

Farmington Observer

Volume 96 Number 100

Monday, September 23, 1985

Farmington, Michigan

36 Pages

Twenty-five cents

© 1985 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Farmington FOCUS

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

FARMINGTON Hills residents Mary Kurajian and her father, Prof. George Kurajian, have co-authored "Expanding Design Creativity." The paper was one of nine U.S. papers presented at the International Conference on Engineering Design in Hamburg, West Germany. The forum was attended by design engineers from around the world. Prof. Kurajian chairs the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. His daughter is a graduate of U-M's Ann Arbor campus, where she majored in psychology. She has worked in the advertising and publishing fields.

OAKLAND Community College Orchard Ridge Campus' Community Activities Building in Farmington Hills is now open seven days a week. Facilities open to the public include the gym, weight room, pool and racquetball courts. As a result of the new schedule, the pool will now open at 7 a.m. weekdays. A new community activities membership program is under way for the first time this fall. Schedules listing Community Activities Building hours for the fall semester are available on campus. For a copy, call the registration counter at 471-7599.

AMONG the latest master's degree winners from Oakland University is Risa DeRooven of Farmington Hills. She studied counseling on OU's Rochester Hills campus.

OUR LADY of Sorrows Men's Bowling League is looking for more bowlers. The league meets at 6:45 p.m. Mondays in Bel-Aire Lanes, 24001 Orchard Lake, Farmington. Call Farmington Hills resident William Bank: 477-8968.

STEVEN Kurth of Farmington Hills has graduated from the University of Houston. He earned a doctor of optometry degree.

FOUR Farmington-area residents were honored at Carnegie Institute commencement exercises Sept. 14 in Ford Auditorium, Detroit. They are Laurie Gilbey, Deborah Maltese, Nancy Rosenberg and Debbie Bradbury.

FOOTNOTES: The state historical marker outside Dearborn has been "This historic site, the oldest in Michigan still providing food and lodging, was built as a home in 1836 by Orrin Weston. In 1841, it was converted into a tavern by Stephen Leavitt. Known as the Station House, it was the stagecoach stop here in Clarendonville on the Grand River Plank road, which followed an Indian trail that went on to Lake Michigan. William C. Dearborn in 1899 acquired the inn. It became a popular meeting place for grocers, farmers and travelers to and from Detroit. Henry Ford, who had lived near the inn while converting his father's farm, Clara, in a house and barn, purchased the inn from his brother-in-law in 1904 and restored it. The Ford operated it until 1907."

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Some Farmington Public Schools parents are seeking an evaluation of the district's 10-year-old gifted program with the hope it will be replaced by one that's more comprehensive. Appearing before the Farmington Board of Education, parents last week presented a proposal requesting an evaluation of the current program and offering suggestions for change. The

proposal also requested formation of a new committee to do the evaluation and to prepare recommendations for change.

School officials accepted the parents' proposal. Instead of creating a new committee, however, officials gave the proposal to the district's 17-member advisory group for study. The group is comprised of parents, teachers and district administrators.

"We are not a bunch of angry parents by any means," said Bobbie Toma-

sin, president of the Farmington Association for Children with Exceptional Talent (FACET).

Parents are seeking a "specific outline on what the district is doing," Tomas said. "There are no written objectives. We are not saying there is anything being done. But we would like to get something more tangible. Right now, it is patchwork — individual teachers, principals and consultants are working with the children. It is very hilly."

THE DISTRICT has attempted to provide a curriculum that's flexible for all students, including those who are intellectually gifted, said Graham Lewis, assistant superintendent in charge of the gifted program.

The district identifies those students in kindergarten through the 12th grade with intellectual abilities at the 98th percentile (above 131 IQ). "Identification allows us to be aware of the population we are serving," Lewis said.

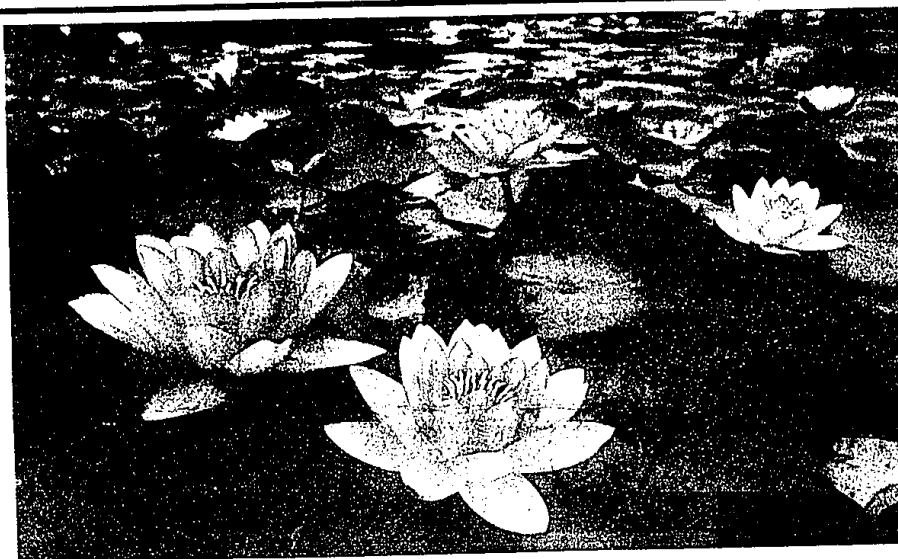
Approximately 10 percent of the dis-

trict's more than 10,000 students, however, fall into this category. "We should have only about 200 kids (2 percent) in that category on a normal population curve," Lewis said.

The district tries to provide an upgraded curriculum that can appeal to gifted students as well as those who may not fall into the category, but who can perform well in school, Lewis said. Sometimes, a student of average in-

Please turn to Page 2

Gifted program under review



GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Pond's plants prosper

The water lily population in the pond in front of the Cranbrook Institute of Science increases every year. There are 100 varieties thriving there, from the exotic sacred lily of the Nile and other blue and lavender tropical imports to a full range of hardy species with orange, peach, pink and red blossoms. Sam DeFazio, of Preter Teilus greenhouse of West Bloomfield Township, who helps cultivate the pond, said there will be more blossoms next year along with a spectacular display by the new Victoria Regina lily which should develop a 5-6 foot leaf span. DeFazio and his partner, Patrick McKown, are teaching a course for home water lily growers at the Science Institute, in Bloomfield Hills, starting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. To register, call 645-3230.

Landscaping laws focus of debate

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials are considering beefing up the city's landscaping requirements for new business development.

"With this level of development, we want the city to continue to look nice," City Manager William Costick said. At Costick's request, the Farmington Hills Planning Commission in early September agreed to review the city's existing landscaping requirements. The city's requirements will be compared with those in neighboring communities,

such as Southfield and West Bloomfield Township.

"It is a rather mixed bag right now," said Ed Rowe, city zoning supervisor, about city landscaping requirements. "They (planning commissioners) are hoping to toughen it up."

Costick's request coincides with the recent revival of the city's beautification commission. The commission was revived in July on Mayor Jan Dolan's recommendation that as the community continues to grow, "a well-conceived and purposeful effort" is needed to maintain the area's appearance.

"I THINK there is a renewed interest in beautification all over the city," Costick said.

While some areas of the community are aesthetically pleasing, some are not, Costick said. "Drive up Orchard Lake Road, some of the new buildings look nice, other don't. We have to change that image."

Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills is a five-lane thoroughfare decorated, for the most part, on each side of the road with large concrete parking lots, Costick said. "We need something to break it up."

Residents such as Myles and Joan

Elias, who live in Oaklands subdivision, west of Orchard Lake Road, would be more than happy to see some changes along the thoroughfare. "We would be unhappy if they did not (toughen the restrictions)," Myles said.

Although many residents have complaints, particularly about Orchard Lake Road's appearance, few reach the city council because residents don't bother complaining, often believing nothing will change, Myles said.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT Orchard Lake Road center on the lack of landscaping and empty buildings that are not maintained, Myles said.

Too much lighting is also a problem, particularly when it is not screened from the nearby residential areas, he said.

More landscaping around the mass of concrete parking lots along the thoroughfare would be a nice change, he added.

Referring to the portion of Orchard Lake Road, north of 14 Mile in West Bloomfield Township, Myles said

'Drive up Orchard Lake Road, some of the new buildings look nice, other don't. We have to change that image.'

— William Costick, Hills city manager

there's "no comparison." West Bloomfield's section of the road is far more attractive in his view.

THE CITY'S toughest zoning requirements are along Northwestern Highway, where some of the newest office buildings sit. Despite the comparatively tough regulations though, Southfield's section of the thoroughfare is far more landscaped, Costick said.

In Farmington Hills, each land-use zone requires different items, Rowe

Please turn to Page 2

Back to school Sergeant will attend 'FBI Academy'

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Richard Murphy is one of eight Michigan-based police commanders selected to attend the 143rd session of the FBI National Academy.

The 11-week sessions, run by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in conjunction with instructors from the University of Virginia, are held four times a year at the National FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. The fall session will run from Sept. 23 to Dec. 13.

Only 200 police commanders from around the country are chosen to attend each of the sessions. Prospective candidates must apply and receive their chief's recommendation. The FBI also does background checks of each candidate.

Michigan's delegation includes eight commanders. "It's very prestigious to attend and graduate from," said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer, a 1974 Academy graduate.

The Academy is designed to improve management skills. It includes classes on computers, personnel management, budgeting, fitness, labor relations, stress management, criminal investigation, forensic science and the law.

"It's something I always wanted to do," Murphy said. "The more training you have, the better commander you are."

Murphy, a 15½-year veteran of the Farmington Hills Police Department, heads the juvenile and crime prevention sections.

The Livonia resident is also vice president of the Crime Prevention Association of Michigan and in line to become the next president by year's end.

He's also in line to be promoted to lieutenant after placing first among recent promotional examination takers announced recently. Other Farmington Hills Police Department members who have attended the National FBI Academy are Lt. Eral Miller and inspectors Merrill Spencer and Richard Niemisto.



Richard Murphy
Hills sergeant

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 6B
- Cable connection . . . 9A
- Classifieds . . . Sections C, D
- Crossword puzzle . . . 3C
- Entertainment . . . 6A
- Obituaries . . . 9A
- Police/fire news . . . 8A
- Shopping cart . . . 1C
- Sports . . . 1-3B
- Suburban Life . . . 5-7B

News line . . . 477-5480
Sports line . . . 581-2300
Home delivery . . . 591-0800
Classified line . . . 591-0800



**RECRUITMENT
HELP WANTED**
Classified Advertising
Begins in SECTION C
of today's paper.