

## Kudos

### Order in the court: Grewell gets honors

**J**ohn N. Grewell, administrator of the 47th District Court in Farmington, was honored Jan. 23 for his service as president of the Southeast Michigan Court Administrators Association.

Grewell, 53, said the association covers eight counties from Genesee to the north to Monroe to the south, and includes 60 percent of the state's courts.

"Because we are compact, we are one of the best organized areas," said the Ohio State University graduate.

Grewell, who worked for the state court administrators' office before coming to the 47th District Court four years ago,

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He and his wife Judith have two grown daughters: Amy, who administers the 52nd District Court in Royal Oak, and Patricia, an engineer with General Motors in Ohio.



Recognizable: John Grewell, administrator of the 47th District Court, is honored by other court administrators.

SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Jeweler

from page 1A

Recent financial difficulties initially led some to wonder if the break-in was an inside job.

Police want to interview a former employee to see if there is any connection with the suspect, but do not believe DuQuet or any one else at the store were involved.

DuQuet took a polygraph test as a standard procedure and passed with "flying colors," Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss said.

"I felt real bad because I felt I've been around here too long," said DuQuet, who has been involved in the family business more than 20 years. "I've done too much to help different groups in town. I've always tried to keep my name up."

"I've had financial troubles but I still battle it out everyday where most people would've walked away a long time ago and said 'I quit.' I'm not that kind of person."

"When it comes out that there is the slightest thought I was involved bothers me."

DuQuet said he is working on payment plans with creditors and is restructuring the family business.

An attorney for J&R Stylings in New York confirms DuQuet is making payments. The company was granted an execution against property for \$35,827 against DuQuet Jewellers Oct. 19, according to Oakland County Circuit Court records.

"Everybody's getting taken care of and everybody is being paid," DuQuet said. "Actually, a lot of people are very understanding about the situation."

Gene's Coin Shop was also robbed of \$167,000 worth of gold coins and watches during the burglary sometime between the night of Dec. 25-26.

Thieves entered through the roof, boring holes into four-inch concrete. They cleaned out display cases and broke into the store's safe.

They also pried open the safe at Gene's Coin Shop, taking only gold coins and watches while leaving other items behind. The alarms didn't work, owner Eugene Mehall said.

"I supposedly had good security," Mehall said. "We're talking about three different companies (DuQuet Jewellers had two alarm systems) in the (burglary) here and nothing worked."



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Troubled business: Burglaries are nothing new at DuQuet Jewellers in Farmington.

**■ 'I've had financial troubles but I still battle it out everyday where most people would've walked away a long time ago and said 'I quit.'**

Charles DuQuet  
jeweler

DuQuet said he's considering legal action against both alarm companies that served his store.

Phone lines were cut, which should've sent an alert to the alarm company and the police if DuQuet had line protection, police said. They didn't, police added.

"He thinks he did but he didn't," Cmdr. Lee said.

Burglaries are not new at DuQuet Jewellers. In May 1976, \$200,000 worth of jewelry was stolen in an armed robbery. Thieves made off with \$5,000 in valuables after driving a stolen car through the storefront in 1986.

A downturn in the economy during the early 1990s has caused the biggest financial hardship, though, DuQuet said. Several jewelry stores have gone out of business during that time, he added.

The latest burglary has made him more determined to succeed.

"Just recently when things were starting to show some improvement and were looking up, you get some rise in hope," he said. "And you get punched again."

"I have intentions of being here and going on. I've got a game plan in the works on how to reorganize and stay here."

## District chalks up 5 new hires

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

More students means a need for more teachers in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District.

But those who eventually will be hired to fill five new teacher positions approved Thursday night by the Walled Lake school board won't teach very much.

Instead, they will tackle mundane, day-to-day chores such as attendance and discipline — thus freeing up assistant principals to leave those tasks behind and get more involved with meat and potatoes educational issues.

"Basically, we're just getting so big," said school board treasurer David Flammer. "Most high schools (Central and Western's) size have three assistant principals and we have two, and there's just so much that has to be done. To make sure kids are there, disciplined, (to deal with) tardiness."

"And when assistant principals spend so much time doing that, then less time can be spent on matters such as curriculum development and implementation. . . and on some of the new things were trying at the two high schools, like restructuring of the day."

According to Lois Lange, director of personnel and community relations, those who fill the jobs

will have different titles, depending on whether they will work in elementary or secondary schools.

At Walled Lake Central and Western high schools and Clifford Smart Middle School, the position will be known as attendance/discipline teachers. Lange said "head teachers" will be hired for Dublin and Keith elementary schools, the elementary schools with the largest enrollment. One full-timer will be hired for all five schools.

"You don't want children to take a number," said Dublin Elementary principal Audrey Long, who applauded the board decision.

Long said the need for extra help is there at the White Lake Township school — which has grown in enrollment from 520 to more than 650 since 1991-92, her first year as principal after a 16-year teaching career in the district.

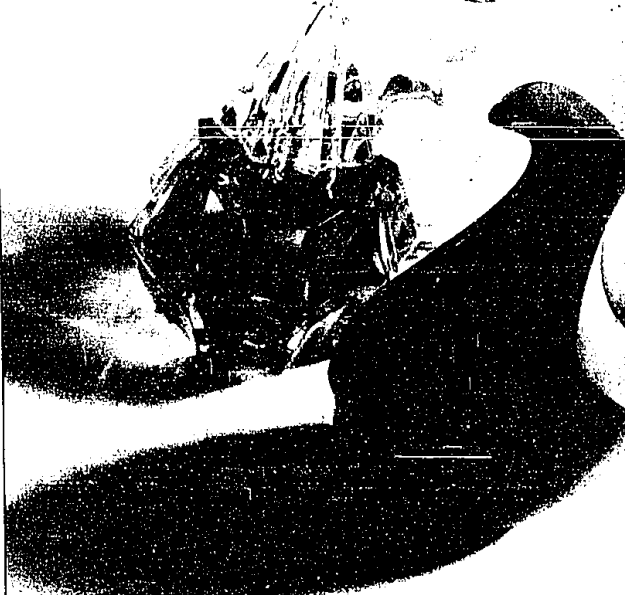
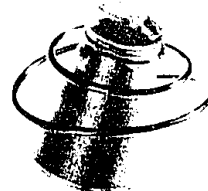
"When you start getting that many children, you have that many more needs to meet," Long said.

According to Flammer, an attendance/discipline teacher won't be hired for Walled Lake Middle School, because it already has two assistant principals (Clifford Smart only has one).

WALLED LAKE

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## Focus

from page 1A

### Service agencies unite

**T**he Farmington Area Counseling Centers (FAACC), a non-profit human services agency serving the area for more than 25 years, has recently merged with Oakland Family Services (OFS), a 76-year-old service agency.

"Together, these agencies represent over 100 years of quality care in the field of human services," said Michael Earl, OFS vice president.

FAACC had been involved mostly in substance abuse prevention and outpatient treatment. It is hoped that the merger will strengthen existing mental health programs and introduce new services to the Farmington community, said Earl.

Earl noted that the Farmington Public Schools has more than 60 languages spoken in the district. "We are prepared to handle these kinds of rich multi-cultural demographics, and will continue to structure programs that meet a wide variety of mental health needs for families and children," he said.

"The merger comes on the heels of a special tribute to the FAACC by the State of Michigan and Gov. Engler's office, acknowledging 25 years of quality and dedicated service," said Betty Arnold, FAACC's executive director.

FAACC was known as Farmington Area Advisory Council until about six months ago.

"We wanted a name that indicated more of what we did," said Tim Templeton, a counselor for FAACC. "Before, we had people calling to ask things like how to get geese out of their yards."

For more information, call FAACC at 477-6767.

### Memory Lane

**M**emory Lane has moved! Farmington-area news from the past now may be found on the Observer's Thursday Editorial Page.

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.