



Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

NEWEST vice president of the Crime Prevention Association of Michigan is Sgt. Richard Murphy, who commands the Farmington Hills Police Department's crime prevention and juvenile units.

The 15 1/2-year department veteran has won several awards for his work in promoting crime prevention at local, state and international levels.

One of Murphy's immediate goals is to educate community members and state legislators about the benefits of crime prevention and the need for instructional programs and funding.

ORIGINALS Ltd., a new art and fine crafts gift shop, opens today on the second floor of the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington.

Store hours are 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays as well as 9:30-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

JUNIOR professional management major, Kristin Witte of Farmington Hills received a scholarship to attend Operation Enterprise, a program for young adults held under the auspices of the American Management Association (AMA).

During this 10-day summer session, students not only learned, but had an opportunity to practice skills in management, leadership and life planning.

Witte was sponsored by Albion College, Albion.

Operation Enterprise, created in 1969, is patterned after the Management Course for Presidents, which the AMA conducts for chief executives.

The program works on three levels — roundtable discussions, small workshop interaction and one-on-one communication with successful leaders.

The career skills program was held in August at Mitchell Point, the AMA facility in Hamilton, N.Y.

SENIOR Airwoman Renee Campbell of Farmington Hills was decorated with the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

The medal signifies outstanding achievement in the performance of Air Force duties. Campbell is an aircraft fuels systems mechanic with the 41st Electronic Combat Squadron.

FARMINGTON HILLS resident Norman MacAvoy was named a member in the Order of the Arrow, a national organization of the Boy Scouts of America, at a ceremony held at the University of Michigan. MacAvoy is a member of the Farmington Hills Scout Council and has been a member of the Order of the Arrow for several years.

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Tuning up

Ballroom dancing isn't dead. Just ask ballroom dancers Ralph Dumo of Farmington Hills and Anita Fraley of Troy, who'll be performing on an upcoming episode of the television program, "Dance Fever." The pair lost all chances of winning \$1,000 and repeat per-

formances on the show, but went home with a stereo system and an air date. They're shown above practicing at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Lathrup Village. For their story and more pictures, see Page 3A.

JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Cities urge an improved road design

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington and Farmington Hills officials are keeping their fingers crossed that Oakland County road commissioners will look favorably on widening and improving Orchard Lake Road from 1-495 to Grand River.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils recently approved improvement plans designed by the Oakland County Road Commission.

The council's resolutions also encourage the county road commission "to give Orchard Lake Road a very high priority in its reconstruction," said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

The design plans represent a reduced set of improvements expected to be less costly than the five-lane widening project discussed by both councils in recent years, said Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick.

"We're trying to downsize it so it can be put on a realistic footing," Costick said. "This would make it easier so our chances are better."

IN A LETTER to the city council, Costick said that the revised plans "will result in substantially reduced costs perhaps by 50 percent, and might enable us to proceed with the improvements much, much sooner than might otherwise be the case."

Although officials in both cities have wanted the county road improved for some time, the project has never ranked as a priority with the road commission, Deadman said. And even with the cities' approval of the county's plans for the road, improvements more than likely are years away.

"We do intend to submit portions of this plan for Federal Aid Urban Systems Funding, however, such funding will apparently not be available until 1988," said Oakland County Road Commission Chairman John Gnan Jr. in a letter to the Hills council.

The Orchard Lake Road proposed project would be forced to compete with other projects throughout the county, Gnan added.

Even if the county receives federal money for the proposed Orchard Lake project, Costick said, there's a good chance the cities would have to help pay for the improvements.

A SIMILAR situation has occurred with plans for improving and widening 12 Mile Road, Costick said. Although 12 Mile is a county road, Farmington Hills will have to pay the county's share of the improvements in order to make the improvements, he added.

The road commission generally lists proposed road improvements on a three-year priority list, Costick said. At this point, the Orchard Lake project is not on that list.

Hills not a big tax trimmer

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

In some Oakland County communities, offering tax breaks to stimulate industrial growth and renovation is a fact of economic life.

Despite the popular and sometimes controversial method of inducing industrial growth, Farmington Hills has avoided joining the trend.

With two booming commercial corridors — Northwestern Highway and 12 Mile Road — and several relatively new industrial parks, the city prefers relying on its own qualities to attract new industry and business.

"Most communities are using the tax abatements as an inducement to attract new industries," Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said. "Most communities have done so because they don't have new growth or it (growth) is declining."

That's not the case in Farmington Hills, where the low property-tax rate and location near a myriad of freeway interchanges are considered major drawing cards for business.

"We're blessed with the newness," Costick said. "Growth is just naturally occurring."

Farmington Hills Economic Development

Please turn to Page 2

Big moment

Jurist is a U.S. Court of Appeals nominee



By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

"Could you hold a moment for the President?" asked a woman calling from the White House.

"Yes," replied Michigan Supreme Court Justice James Ryan, "worried my knees weren't going to hold me up."

"Judge Ryan?" asked President Reagan.

"Yes, Mr. President."

"I have before me a paper that I would like to sign. It provides that I nominate you to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit for the states of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee subject to confirmation by the Senate. If I were to sign that paper, would it meet your approval?"

"It certainly will," answered Ryan from his Farmington Hills office.

"Very well, I will sign it and nominate you to the court of appeals."

"Mr. President, I am most grateful for your nomination, and I will do everything in my power to vindicate your expression of confidence."

"I know you will do very well, Judge Ryan. I wish you good luck, and please extend my warmest regards to members of your family."

REACHED In Newport, R.I., Tuesday where the 24-year Redford resident was attending a three-day training seminar for Naval Reserve military

'To be asked to accept a lifetime appointment to the federal judiciary reminds me of my very humble roots and of how very fortunate I am to have had the chance to be given this opportunity.'

— Justice James Ryan
Michigan Supreme Court

judges, Ryan said. "My first impression is that (the appointment) is a great honor. It's humbling to be called by the President at all."

"To be asked to accept a lifetime appointment to the federal judiciary reminds me of my very humble roots and of how very fortunate I am to have had the chance to be given this opportunity."

Ryan expects Senate confirmation hearings to begin within a month. After background information gleaned by the Justice Department is turned over to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Ryan will be required to answer questions of its members.

Please turn to Page 4

what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 8B
Classifieds . . . Secs. C,D
Crossword puzzle . . . 14C
Entertainment . . . 4B
On the agenda . . . 10A
Police/fire news . . . 6A
Sports . . . 1-3B
Shopping cart . . . 1,2C
Suburban life . . . 7,8B

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