graduate business alumni association, the American Cancer Society Young Professionals and is a member of the Public Relations Society of America.

On hospital faculty

DR. HELEN Lacoste, a Farmington Hills resident, joined the obstetrical faculty at Southfield's Providence Hospital and is responsible for teaching residents in her specialty.

In addition, Lacoste sees patients at the Providence Medical Centers in Milford and South Lyon.

A graduate of Wayne State University School of Medicine, Lacoste completed her internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Sinai Hospital in Detroit.

Alumni officers

TWO FARMINGTON-area residents, Brian Rich and Marion Ringe, have been elected officers in the Wayne State University Alumni Association.

Rich, a tax associate with Coopers & Lybrand in Detroit, is the new treasurer. The Farmington Hills resident is a 1984 graduate of the WSU School of Business Administration. Ringe, a Farmington resident, is a vice president. She is director of annual giving at the Detroit Medical Center. She earned degrees in 1970 and 1977 from WSU's College of Liberal Arts.



Packing up

Matt Domagalski of Farmington Hills is preparing his backpack at the backpack workshop of Michigan Technological University's 10th annual Summer Youth Program on the MTU campus. The Power Middle School eighth-grader was among 1,000 junior and senior high school students who attended the summer session. Each student has the opportunity to participate in one of 60 week-long explorations. Program design focuses on career exploration and development of new skills through laboratory, classroom and field experiences. Matt is the son of Bryan and Paula Domagalski.

Merchants mum as Kohl's opens

By Susan Buck
staff writer

With the opening of a Kohl's department store Friday in the West River Centre shopping center in Farmington Hills, a downtown Farmington executive reflected on the health and vibrancy of downtown Farmington businesses located further west.

"We'd like to consider downtown Farmington to be a department store," said Wendy Strip-Sittsamer, executive director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

While downtown merchants voiced concern two years ago when they learned that the West River Centre would be developed, Strip-Sittsamer has heard no comments about Kohl's inclusion in that mall.

"Then (two years ago), businesses said that there are only so many ways that a pie can be cut," Strip-Sittsamer said.

KOHL'S, WHICH opened in the West River Centre shopping center at the site of the former Grand River Drive-in, is the final store constructed in the mall. The store held its grand opening on Friday and Saturday.

There's no equivalent of a Kohl's store in downtown Farmington, Strip-Sittsamer said.

"I can tell you that we've had more vacancies in downtown Farmington than we've had in the last four years," she said. "But, I can't say that it's related to the center. It's a function of the economy and competition."

Downtown Farmington merchants have the edge when it comes to downtown atmosphere, independent businesses, a high level of service and specialty stores, Strip-Sittsamer said.

"We also have discounters like T.J. Please turn to Page 13

Local innkeeper decries hotel tax

By Susan Buck
staff writer

One local innkeeper calls it "taxation without representation."

The hotel industry, even those who will not be directly affected, is lobbying strongly against a room tax increase to finance a new or renovated Tiger Stadium.

Only Wayne County hotels will be taxed. The Wayne County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a public hearing 4 p.m. Aug. 21.

But Oakland County hotel owners and others across the state believe the tax could spread.

"Hotels are not major benefactors of increased Tiger attendance," Lynne Schwarz, innkeeper of the Farmington Hills Hotsford Inn, said in a recent letter to the Observer. "Local hotels receive little, if any, revenue

from the 60 days of professional baseball played in Detroit. Therefore, an improved stadium would not increase hotel revenues to serve as a direct tax base."

"Hotels could only expect that demand for hotel rooms would decline due to rate sensitivity as a result of a hotel/motel tax financed stadium."

In review of the Duggan Plan, which was prepared for Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara, the biggest benefactor in this issue would be the privately owned Tiger Baseball Club, she said.

"A DEAL like that would represent a better business investment than trading your brother a used Volkswagen for Domino's Pizza," Schwarz said.

"It would be unfortunate if hotels and Please turn to Page 13



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