

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## Downtown renaissance

Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson cuts the ribbon Thursday Sept. 12 to dedicate the new Metrobank building recently completed in downtown Farmington, saying she was "delighted" the Farmington Hills-based bank had invested in the heart of the city. At left, front is Metrobank president Robert Heinrich, who also sits on the city's Downtown Development Authority. "I'm pleased to contribute to the renaissance of downtown Farmington," he said. "We are very proud to be able to

dedicate this building finally. It's been a long haul." The bank encountered delays in working with some underground tanks in the parking area. Located on Grand River, the new facility offers updated equipment and a building meant to blend with other renovated buildings in the city. Others in the photo include city, bank and other business officials on hand for the dedication.

## Restaurant co-owner faces sex assault trial

A 29-year-old co-owner of a Farmington Hills restaurant will stand trial on felony charges in connection with the sexual assault of one of his 18-year-old female employees.

Frank Samuel Blair IV, co-owner of the Gourmet To Go restaurant, 35558 Grand River, faces first- and second-degree criminal sexual conduct charges. He was ordered to stand trial by District Judge Michael Batchik in 52nd District Court in Walled Lake Wednesday following a preliminary examination that was closed to the public.

Blair, a Farmington Hills resident, remains free on \$25,000 personal bond. He was arraigned Aug. 9 on both felony counts, to which he stood mute. A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf. If convicted, he faces a penalty of up to life in prison. Blair's attorney, James Howarth, would not return the Observer's telephone calls.

ACCORDING TO a lengthy and descriptive Novi police report, the incident began July 26 when an employer asked one of his employees, a minor, to go out later and share some champagne. After drinking champagne at her house they were on their way to another agreed-upon destination but instead the girl was taken to a field in Novi where she was sexually assaulted.

The two were discovered by a Novi officer on patrol in city.

According to the report, the employer told police that he had met the girl, whom he told police he believed was older, at a '50s festival in Novi. The girl later told police she went out with him "because they are good friends at work."

The employer reportedly ignored the girl's efforts to stop his sexual

advances. She told police she told the man his advances were inappropriate and that he was her boss, the report said.

The employer said he would fire her that night and re-hire her the next day and continued his sexual advances, which the girl said she continued to resist until the Novi patrolman drove up, according to the police report.

## New law allows Orchard Lake Road widening

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

New state legislation will allow Oakland County officials to widen Orchard Lake Road where it meets Grand River.

That had been a problem in recent months because of problems with leaking underground gas tanks there, and the question of who held the liability for clean-up.

The change, effective July 1, will allow the county to purchase the property, but leave the liability for cleaning up the underground tanks with the property owner and its lease, said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

Jax Car Wash has been at that southwest corner since 1985, on a site owned by nearby H.R. Krueger Machine Tool. Krueger has owned it since 1978. Both companies said they hope to stay at their respective sites, despite a probable loss of some land.

"We're just waiting to see what the county wants to do," said Don Flowers, Krueger vice president for finance. "They're just not talking to us."

JAX OFFICIALS are handling the clean-up. President Bruce Milen said money from a state clean-up fund would pay for most of the work, less a \$10,000 deductible. He also believes the oil company involved, Amoco Oil, should pay a part of it. "Just about every gas station in

the country is faced with this thing," he added. Milen said he expected the change will make his business site smaller, which will likely mean a decline in business there.

The Grand River/Orchard Lake intersection project will be a continuation of an overall widening of Orchard Lake Road all the way north to the I-696 freeway through the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Deadman said it is expected bids will be taken next March for the intersection area, and construction work done in the spring and summer of 1992.

Federal and state environmental guidelines in recent years have required property owners with older underground tanks to remove all traces of gasoline and oil before selling the property. Some of the clean-up projects at old gas station sites and former sites of oil heating tanks have cost tens of thousands of dollars. Much of that has been paid by the state clean-up fund and, eventually, by some major oil conglomerates.

Deadman said he was pleased the expanded road system, in the works for some 20 years, will finally become a reality.

"You hate to leave half-finished road systems," he said. "If (the road expansion) should help both the residents and commerce" including expanded yards instead of ditches and improved safety for consumer visiting businesses there.

### EXECUTIVE OFFICES OUR SPECIALTY



Contract  
Furniture  
Specialist

- Custom Wood and Metal Furniture
- Filing Systems
- Conference Tables and Seating

**Office Image, Ltd.**  
33526 Grand River Ave., Suite 325  
Farmington Hills  
477-6113  
Michael Heivley

Design  
Services

## JEWELRY APPRAISAL CLINIC

Tuesday and Wednesday  
September 24 and 25  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Fine Jewelry Salon  
Birmingham

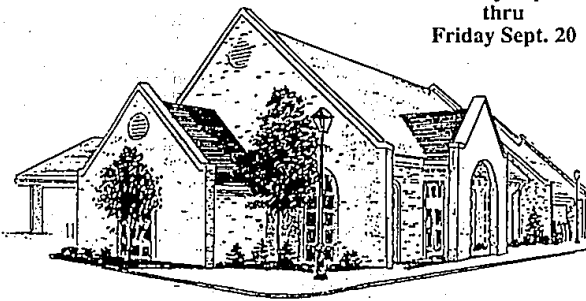
Bring in your fine jewelry for an expert appraisal. Fees will vary according to services performed. For your appointment, call 644-6900, ext. 563.

**Jacobson's**  
NOW OPEN SUNDAYS

We welcome Jacobson's Charge and American Express.  
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.  
Shop Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.

## Grand Re-Opening Celebration Metrobank

Monday Sept 16  
thru  
Friday Sept. 20



Early Bird Special  
September 16-20



The first twenty-five (25) daily visitors to the Downtown Farmington Office will receive an umbrella during the Grand Re-Opening week.

### ALL NEW DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON OFFICE 33205 Grand River Ave.

Metrobank is proud to announce the Grand Re-Opening of our Downtown Farmington Office, 33205 Grand River Avenue. This new office, constructed on the same site as the old facility, has been designed using the latest in banking technology to provide you with an office that is both modern and convenient. Although Metrobank now has a "new look" our goals have remained the same...quality service delivered in a personal and courteous manner. Stop in during our Grand Re-Opening Celebration to take part in the festivities and experience the Metrobank difference.

### A GREAT BANK WITH GREAT RATES

Current Interest Rate ~ Effective Annual Yield

1 Year Certificate	5.80%	5.93%
3 Year Certificate	6.75%	6.92%
5 Year Certificate	7.25%	7.46%

Current rates and yields apply to certificates with a minimum deposit of \$2,500. Interest compounds quarterly. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal.



### STADIUM BLANKETS

Take home a stadium blanket when you open a new account with an initial deposit of \$1,000 or more.

Blanket Offer Available  
At All 3 Offices

Main Office  
37000 Grand River Avenue  
Farmington Office  
33205 Grand River Avenue  
Farmington Hills Office  
27500 Farmington Road

Lobby Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 am - 4:30  
Friday 9:00 - 6:00

Drive-Up Hours  
Monday - Wednesday  
9:00 - 6:00  
Thursday and Friday  
9:00 - 7:00  
Saturday 9:00 - 12:00

**Metrobank**  
474-6400

Member FDIC

Limit one prize per family from each category