

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 86 Number 29

Monday, January 27, 1975

Farmington, Michigan

22 Pages

Fifteen Cents



**Walking through a snowy wood**

Farmington Hills is a rather pretty place during the winter, especially if you are on foot and able to enjoy the snowy scene. Walking south on Drake Road, between Thirteen Mile and Four-

teen Mile roads, you can almost forget you are in a suburb and see the world as totally rural. It's nice while it lasts. (Photographed by Craig Newman)

## Crisis after crisis after crisis feeds council of homeowners

By JUDY OWEN

FARMINGTON HILLS — The Council of Homeowners Associations bills itself as a crisis organization. It took a crisis to form the organization and a few more to nurture its growth.

Late in 1968, residents of then Farmington Township learned that a group of developers were proposing construction of a large domed stadium at Inkster and Eleven Mile roads in Southfield.

Concerned about the effect such a development could have on the neighboring township, a group of residents responded by forming the Council of Homeowners Associations.

The group attributes its massive petitioning, letter writing and pressure to the developers' decision to scrap the idea in late 1969.

### Registered nurse is feared kidnapped

FARMINGTON HILLS—The fiancée of a Farmington Hills doctor is missing and feared kidnapped from the Colorado ski lodge where the two were vacationing.

Caryn Eileen Campbell of Dearborn, a registered nurse, was last seen Jan. 12 after having dinner in the lodge's restaurant.

Her possessions remained untouched in her room, including her purse, identification and credit cards. The last to see her were two waitresses who saw her get off the elevator on the second floor, where her room was. No one reported seeing her since.

Rooms, elevator shafts and crawl spaces were searched, and hotel employees and guests questioned. Authorities also checked with car rental clerks, ticket agents, cabdrivers, travel agents, ministers, hospital authorities and counseling centers.

Miss Campbell and her fiancé, Dr. Raymond F. Gadowki, had planned to marry this spring.

The 5-foot-5, brown-eyed, 112-pound brunet had worked at Botolph Hospital for 10 months. She quit seven months ago to go back to college, said Dr. John Wick, director of nursing at Botolph.

THERE WERE other battles

The council helped member subdivision associations solve problems involving spot zoning, revised school busing schedules and commercial encroachments on residential areas.

It boasts a 90 per cent success record in helping the groups obtain favorable decisions from the planning commission and zoning appeals board.

The council supported the merger of Farmington, the township, and the villages of Wood Creek Farms and Quakerstown — a move which was rejected by voters.

The council also credits itself with convincing the city to require a public hearing for any rezoning request.

This was an outgrowth of what the council's board terms its most crucial test. The council mounted opposition to a one-million-square-foot shopping center and commercial area proposed

for the far northwest section of the township.

INCORPORATION of the township was the next issue. The council promoted a home-rule concept which was adopted.

One council official said that the organization's aim is to work for the type of city proposed in the preamble of the city's charter.

The charter indicates an "intention to create a system of home rule government to insure that local laws and institutions shall keep pace with the progress of human endeavors."

The preamble continues, "Our community derives from a semi-rural tradition. Our residents sought and wish to maintain this tradition within a community which recognizes that the old can exist and thrive with the new, becoming a responsive city is the most difficult of all civic achievements."

"Respect for ourselves, respect for the dignity of human individuality and continued self-development underlie its attainment."

THE GROUP has 31 of the more than 40 homeowner associations in the city as members.

Dues are \$15 minimum with an additional 10-cent charge per residence. A \$10 initiation fee is assessed new members.

Officers, who are elected each May, include Richard Maicki, president; Joseph Akaseb, vice-president; Jody Saronen, secretary; and Harold Steffen, treasurer.

The association meets once every two months, although the board of directors meets more frequently.

Persons wishing more information about the organization may contact them at P.O. Box 518, Farmington, 48024.

## Police unit arrests 6 in theft ring

By JUDY OWEN

FARMINGTON HILLS — Police arrested six persons Jan. 17 and 18 in a move aimed at breaking up a 20-member burglary ring.

As a result of the arrests, police say they were able to clear up 74 burglaries — 31 in Farmington Hills alone — as well as a number of other crimes committed in area communities.

Public Safety Director Ronald Holko attributes the arrests to the newly formed SPOT (Special Patrol Operational Team) unit.

The unit utilizes the "old concept of beat patrols" by concentrating on trouble spots in the community. Holko said.

SPOT WAS FORMED Jan. 8 after the department logged 95 break-ins and 10 more attempts in December. Sixty-five were residential break-ins, and 30 were commercial.

The department logged the break-ins, many of which occurred in the daytime, on a map and found that the incidents were scattered throughout the city although there was a marked concentration in the southeast sector of the community.

SPOT officers are from both the uniformed and detective bureaus of the department.

"Good police work is basically what it amounts to," he said.

"We're not finished yet," he said. "We've cleaned up one hell of a lot of crime."

MORE THAN 100 break-ins are attributed to the ring which is believed to have been operating for six to 12 months.

Members of the group are in their teens or early 20s, he said. They are believed to have been responsible for 80 per cent of the break-ins including a number of armed robberies.

Arrested Friday were Laura Ann Waters, 18, and Cheryl Kay Ally, 19, both of 2940 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

They were charged with the 1 a.m. break-in Friday at Hansen's Market, 2914 Grand River. Property stolen included cigarettes, beer and canned food.

They were arraigned on a breaking and entering charge Monday before 47th District Court Judge Michael Hand.

SATURDAY, police arrested four youths.

Charged with the Dec. 21 burglary of the Sports Car Store, 29650 Grand River were Raymond Ferguson, 17, of New Hudson and Robert Gregory, 17, of Farmington Hills.

Two 18-year-olds, one from Southfield and one from Farmington Hills were charged with the burglary of an unoccupied house in Farmington Hills.

As a result of these arrests the department was able to clear up 31 burglaries, three attempted burglaries, an armed robbery and three larcenies from automobiles in Farmington Hills, Holko said.

ALSO CLEARED were 43 burglaries including 17 in Farmington, 11 in Southfield, four in Livonia, five in Redford, two in Novi, three in West Bloomfield Township, two in Franklin and one in Bloomfield Township.

Two armors in Southfield and an armed robbery in Howell were attributed to the youths, Holko said.

Holko describes the ring as a loose-knit group. Six or eight would gather at one of the member's homes and plan the break-ins, he said.

Poaching to the number of communities involved, Holko said, "Mobility is the name of the game. They're not restricted to this town."

TARGETS OF the ring have been stereos, televisions, cash and guns. Holko said that he expects to have a team of scuba divers from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department recovering some of the loot which is believed to have been dumped in a pond in the area.

As for the other members of the ring, arrests are expected soon. They are said to live in Farmington Hills, Farmington, Redford Township, Southfield and New Hudson.

"We want to make citizens aware that we are doing something positive, but it takes something more than routine patrol. It means reorganizing manpower," he said.

SPOT IS A 30-day project which Holko said he hopes to expand.

"We've been running into trouble getting Saturation Patrol out when we want them," he said. The patrol is a federally funded project that operates undercover surveillance utilizing officers from the Farmington Hills, Farmington and Livonia police departments.

## Honduras is no holiday

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—Three years from now, Mike DelFavero plans to tote a gun, sidestep scorpions and kill deadly coral and fer-de-lance snakes.

The prospect doesn't faze him the slightest; he's looking forward to it.

Mike, a 23-year-old Southfield resident and Oakland Community College student, will travel to Honduras to live on the family farm in the middle of a tropical jungle teeming with tarantulas, snakes and strange animals. It's there that he hopes to open an advertising agency and have a guiding hand in the rapidly developing Honduran TV and radio networks.

He has the major points planned, and expects the little details to just fall into place.

But it wasn't always that way. "I STARTED OUT as an art major, but then I became disappointed," he said.

He then spent more than three years traveling through Canada, Honduras and a few neighboring states, trying to "get my head together."

Weather, although probably the least important, was one of the factors which prompted his attraction to the tropical climate of Honduras.

"I don't like cold weather. I never get used to it," he said with a laugh. During that time, he worked as a musician with an area band.

"I'VE ALWAYS related to music, first," he said.

He has played piano for 19 years

and has written his own music for two friends, impressed with his talent, urged him to remain a musician.

And he did, until a nagging suspicion turned into a conviction that something was missing.

He was also working in a shoe store, which he credits with giving him the impetus to travel to central America.

"I waited until I got sick of work, and then I took off," he said.

HONDURAS, he said, was a learning experience. With time to himself, he was often alone on the farm, he said, to think about the direction of his life.

That's where I left my heart," he said, smiling. "I spent six months down there."

"What word would describe it? Simple, everything was simple. There wasn't a big, complex city to deal with. You were allowed to move your own way, and nobody'd even bother to give you a second look."

"It was there in Honduras that I decided I would go back to school," he said.

His return sparked an acquaintance with a teacher who urged him to combine all his talents into one career so he wouldn't have to focus on any one to the exclusion of the others.

Advertising, particularly television and radio advertising, was offered as the solution, and now Mike is enthusiastic about it.

masters in communications from the same institution.

At 23, he's older than most students beginning their college careers, but he doesn't regret the time taken off to travel and think.

"Every day is like a different bottle of wine," he said. You have to sip it, then swallow it and learn to make comparisons.

"The most important thing is to know yourself. Learn to live with your faults or learn to correct them. If you can't feel good about yourself, what can you feel good about?"

He had been held back, he said, by a combination of "have to" and fear.

"FEAR—that's what is holding back a lot of potential. People are afraid to go out and do things," he said.

"But when things get bad (which is what people are really afraid of), there's nobody you can lean on but yourself."

"For a long time, people were telling me what I have to do, and I listened to them. Now the 'have to' come from within, rather than without."

Don't get caught in the grind, and don't pressure yourself, he said.

"If you try too hard, you blow a lot of things."

The trick, he said, is to not be afraid, because no matter what situation it is, you should "come out of it knowing a bit more about yourself, and perhaps being a little stronger."

Mike is also manager of OOC's coffee house, the Rascalier, open 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. every Friday night in the basement of J-building.



MIKE DELFAVERO

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