

# Observer staff garners awards

Three Farmington Observer staff members have won awards from the Suburban Newspapers of America, a national trade association for community newspapers.

Staff writer Casey Hans and staff photographer Sharon LeMieux won first place in the feature category for their 1991 series "The Cultural Tree — Growing New Roots in Farmington and Farmington Hills." The series of stories and photographs was designed to focus on the growing ethnic diversity of the Farmington area. Staff writer Joanne Maliszewski won a third place in the environmental reporting

category for her ongoing coverage of the proposed uses — and controversy over — the Peltz/MDOT property in the city of Farmington Hills.

"Suburban Newspapers of America is the leading trade association for community newspapers like ours," said Philip Power, who called the awards "a great accomplishment and an important index of overall quality of our newspapers."

Maliszewski covers issues impacting the city of Farmington Hills, and Hans covers local schools and issues in the city of Farmington.



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**WAGNER E. SAARI:**  
Mr. Saari, 83, of Mohawk, Mich., died Oct. 1 in Sinai Hospital, Detroit.

Born in Fulton, Mich., Mr. Saari was a postal carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.  
Survivors include his sons, Donald of Walled Lake and

Wayne of Livonia; daughters, Dorothy Robbins of Farmington Hills and Sandra O'Keefe of Garden City; four sisters and one brother; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Services were Oct. 2 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Richard E. Pennella officiating. Burial

was in Lakeview Cemetery, Calumet.

### FERN C. MITCHELL

Mrs. Mitchell, 81, of Farmington Hills died Oct. 3 in Windemere Nursing Home.  
Born in Detroit, Mrs. Mitchell

was a machinist in the tool and die industry.

Survivors include her sister, Betty Jane Kinnaman; two nieces.

Funeral services were private. Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

## Sports park from page 1A

two half-court basketball courts, four sand volleyball courts and four horseshoe courts will be offered. None of the fields will be lighted.

That's not to mention picnic areas, play equipment, tennis court, a pond that will be developed for irrigation, as well as recreation, such as ice skating in the winter.

Bridges also will be built over streams on the park. An open play area where families can fly kites, for example, will be built, as well as trails around the perimeter of the park.

"The idea is that you can bring your whole family from your youngest to your senior citizen. There is an activity here for everyone," Jackson said.

A contest will again be held to determine a name for the new park, which was bought Sept. 11 from Glen Eden Lutheran for

\$3.89 million.

The city used a \$2 million Michigan National Resources Land Trust Fund grant to buy the land. Grant money will be given to the city over the next two years, and money will be borrowed to pay the tab. Repayment will come from the park tax.

In addition to receiving the master plan for the park Monday, the city council approved a \$543,000 contract for construction of the first phase of development.

The Farmington Hills Planning Commission will consider approval of the sod farm master plan at a 6:30 p.m. meeting Thursday, Oct. 15, in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

Money for the first phase comes from the city's half-mill eight-year parks tax. But the lowest bid is still \$100,000 over what was budgeted. That will come from money left in last year's special

tax fund, which is available because not all that was budgeted for senior citizen activities was spent.

"It won't affect this year's budget regarding millage activities," said City Manager William Costick.

The first phase will include three full-sized soccer fields, three Little League ball diamonds, an entranceway and road, parking lot for 240 cars, four sand volleyball courts, two half-court basketball courts, one bocce ball court, two shuffle board courts, and decorative fencing along Eight Mile.

Asphalt acceleration and deceleration lanes and entranceway, flag pole and islands similar to those at Heritage Park also will be built in the first phase.

Costick questioned the wisdom of building the bocce ball and shuffleboard courts because of the

lack of equipment for the games. "I really question whether people will bring shuffleboard equipment to the park."

Councilwoman Nancy Bates suggested that park patrons could place a deposit and pick up equipment at city hall.

Cost estimates for a public bathroom at the park were not included in the park plan because they were unavailable. But councilman Terry Sever insisted that even in phase one, a bathroom should be included. "I am absolutely opposed to that," he said, referring to portable toilets.

Costick said a bathroom could be financed with general fund money, which could be repaid from the park tax later.

"I would not be happy to take the money out of the general fund," councilman Ben Marks said.

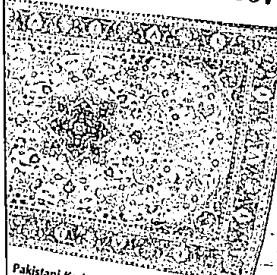
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