

# Farmington Observer & Centric



MARTHA GRIFFITHS

## Supreme court possibility looms for Martha Griffiths

By NANCY KASSEN LIESE

The name of Farmington Hills' lawyer Martha Griffiths popped up in Washington circles last week as a possible replacement for former U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas who resigned.

A former U.S. Congresswoman, Mrs. Griffiths represented Michigan's 17th District, which includes Southfield, Farmington, Redford and Detroit, for 20 years.

Last year she opened a law firm in Farmington Hills with her husband, after deciding not to run for reelection to Congress.

Mrs. Griffiths was out of town last week and unavailable for comment on the possibility of returning to public office. However, in an interview earlier this year, when she first returned to private practice, Mrs. Griffiths indicated she was pleased to be out of the Washington scene.

SHE SPOKE WITH enthusiasm about the couple's home in Romeo and the magnificent view from her office on Hamilton Court, just west of 12 Mile and Orchard Lake.

"I love that view and it won't change because of the college campus being there. We didn't have windows and views like this in Washington."

She also talked about spending a quiet summer with her husband, doing things they have postponed for years. But she didn't talk about retiring entirely from the public view.

Since returning to Farmington, she has remained active by joining the boards of directors of several large corporations. She has also accepted speaking engagements whenever possible, particularly if the speech concerns one of three topics—welfare rights of women or a national health plan.

When asked about her welfare reform plan, Mrs. Griffiths said, "If we had to choose one thing to do to reform welfare, it would be a health bill."

Mrs. Griffiths introduced a bill for a

national health plan in Congress three years ago, a bill she admitted was slow in gaining support.

In her proposed plan the services would be paid for with money deducted from employers, contributed by employers and matched with government funding.

HER WELFARE REFORM ideas also included a permanent rebate tax credit which would give tax credits to those people who pay no taxes because they show no income.

"For instance, there would be \$3,000 credit to a family of four who show no income.

This would eliminate food stamps and Aid to Dependent Children (ADC), she said, without discouraging welfare recipients from working.

While in Congress Mrs. Griffiths sponsored the Equal Rights Amendment, which has still not been ratified.

In a speech to students at Andover and Lahser High School last spring, Mrs. Griffiths said, "In my opinion it will be ratified. Both major political parties have approved this for 30 years. If there is anything we need before we celebrate our 200th birthday, it is this amendment."

She also said then that she had never really been discouraged against in her career because she was a woman. However, she added, "If I had been a man I possibly could have become the house majority leader, but I didn't put my name in because I thought they probably wouldn't elect a woman."

## Botsford seeks rapport; opens doors to public

By CORINNE ABATT

Twenty-four years as a hospital administrator and there's one area where Seymour Cantor of Botsford General Hospital of Farmington Hills still considers himself a neophyte.

It's in the area of communications—finding ways to build closer ties between the hospital and the people.

"We're ready to work with the community in every possible way. They (the community) have to understand that we are them and they are us."

Cantor hopes a community open house held early this fall and another planned later will create an awareness of the potential services the 310-bed hospital has to offer.

"We want the people of the community to come take a look at us and see that the people in the hospital are like them only more so."

He mentioned several ways the hospital could play a stronger role in community activities and give examples of things already accomplished. The hospital is working closely with the Farmington Area Advisory Council and would be willing to increase its participation. In the past the hospital has held emergency care training courses for ambulance, police and fire personnel. The hospital regularly offers free courses on nutrition, does free diabetes testing and has a course on preparing food for diabetic children.

In the future Cantor would like to see the hospital "draw blood for the Red Cross," house more medical services that are presently out in the community, such as free clinics and prepare meals on wheels for the elderly.

"I want and I feel everything in this community that has to do with the care of people should be right here. For instance, many of the elderly and bedridden don't eat properly. Here we prepare an average of \$1,000 meals a month for patients, visitors and employees. How much more would it cost us to prepare 30 more meals a week, package and freeze them and send them out via our Red Cross or guild volunteers?"

Speculating the gas money for delivery and in many cases, the minimal cost of the meals themselves could be taken out of hospital paid funds, he said, "We should be doing this and we want the community to help us do these kinds of things."

Smiling, he called them "my screwball ideas."

Quickly he described members of his staff as "really systems engi-

neers" who take these ideas and make them feasible.

"We could do wonders for the community."

BOTSFORD GENERAL is an osteopathic hospital which serves the communities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Redford Township, Redford and Livonia. It has a staff of 225 physicians plus interns, residents and students from several medical schools.

All other employees, including nurses and technicians, number almost 800 plus student nurses from Schoolcraft and Mercy colleges.

He described the five registered dietitians and other skilled personnel as "acting to get their hands on new horizons."

"We have social workers who would visit in the community and under prop-

er circumstances we would be willing to send nurses into the community. We want to know what the community wants of us."

He expanded his statement "When I say this I'm really speaking for every hospital in the metropolitan Detroit area. They're trying desperately to do a good job for the community and be part of the community."

Cantor started with the hospital when it was a 50-bed facility on Livonia. He purchased the present site from John Anshut's father in 1962. The new building opened in January 1965 with 200 beds and expanded to house 110 more beds in 1972.

"As of next December Blue Cross will cost around \$90 a month. We're cognizant of that and we're trying to tell you that that money you're paying is being put to its proper use."



SEYMOUR CANTOR

## Southfield cop from Hills fights to be reinstated

By CARL STODDARD

More than 200 persons crammed into the Southfield Civic Center auditorium to witness the opening battle of two former Southfield police officers to win reinstatement Nov. 12.

Delayed by a legal technicality, the fight never got started. Another hearing before the Southfield Civil Service Commission has been set for 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, in courtroom number three of the Civic Center.

At that time, Maurice Harmon of Farmington Hills and Lawrence Hall of Wixom again are expected to seek reversal of the city's decision to fire them Oct. 17, which was the last day of their one-year probationary period.

Both men say they were dropped from the force for their refusal to go along with what they say are accepted police practices of receiving free meals and sleeping while on duty.

The charges have been denied by police Chief Milton Sackett and city administrator Peter Cristiano.

Sackett said in an interview last week that Harmon and Hall were terminated for a number of infractions, including discrimination against a female officer.

LAST WEEK'S hearing drew one of the largest crowds every to assemble in the Southfield City Council chamber. Spectators lined the walls and crunched in the aisles. The balcony was crammed with people and a group of about 40 residents filled around the lobby. Two television crews and numerous other media representatives swarmed through the crowd.

"We'd like to see you at every meeting," commission chairman David Moltiz told residents. It was an invitation that probably won't be honored.

The hearing was delayed at the request of assistant city attorney Richard Miller.

Miller maintained that Harmon and Hall, because they were probationary officers at the time of their dismissal, had the "burden of proof" to show that their discharge was for reasons other than noted by the city.

The three-man commission overruled his argument, but agreed to a

two-week postponement to allow the Oakland County Circuit Court to review the decision.

The review was requested, Miller said, because "as far as we know, it's a novel case of law." He said there never has been a recorded case in Southfield or in Michigan of a probationary officer appealing a dismissal.

The court may agree with Miller or it may concur with the commission's contention that the city must prove why the two men were discharged.

IN EITHER event, the hearing is likely to move forward—unless the court issues a delaying order, he said.

Harmon and Hall may both appear before the commission, Miller said. A third man, Kurt Matthews, whose probation was terminated at the same time, is expected to appeal at a later date.

Harmon and Hall, who are represented by attorney George Maurer, will be able to appeal to the circuit



MAURICE HARMON



LAWRENCE HALL

## Brewbaker is chief engineer

Robert Brewbaker, of Farmington, was recently appointed to the newly created post of chief engineer for Monza, Vega and Chevette cars. Brewbaker graduated from the University of Michigan in 1963. He was a chief engineer of chassis components before his promotion.



ROBERT BREWBAKER

## Clarenceville sports dinner set for Nov. 19

Clarenceville School District's athletic banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the high school gym, on Middle Belt, north of Seven Mile.

The banquet is open only to ticket holders and there are no additional tickets for sale, a school spokesman said.

### inside

News	Section A
Editorials	12
Columns	12
Sports	9, 18
Feature	12
Suburban Life	Section B
Classifieds	Section C

**YOU WON'T LIVE FOREVER**  
Because of that Co Abatt in her column "One by One" warns readers to keep that will up to date. To see what she has to say, turn to page 12A.