



Farmington and Farmington Hills residents turned out for the fourth annual Farmington Observer publicity press seminar last week. (Staff photo)



Group discussion was a big part of last week's Farmington Observer press seminar as editor Steve Barnaby addressed the audience.

Charm of journalism is meeting the community

The best part of journalism is meeting people—face to face.

That's why last Thursday evening was one of those nights I really enjoyed. The event was the fourth annual Farmington Observer press-publicity seminar conducted at the Farmington Holiday Inn.

More than 70 interested group representatives and individuals turned out to meet the staff.

The initial purpose for this annual affair is to get together with persons from around the Farmington-Farmington Hills community and discuss how best we can serve them. But, in reality it is much more.

For most of the year we know the majority of persons either as a voice over the phone or a mail correspondent. The seminar is our chance to meet all those good folks who make community journalism what it is.

As happens every year, the staff saw a lot of familiar faces, but we also met many new persons—a sign that the area is growing.

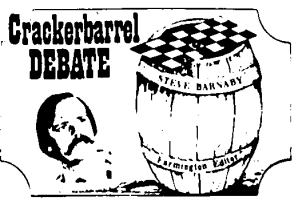
I HAVE a real fondness for community journalism, as all who have ever talked to me for more than two minutes probably know.

I, along with the staff of Loraine McClish, Tom Baer, Louise Okrutsky and Harry Mauthe, take real pride in what we consider a very successful experiment in journalism.

Working in community journalism is exciting because it brings the journalist the closest he can be to persons in the community.

Community journalism is challenging because we struggle along with the growth of the community. Many times we find ourselves aiding in solving problems in the communities we serve.

It wasn't too many years ago when community



journalism took a back seat to the big dailies. But, that's all changing now. Suburban communities are seeking their own identities and want newspapers which reflect their community.

I'm not too proud to say that we do that best. An aspect of community journalism is that even though it is getting bigger doesn't mean it gets farther away from the people.

As a matter of fact, the bigger we get, the more we can tell you, the reader, about your community.

So whatever you do, don't get the idea that we're too big to serve you. That's what last week's seminar was all about.

SO IF YOU have a community event item you would like to see in the newspaper, or if you know about an interesting person you think would make the subject of a good feature story, give us a call.

If you want to sound off in our letters to the editor column, feel free to do that, too.

At any rate, we'll be waiting to hear from you and hope to see you at next year's seminar.

Hills cops shoot 'em up and win pile of trophies

Five members of the Farmington Hills police team shot it out in Jackson, Miss., last month.

When the smoke cleared, they had an impressive 20 trophies in the National Police Combat Pistol Championship. Farmington Hills officers Ray Marchewitz, Charles Archambeau, Linda Harris, Lt. Richard Niemisto and auxiliary officer Paul Phillips each took home individual trophies in their competition among 700 police officers.

They've been competing for the last six years, said Public Safety Director Ronald Holko. They won seven individual awards last year. I guess you can say they've improved.

The competition consists of combat-type shooting. Members of the team were chosen on the basis of their scores on the police range.

Officers shoot once or twice a week on the range. The range officer, Ray Marchewitz, chooses team members on their participation. Holko said.

Most of the team members have been competing for about seven to eight years, Holko said. Officer Linda Harris is a relative newcomer. She's been with the team for four years.

This shoot occurs day on the range a few weeks before competition. They have to pay their way to each event except this one. If they get that far, it's only fair to pay their way. Holko said.

The team is sponsored by the City of Farmington Hills.



Lt. Richard Niemisto (left), Linda Harris, Charles Archambeau and Ray Marchewitz show their trophies to Public Safety Director Ronald Holko. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



Charles Archambeau tallies up his score during a full in the Mississippi pistol competition. Officer Paul Phillips chats with a colleague as he waits his turn to during the National Police Combat Pistol Championship.

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