

'Burb in tune with racial harmony

By BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Like Farmington and Farmington Hills, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, has grown up in the precarious position of being a suburb of a large Midwestern, rust-belt city. Members of the Farmington/Multicultural Community Council have examined a pattern of "white flight" that has left Detroit and many of its inner suburbs struggling with the problems created by urban sprawl. It's a pattern they would not like their communities to repeat.

Cleveland Heights, Ohio, a city of about 65,000, has remained an attractive city for its residents despite radical changes in the racial makeup of neighboring suburbs of Cleveland.

"We found there was quality housing in high demand that allowed for ethnic diversity," said Mylene Carr, a panelist at the council's Oct. 10 presentation. "They have a strong commitment to open housing."

Cleveland Heights' reputation is not regional. NBC News did a profile on that Cleveland suburb and how it has achieved what many consider a model of racial and ethnic diversity.

Cleveland Heights is about 65 percent white and 35 percent black. That is in sharp contrast to neighboring East Cleveland, which is heavily black.

In fact, Cleveland Heights officials and residents saw East Cleveland go from 97 percent white and 3 percent black to the

opposite racial makeup in just three years.

But the city made racial tolerance and diversity a priority in 1976 with a nine-point resolution that still remains in effect. Among its main features are a commitment to open housing and code enforcement away from "red lining," a commitment by schools, churches and citizens to work together, and a volunteer force of 300 people who publish a newsletter, match teens and seniors in programs, and a review of banking practices regarding mortgages and loans in terms of race.

Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick said there are significant differences between Farmington and Farmington Hills and Cleveland Heights. The two Michigan cities have a population of about 30,000 compared to about 55,000 in Cleveland Heights. The Ohio suburb has a little more than 8 square miles of land area compared to 36 for two Detroit suburbs.

Costick was still impressed with the Heights.

"One thing that impressed me is how clean it was," he said. "Everyone's working to maintain property values."

Costick said the city has part-time employees that work in the neighborhoods to meet with residents over any dispute and resolve problems quickly. In addition, the city has an ombudsman who can mediate problems.

Cleveland Heights is quick to curtail graffiti and the public

Tranchida from page 10A

died," Modelaki said. "If anything, we have an accidental death here."

But in the confession related by Goretaki, Tranchida hinted that it may not have been accidental and said he deserved severe punishment for what he did.

"He said he was upset over what he had done. He said he killed Tina Biggar and that he deserved to die," Goretaki testified. "He said that he wished Michigan had the electric chair and that he wished he could be put in it because he deserved it for what he did to Tina."

In all, assistant prosecutor Donna Pendergast called 21 witnesses — including Biggar's father, boyfriend of four years and friends from two local escort services for which she had worked.

William Biggar, a U.S. Coast Guard commander stationed in

Traverse City, and boyfriend Todd Nurenberger talked about the private investigation they launched to find Biggar.

After researching cellular phone and beeper bills and paperwork to buy a car at Anderson Jeep Eagle in Southfield, they began to focus their efforts on Tranchida because they believed he knew what happened to her, they said.

They found out that Tranchida frequently walked the grounds of

Duns Scotus and confronted him there with the assistance of several women from the L.A. Dreamt and Calendar Girls escort services, for which Biggar worked.

Tranchida is expected to be arraigned in Oakland County Circuit Court on a first-degree murder charge within the next two weeks.

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Grandparents group to meet on Oct. 20


Richard Victor, founder and executive director of Grandparents Rights Organization (GRO), will speak to the Farmington Hills Grandparents as Parents Group 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 20, in the Farmington Hills Senior Center.

The program is free and open to the public.

The Grandparents as Parents Group provides support to grandparents who are, once again, faced with parenting responsibilities for another generation.

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Kenneth Adams, Ph.D.



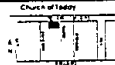
"Rediscovering Your Potential For Love"

Saturday Seminar, October 21, 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Kenneth Adams is the author of *Silently Seduced* and an expert on healing the wounds of childhood abuse and addictions. In this seminar, he will help participants explore childhood wounds to identify limiting beliefs and patterns, and embrace a new potential for love.

Tickets are \$20. For more information or to register, call the Church of Today, (810) 758-3050.

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