



BEIL BRESTER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Retiring Judge Frederick Harris administers the oath to James B. Brady.

All rise: New judge takes gavel

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

His eyes filling with tears, new District Court Judge James Brady thanked his late grandparents for helping him attend the University of Michigan.

"Without them I probably wouldn't be here today," he told the audience at his investiture ceremony at the Farmington Hills Costick Center Thursday afternoon.

"I'm sure they're looking down here today and are proud of my accomplishments," he said.

From U of M student to an assistant prosecutor to magistrate, then finally elected to the 47th District Court bench, Brady said it was a special day for him and his family to celebrate.

He thanked his wife Diane for putting so much effort into

a campaign last year that started with seven candidates vying for the post. He also noted the support of his two daughters and son.

Other members of Brady's family were also at the ceremony.

Local district court judges and magistrates sat by the podium, dressed in their court robes, including retired 47th District Court Judge Frederick Harris and the court's other judge, Marla Parker.

John Slevin, district court division chief for the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, told the audience that he and Brady cut their teeth in the law field together at the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

"Jim's always been involved in the area," he said, noting Brady's participation with his children's sports teams, neighborhood association and poli-

"Jim is as solid a person as you will ever find," he said.

"He has the respect of his peers and that is what he'll bring to the bench," he said.

Retired Judge Margaret Schaefer seated Brady at the ceremony.

She said she remembered Brady as a young assistant prosecutor when she ruled on the 47th District Court bench.

"He is among the two or three that I remember for his competence and ability to do a good job," she said.

Farmington Mayor James Mitchell and Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates also touted Brady's ability to bring fairness and justice to the local court system.

At the end of the ceremony, Brady said with a smile, "It's been a wonderful day. Let's get on with it."

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Program features Gaines novel

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Looking for a good book to read?

Why not join your neighbors for the second annual "Everyone's Reading..." program launched by the Metro North Library Consortium, of which the Farmington Community Library is a member.

Last year, hundreds of metro area residents participated in the program, reading the novel *Pay It Forward*.

The goal for 2003 is to get even more readers and libraries involved in reading and discussing this year's thought-provoking book: *A Lesson Before Dying*, by Ernest J. Gaines.

The 256-page novel is a relatively easy and quick read, said library officials.

The story set in 1940s Louisiana is about two black men - a death-row inmate wrongfully convicted of murder, and a teacher at a plantation school - who struggle to live and die with dignity.

Gaines also wrote *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Gathering of Old Men*.

He was awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction for *A Lesson Before Dying*, written in 1993.

The book is currently available at most area bookstores.

Bev Pappi, director of the Farmington Community Library, said the library purchased 40 used paperback copies of the book for patrons to borrow free of charge.

Besides set discussion dates about the book, Pappi said the author himself is scheduled to speak at the Farmington Hills library on 12 Mile at 3:30 p.m. April 2. He will also speak at the Birmingham Community House at 7:30 p.m. the same day.

Other discussions set for the book are at 1 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Costick Activities Center and at the downtown Farmington branch at 10 a.m. March 27.

"We're really pleased to bring in an author of that quality," said Pappi.

"This book has a wonderful message to send about human dignity."

The director said she is encouraging other area book groups to get involved in the program.

Besides encouraging people to read the book, each library participating will also have label buttons for readers to wear to help promote participation.

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Hills PD seeks young artists for contest

The Farmington Hills Police Department will hold its annual poster contest for school-age artists in Farmington Hills-area public, private and parochial schools, as well as from area home-school students.

The posters will promote the Farmington Hills Police Department's 16th annual Open House to be held noon-4 p.m. Sunday, May 4.

All entries should be submitted on 18 by 24-inch white poster board with a design incorporating the theme of "Children and Police."

Colors are not limited.

The deadline for submitting entries is 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 24. All entries are to be submitted to the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Section - 31655 W. 11 Mile Road.

Name, school, grade level, home address and phone number of the artist must be on the back of each entry.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Awards will be presented at the Open House. Prize money compliments of the Farmington Area Arts Commission/Farmington Hills Police Department.

For further information, contact Juliette McGlinch, in the Crime Prevention Section of the Farmington Hills Police Department, at (248) 473-9637, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Hills shaves \$300K from current budget

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills officials have approved a plan to cut expenses by \$300,000 to make up for last year's unwelcome holiday gift from the state.

It was announced in December that state-shared revenues would be cut back to quell a growing deficit.

While Hills administrators had already anticipated a \$50,000 reduction, officials had to come up with the unexpected \$300,000 when all was

said and done.

City officials said there will be no layoffs, and the community should not feel any of the effects from the cutbacks this fiscal year's budget.

The city council asked administrators to recommend ways to reduce costs, which were recently approved.

They included \$53,184 from the library budget and \$40,000 from the district court budget, of which the city of Farmington pays a portion of the expense.

The other approved reductions derive from:

- Special Services, \$21,021.
 - Public Services, \$32,131.
 - Police Department, \$64,995.
 - Fire Department, \$76,158.
 - Miscellaneous vehicles allowance, \$12,603.
- Hills City Manager Steve Brock said, "While the existing cuts should not trigger a reduction in services, the state's ongoing fiscal crisis may necessitate deeper cuts over the next few years that could affect service levels."

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