

Taking a trip back to medieval times, 6B



Farmington football, 1B

Wild bunnies multiply like rabbits, 3A



Farmington Observer

Volume 102 Number 96

Monday, September 2, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Fifty Cents

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Dwyer calls for car-theft task force

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

After an attempted armed robbery-auto theft on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills Wednesday night, police Chief William Dwyer is calling for formation of a task force if a rash of the thefts breaks out in Oakland County.

"If we see a major problem occurring in Oakland County, I'll make the proposal," Dwyer said Thursday. "We don't need to reinvent the wheel. But I'm sure there will be critics of my recommendations."

Dwyer announced his recommendation during a well attended press conference at

the Farmington Hills Police Department Thursday when news of the attempted armed robbery-auto theft reached local television news stations.

At 11:15 p.m. Wednesday, a 27-year-old Orchard Lake Village man was stopped at a red light in the southbound lane of Northwestern Highway, near Inkster Road, when he heard a loud noise.

When he got out of the car and walked to the rear to check out the noise, an unidentified man came up behind him, according to Farmington Hills police.

The man held his right hand in his coat pocket and reportedly told the motorist, "I want your car."

THE MOTORIST, who stands 6-foot-2, turned around and pushed the would-be thief with both hands. He then ran back to his car and drove to a gas station at 12 Mile and Franklin where he called 9-1-1. Both the Southfield and Farmington Hills police responded.

While making his call, the motorist saw the turquoise Ford Escort, the unidentified man was apparently driving go southeast on Northwestern Highway.

The motorist later found that his right rear tire was flat and suspected that caused the loud noise he heard, which in turn prompted him to get out of his car, according to police.

"There's obviously a pattern there as far as copy cats," Dwyer said, referring to the rash of armed robbery auto thefts in Detroit and spreading into the suburbs, including the shooting of a Fraser woman midnight Tuesday, Aug. 27 during an auto theft.

An armed robbery auto theft occurred in Bloomfield Township at 14 Mile and Telegraph Aug. 24.

"I believe a majority of these continuing crimes are being committed by crack addicts," Dwyer said. "The majority of these crimes are being committed to sustain their habits."

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FOCUS
DON'T BE surprised if 11-year-old Susan Marie Schmidt grows up to be an astronaut.

Susan Marie, daughter of Robert and Judy Schmidt of Farmington Hills, certainly has been bitten by the space bug. She saved \$400 over two years so she could attend the U.S. Space Camp in Titusville, Fla., this summer.

"She had a fabulous time," said Judy Schmidt. "She built her own rocket ship and they planned missions in space. I have a videotape of them doing it."

Susan Marie, a seventh grader at Beahan Junior High School in Farmington, acquired the money, which covered most of the expenses, by babysitting and saving allowances and gifts.

"It was her idea to save the money," said Judy Schmidt. "She really wanted to go. Now, she's planning to go to the U.S. Space Academy in Alabama."

"She said to me, 'Maybe I'll shuttle you to the moon, Mom.'"

START THINKING Citizen of the Year... that's what the officers of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce are asking.

Nominees are needed for the 20th-annual Citizen of the Year award in the Farmington area.

The chamber-sponsored award is designed to honor a community booster who has played a major role of public service in the Farmington area. It is given each fall.

Nominees can be anyone who has contributed to the community either as a volunteer or in connection with his or her business.

There are no limitations to a nominee's age, sex or residency. But nominees must have accomplished their good deeds in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

Betty Nicolay, long active in an anti-drug group, was named Citizen of the Year for 1990.

Other previous winners are: Nancy Ann Reilly, Terry Sever, Florent Cairns, Allan Kenerson, Richard Headlee, Sandra Donlon, Robert McConnell, Harold Gibson, Jim Ellis, Jean Fox, Bayard Tupper, Shirley Richardson, Kay Briggs and Key Blakeney.

Nomination forms are available at the chamber office, 33411 Grand River, Farmington. Copies of the forms are accepted. For more information, call the chamber at 474-3440.

MEMORY LANE — From the Sept. 6, 1981, Farmington Enterprise:

• Angus Letich, Farmington's new city manager, said he was looking into the installation of parking meters in the business district. He was to have made a report to the city council at the Sept. 17 meeting.

• Three young boys escaped death by minutes when one of the worst electric storms in recent years hit the Farmington area, sending the fire department out on six calls in four hours. Lightning struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Curtis on Beutwick Avenue and set fire to a bed on the second floor which had been vacated minutes before by the three Curtis children.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Carol Glenn of Farmington takes her cuts for Dunleavy's soft and Farmington Hills to allow residents in both communities to ball team Wednesday night at Shlawassoo Park in Farmington. The organized recreation side of life is shared by Farmington.

Working together

Farmington, Hills cooperate to save money

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Imagine two senior adult centers, two library districts, two parades for special holidays and events. Two of everything.

In the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills that would mean either higher taxes or fewer services. That's one of the reasons why over the years, the two cities have joined forces to avoid duplication of many services and activities.

And that's not too common among communities that share borders and similar needs.

"Both communities are relatively frugal," Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said. "We're not ones to duplicate facilities that already exist."

Consider that the cities share financing of the Farmington Community Library, the 47th District Court, the Farmington Area Advisory Council, the Commission on Aging, and the arts commission.

That's just to mention a few. There's also the joint programming and coordination of all parks and recreation facilities in both cities. Members from both cities serve on the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission, as well as on the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County. Both cities also have a joint contract for solid waste collection and disposal, as well as the new recycling program.

THE CITIES' water systems are interconnected and there's automatic mutual aid for fire protection and police backup, as well as joint coordination of emergency dispatch centers.

"When I travel around the state, I don't always find the cooperation we have," Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said.

If you're a resident of either city who didn't know there's such a level of cooperation and shared facilities, you're probably wondering why. The answer lives in history.

"The relationship began in (Farmington) township days," Deadman said. "The politicians of the

two cities genuinely liked each other. Even though there were trying moments like when the city annexed property from the township, it didn't seem to get to a personal level."

Take the Farmington Community Library. "I believe Farmington and Farmington Township (now Farmington Hills) were the first communities in the state of Michigan to form a district library. That kind of led the way to work together without losing who each of us is," Deadman said.

That philosophy can still be heard at each city's council meetings today.

"Our mind set is to think in terms of both communities," Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said. "We're finding that more and more on the council, someone will ask what Farmington is doing."

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Write-in to run in Hills Says deadline was confusing

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A 22-year-old Farmington Hills man will join the race for the Farmington Hills City Council as a write-in candidate.

Andrew Raczkowski, a recent graduate of Eastern Michigan University, said he missed the Aug. 27 deadline for filing nominating petitions. Candidates had until 4 p.m. Friday to withdraw from the race and avoid having their names placed on the official Nov. 5 ballot.

But that's not going to stop Raczkowski, who majored in political science and psychology and is applying to be accepted into law school. He is currently a lieutenant on active duty with the U.S. Army Reserve.

"I agree with Jean Fox. There should be a limitation of terms," Raczkowski said, adding he believes it's his duty to participate in government, as Fox suggested everyone should when she announced her intention not to seek re-election to another term.

"The city council has not been responsive to the citizens," Raczkowski said, adding he has watched the council fail to correct certain problems in the community. Many of those solutions, he said, could be much easier than council members are making them.

RACZKOWSKI SAID he also believes there is a lack of leadership on the existing city council and would like to be elected to change that.

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EPA's Haggerty finding draws mixed reactions

By Casey Haas
staff writer

A federal opinion last could slow or halt progress on the long-awaited Haggerty Connector project has at least one local official angry and environmentalists ecstatic.

"We can't bury our heads in the sand any longer," said Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick, reacting to an Environmental Protection Agency report that called a state environmental impact study on the road project incomplete.

"For people to continue harping on the wetlands and bogs is ridiculous," he added. "The growth has already shown its face. It's there. We've got to have some relief to the road system."

Costick said he would take "strong action" against the EPA stand and "strongly contest" it.

The \$79 million connector project is designed to be a six- to eight-lane boulevard west of the current Haggerty Road running from the I-96 interchange north to Pontiac Trail

through Novi and Commerce Township.

THOSE COMMUNITIES, as well as Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield Township, Walled Lake, White Lake Township and Wolverine Lake Village have supported the proposed project.

Officials say it is needed to alleviate traffic congestion along the heavily traveled north-south corridor, which runs along the western

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