

## DINAN

FROM PAGE A1

He was a budgetary wizard. He could do more with a little bit than just about anyone I knew of," added Deadman, director of public safety under Dinan.

Dinan, 77, died June 12 at Harper Hospital in Detroit after a battle with cancer. A resident of Boca Raton, Fla., he was born Nov. 19, 1925, in Detroit. He graduated from the University of Detroit High School in 1944 and served in the Navy in World War II. Dinan attended the Lawrence Institute of Technology on the GI bill and earned his degree in civil engineering in 1950.

He married Jean DeCoster in 1950. The Dinans had five children and lived in Farmington from 1951 until 1979.

Former state Rep. W.V. Sandy Brotherton served on the Farmington council that hired Dinan, who'd been assistant city manager for Oak Park. "John Dinan was a giant in both stature and intellect," Brotherton said. "He was well-respected in his field and brought to the city of Farmington the knowledge and leadership qualities the city and its council needed during a period of rapid growth."

Dinan was the first person Dr. John Richardson met when he came to Farmington looking to open a veterinary practice. "John was brand new in town, as I was in the fall of 1960," said Richardson, a former Farmington mayor. "I talked with him and he was very helpful and encouraging. I opened a practice in 1961."

"John was a very thorough guy," added Richardson. "He was a proponent of the public safety department with combined police and fire, and administered it very well."

When he left the city in 1972 to go into business for himself, Dinan left big shoes for Deadman to fill.

"We had a very conservative Republican community that didn't spend money easily. When money was spent, people really wanted their money's worth. John got it for them as far as I could see," said Deadman, now living in Brooklyn, Mich. "Takes in Farmington were always quite a bit lower than other cities in the county. I came into that and had to continue running it the same way."

Deadman marveled at the skill with which Dinan engineered three annexations of land in Farmington Township (into Farmington Hills). "In total, they added about 1 1/2 square miles to the city that brought new subdivisions, new commercial tax base, new factories, apartments and multi-family condos," Deadman said. "The annexations took place over a number of years, and John was able to keep good relations with elected officials in Farmington Hills during that time. He was a very businesslike manager."

Dinan brought Detroit water into Farmington. "Prior to that, it was well water — the hardest well water you would ever want to deal with," Deadman said. "If there were serious problems, John would find a way to solve them. He was a good role model and a good mentor for me."

Dinan was a hero in the eyes of many. The land development company he founded in Livonia after he left the city was a great success, and he was quick to contribute to the success of others. He and his family established and endowed a scholarship fund at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School.

"My father was the most giving and loving man I have ever met, and he will always be a

major source of inspiration to me," said his son, John Paul Dinan of Detroit.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey said, "John Dinan certainly had a great corporate presence from the standpoint that he erected some very striking and really some very stunning structures in Livonia. Instead of putting up just mundane kinds of buildings, these were built with split field rock, and they had very nice architectural style. We found him to be very involved and a very positive influence in our community."

Dinan served as president of the Farmington Exchange Club in 1966. He was a member of St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church. He belonged to the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club, Oakland Hills Country Club, the Detroit Athletic Club and Nomad travel club.

He is survived by his wife Jean; children Denise Dinan (Thomas) Panico, John Paul Dinan and Catherine (Dr. John) Dillon; sister Barbara Tangorra; five grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by children Cynthia Dinan Payton and Daniel Dinan; brother Timothy; and parents Daniel and Barbara Dinan. Visitation will be 1-8 p.m. Sunday, June 15, with a rosary at 3 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Road between Maple and Big Beaver in Troy.

A funeral Mass will be said at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 16, at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, 2215 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills. Burial will be at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Memorial tributes may be made in the form of Masses or contributions to the John and Jean Dinan Family Scholarship Fund at U-D Jesuit High School.

## MOFFITT

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Nancy Dingrider had served as a SEMCOG vice chair. However, since she lost her reelection bid in January, she could no longer be a SEMCOG member; consequently, the position has been open for nearly six months.

Barbara Urban, a Harrison Township trustee, is poised for the other vice chair opening, which also has been vacant for several months.

SEMCOG is a seven-county regional planning board that encompasses Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

According to its Web site, the agency "supports local planning through its technical, data and intergovernmental resources."

As a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), it addresses and coordinates issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries, such as regional transportation, air and water quality and specific housing and land issues. SEMCOG also focuses on the Ozone Action Program in southeast Michigan, and can allocate federal transportation project funds.

SEMCOG Communications & Creative Services Manager Sue Stetler explained the agency's Executive Committee has 65 members, and of its officers, five are vice chairs. Based



David Moffitt has backing from mayors in his bid for SEMCOG vice-chair.

on yearly elections, vice chairs may advance to first chair and eventually chair.

"Basically, it's a balancing in the region so that everyone is represented and everyone has a chance at becoming a chair," said Stetler, who noted that since SEMCOG's birth in 1968, 18 of 56 vice chairs have been from Oakland County, while seven of 26 became chairs.

"Every officer can use this position as they see fit to advocate on behalf of all of our members," Stetler added.

With increasing budget cuts, a soft economy and factors such as the upcoming renewal of the Safety, Accountability and Funding Efficiency for Transportation (SAFE-T) Bill, Oakland County's involvement in SEMCOG is critical.

"It's good to have more voice rather than less voice in a time of problems," Moffitt said. "I'm going to do my best to verify and represent the interests of the entire region as well as (the)

people of Oakland County and Farmington Hills."

The commissioner has already also taken steps to ensure that in the future, SEMCOG vice chair vacancies won't linger.

Moffitt worked to amend SEMCOG bylaws to allow interim-filling for such positions, a move that reaffirmed Oakland County's strong interest in maintaining leadership.

"There was no provision for interim filling of vacancies, and now there is a process in place," Moffitt said of the amendment, which was approved in March. He noted that due to a short time frame between its passage and the election, the process could not be implemented this time.

Provided no other Executive Committee members nominate themselves as last-minute candidates June 26, Moffitt will be elected and assume his position effective immediately.

"We're looking forward to working with David as a vice chair for his perspectives and for the continued leadership from Oakland County," Stetler said.

The election will be held at the Ford Motor Co. Conference and Events Center in Dearborn, and the public is welcome to attend.

"I'm just humbled and grateful to have the support of so many elected officials across geographic lines, party lines and types-of-government lines for this regional leadership position," Moffitt said.

## TYNDALE

FROM PAGE A1

The university reached an affiliation agreement with Tyndale officials recently after hearing that the Farmington Hills college would close unless financial help arose.

"We were able to provide a \$1 million matching grant to stabilize the school," Robertson said at Tyndale's open house ceremony Friday.

The grant, to be paid over 12 months, is contingent on Tyndale's trustees raising matching gifts of at least \$1 million.

The pact keeps the 58-year-old Tyndale from closing this year due to financial setbacks

that could no longer be ignored this past semester.

"This school is too important to let it die," Robertson said. "It was important to us to let it continue to be a positive influence in the greater Detroit area."

The Christian broadcaster noted this is the first time Regent has made an affiliation agreement with another school.

Student Emily Russell, a senior at Tyndale said Robertson "seemed like an awesome man" and that Regent stepping in to help the college was the answer to students' prayers.

Regent offers 28 graduate degree programs and will provide some administrative help as well as expertise in informa-

tion technology and course development at Tyndale.

Douglas Chapman, chairman of Christian Studies at Tyndale, said the spring semester is currently under way, and plans to offer the same curriculum in the fall are already in place. Part of the agreement, Chapman noted, was that seven members of Tyndale's 12-member board of directors will be replaced with officials from Regent, including Robertson.

Those volunteering to leave the board will serve on a new president's council as an advisory group, he said.

Chapman said Tyndale will maintain its state charter, name and curriculum under the affiliation agreement.

ppace@oe.hometown.net | (248) 477-5450

## OBITUARY

## Joseph M. Neirynck

A memorial service for Joseph M. Neirynck, 92, of Farmington Hills, was held June 14 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Msgr. Walter Hurley officiating.

Mr. Neirynck was born March 17, 1911 in Detroit and died June 12, 2003 at Providence Hospital in Southfield. He was a retired Detroit Police officer and worked security at Henry Ford Museum after his retirement. He was a member of the Detroit Police Officer's Association and

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. Mr. Neirynck enjoyed fishing, gardening, hunting and cooking.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ann; sons, Robert (Susan), James (Jo) and Roger; daughter, Joann (Charles) Dean; brother-in-law, William Rocheleau; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 18505 W. 12 Mile, Southfield, MI 48076.

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