

Couple

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"I had always wanted to live here," said the General Motors engineer, who moved from Chicago two years ago. "What you are doing is a good beginning."

Detective Sgt. Doug Anderson of the Farmington Hills police said that although the crime included the racial reference, police believe that wannabe juvenile gang members were responsible.

"These kids are out of control," Anderson said of the culprits. "Their parents don't know where they go or what they are doing."

Jackson said he still believed the crime was racially motivated, but agreed that juvenile delinquency could become a serious problem if unchecked.

"You've got to nip it in the bud," he said, referring to gang problems in his hometown of Chicago. "Otherwise, the problem spreads quickly."

The Rev. Imam Muhammad Karoub praised the council and added his concern that parents were not taking responsibility for their children.

"I hesitate to address this issue because I know that economic factors have forced mothers to leave the home," he said. "But what about these parents? Where are they? We have to get back to basics and have these parents take care of their children."

Gere said the council has covered many topics in its brief history, beginning in 1993, and that it has tried to create an awareness of cultural and racial issues rather than simply react to events.

In that regard, Mary Brown, of the Farmington schools, outlined many of the programs the schools have used to create a daily awareness among the students of their ethnic and cultural

diversity and to show them how that diversity makes the community and country stronger.

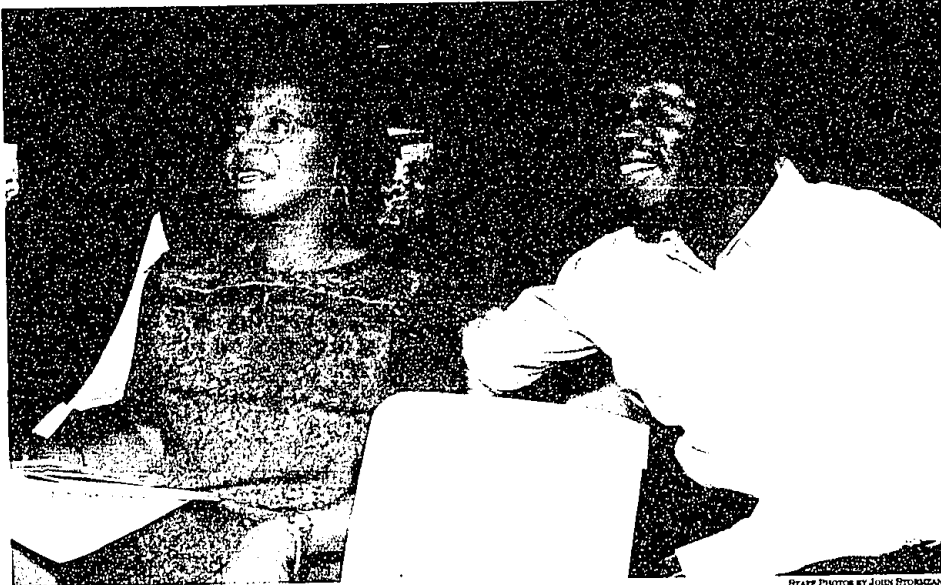
"We're getting multiculturalism right in their daily lessons," she said.

Jim Waslawski and Sharon Davis of the Institute for Healing Racism also emphasized the educational aspects of fighting ignorance. The institute has 200 chapters in the United States and chapters in Canada and Great Britain.

"We inherited racism," Davis said. "We didn't create it, but we are responsible for beginning to dismantle it."

■ 'We're here tonight to offer support and to develop an action plan.'

council chairwoman Ann-Therese O'Sullivan



They say thanks: The Jacksons, Luenetta and Bruce, thank the community for the concern shown over the trashing of the Jackson home on Lancaster.

STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN STROMBERG



Let's hear it: Farmington-area residents (from left) Helen Ventura, the Rev. Fred Klettner, Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff, Ann-Therese O'Sullivan and Farmington Hills Councilman sign "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

High sewer flow prompts sump pump inspections

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

As the Sewer Flows: The Sequel.

Farmington officials will be sending letters to homeowners in Chatham Hills subdivision, notifying them of upcoming sump pump inspections.

Flow in the Farmington-Evergreen sewer is several times higher than the Department of Natural Resources permits, city officials said.

The city already spent \$13 million on a sewer separation project and pumping station, which is designed to prevent combined sewer overflow from getting into the Rouge River.

However the Farmington-

Evergreen sewer — which is west of Drake Road — is not part of the rebuilt system.

Sump pumps or drain tiles in Chatham Hills are thought to be the culprit, city officials said.

"Because there has been no construction, we're having a hard time wondering why that (excess flow) could be," City Manager Frank Lauhoff said. "We're putting meters in there to determine where it's coming from."

Many sump pumps were installed in the sanitary systems despite a federal law prohibiting the practice. Some might not be aware of it, though, Chatham Hills was built in the late 1960s.

"I think a lot of people have come and gone," Lauhoff said,

"and they don't know how these things are hooked up."

Public Services Department officials will conduct inspections this summer. If it is sump pumps, the remedy is simple: Move the pumps discharge away from drain tiles and sanitary sewers. The city will work with the DNR to correct it, Lauhoff said.

The DNR could fine the city as much as \$25,000 a day or require that the water be held in retention tanks if the problem is not corrected. The subdivision needs to take care of it, Lauhoff said.

"It's fixable," Lauhoff said. "We know how to fix it. We just need the cooperation of the residents."

That's some volunteer

Judy Bryce, a Farmington Hills resident, was named Volunteer of the Year by the Oakland Literacy Council, which held its annual recognition event recently at the Bloomfield Township Library.

The non-profit Oakland Literacy Council provides free tutoring in basic reading and writing to adults who read below a sixth-grade level and to non-English-speaking students who wish to improve their language skills.

Bryce is a member of Oakland Literacy Friends, established in 1987 to financially support the Oakland Literacy Council. During that time Bryce has made outstanding contributions to the council and the Friends, said Monica Smith of the Literacy Council.

"She has devoted countless hours to fund-raising events that have raised tens of thousands of dollars," Smith said. "She has extraordinary organizational skills and the patience of a saint."

"She has chaired the Friends benefit dinner the past five years, overseeing everything from the selection of an honorary committee, to addressing thousands of invitations, to making sure there are flowers on the tables."

Additional information on the Oakland Literacy Council may be obtained by calling 1-800-338-8840.

Man those shovels

A groundbreaking to launch a \$1.6 million expansion and renovation program at the Farmington Area YMCA will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, at the site, 28100 Farmington Road north of 12 Mile Road. Jeanne Smith and Arnold Campbell, mayors

FARMINGTON FOCUS

of Farmington Hills and Farmington, respectively, and Gary Jonna, chairman of the YMCA board, will be on hand to break ground.

Improvements include a specialized pool for the handicapped, a teen center, and a play area for youngsters.

"This special event will mark the beginning of a new year for the YMCA and the entire community," said Mandi Skeegan, director of community relations for the Farmington Y.

Memory Lane

From the June 9, 1955, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ Youth baseball got off to an impressive start with a flag-raising ceremony at the Little League diamond at City Park. The season started officially when Farmington Mayor Robert Lindbert tossed out the first ball to City Manager James Tennant.

■ A 1955 Oldsmobile "88" two-door sedan was advertised by the Earl Vivier agency for \$2,318.87.

■ Farmington High football players were to meet their new coach, Jack Hayes, in a special meeting. Hayes took over for Earl Bye, who resigned.

■ Short item: "A neighbor is someone who will exchange a cupful of sugar for an earful of gossip."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address is: pucky@online.com.

NM
Presents

GIORGIO ARMANI

Join us Tuesday, June 13,

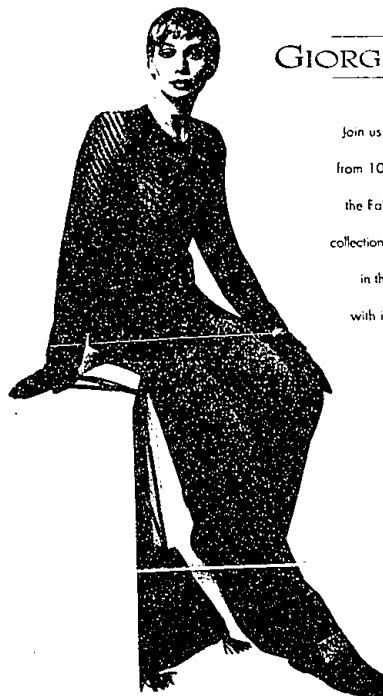
from 10 to 4 as we present

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