



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.

FARMINGTON City Council again has gone on record supporting legislation that would give local governments more control over the issuance or revocation of package liquor licenses.

Last week, the council endorsed a city of Birmingham resolution requesting support for House Bill 5021.

Currently, local units of government have control only over Class C (by the glass) liquor licenses. All other types of licenses are approved by the Liquor Control Commission (LCC), City Manager Robert Deadman wrote in a report to the city council.

HB 5021 would require the LCC to revoke the license of a business selling package liquor to minors for consumption "off premises."

A request for revocation could occur only after a store has been cited three times in a year and only after a hearing is held by the community and the LCC, Deadman wrote.

"The legislation is one element in controlling teen-age substance abuse," he wrote.

IF YOU are building a home or considering it, Farmington Hills Crime Prevention Unit can offer helpful advice to make the site more secure.

There are minor alterations that can be made at little or no cost before construction is finished to reduce the threat of burglary.

"We can look at your blueprints, come out to the construction site or just offer suggestions over the phone," reads a city press release.

For more information about this free service, call the Crime Prevention Unit: 474-4181.

HE'S honored. Farmington resident Dennis Tini, an assistant professor of music at Wayne State University, has received an Alumni Faculty Service Award.

Tini was honored at the annual fall faculty and staff assembly, held recently on WSU's Detroit campus. A teacher, musician and composer, Tini came to WSU 13 years ago.

KUDOS are in order. Recent graduates of the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education Accounting Assistant Diploma Program included Janet Burt of Farmington Hills.

BREAK a leg, Paul! Sophomore Paul Amendt has the role of Valere in the stage production of "Tartuffe," a comedy set in France in 1709, at Kalamazoo College.

He's a theater major.

NOW a sergeant. Jeffrey Worms of Farmington Hills was promoted to sergeant in the U.S. Army.

The 1978 North Farmington High School graduate is an equipment records and parts specialist at Fort Bragg, N.C. with the 82nd Airborne Division.

FOOTNOTES: Our Lady of Sorrows Parish was founded by the Rev. E.J. O'Malley in 1921.

The first small church was built on the hill at Power and Shawansee. A grade school building, a high school building and a convent were added later.

In the late '60s, the original chapel was torn down. While the new large modern church was being built, the congregation met in the high school building.

Project theme — careers

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills Police and the Boy Scouts of America are looking for young people — ages 14-20 — who have an inclination for law enforcement as a career and want to participate in a new Explorer program.

The Explorer program — a division of the Boy Scouts — is designed to provide young people with a taste of what certain careers are all about.

Throughout the country, Explorer programs are offered in careers such as data processing, business, law enforcement or even government. The program also can be designed for young people with an interest in a particular hobby, such as mountain climbing or scuba diving.

Farmington Hills Police are organizing the department's first Explorer post to give young people an idea of what law enforcement is all about, said Officer Duane Fox, program coordinator, who will serve as a liaison between the police department and Boy Scouts.

"We want to expose young people to what a police officer really does and see if they have an interest in it as a career," Fox said. "It's another route to have contact with youth and help develop youth. We will be catering to the job market aspect."

THE LOCAL program is still being developed, but plans are being made for training sessions that involve tours of a crime lab, the Oakland County Jail, law fingerprints are taken and what's involved in a criminal investigation.

Fox said he would also like to provide Explorers with an opportunity to accompany officers in the patrol cars when possible.

"We want the Explorer post to be as much a part of the Farmington Hills Police Department as possible," Fox said. "They can learn what a police officer does and is. I am thinking more of an exposure type of thing. There will be training. But it will mostly be an exposure to the job."

To that end, Explorers will organize themselves and elect officers during the first few meetings. Explorers also develop and adopt bylaws for their post.

The purpose is to provide leadership training and experience for the young people and to put them into



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills police officer Duane Fox hopes to have young people who are enrolled in the Explorer program accompany officers in patrol cars during non-hazardous runs as a learning experience.

Although the police department will be heavily involved in the program, "it doesn't cost anything other than the time some officers will volunteer," Police Chief William Dwyer said.

Fox is hoping to have an introduction meeting sometime in December with an eye on beginning the Explorer program by the first of the year. At first, Fox will lead the group but a purpose of the program is for the young people to operate their own program. Parents and other community members will also be involved.

"I COORDINATE and get everything together," Fox said. "But we want them to be there for a learning experience. The post runs itself. The young people will be developing what they would like to be involved in. We want them to run the whole outfit themselves."

Participants are expected to pay a \$5 fee — \$3.50 of which is a membership fee and a year's subscription to the Explorer's magazine. The remaining portion of the fee is for liability insurance.

"WE ARE EXCITED about a law enforcement post," Dwyer said. "It enhances our ability to get youth involved. It is just a real positive program where there is interaction between the police department and youth."

Fox is hoping to have a minimum 10 participants in the Explorer program with a maximum of 20-30. Young people who are interested in the program should call Miriam Rappert at the Exploring Division of the Clinton Valley Chapter-Boy Scouts of America, 338-2086. The department's Explorer program does not have residency restrictions, Dwyer said.

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Local homes are eyed for 'mentally ill'

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Most, if not all, Oakland County communities have been notified by the Ypsilanti Regional Psychiatric Hospital of plans to place patients in residential programs — similar to group homes for persons who are mentally retarded — throughout the county.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills officials received notification from the hospital — an agency of the state Department of Mental Health (DMH) — by certified letter in early October.

"This letter is to further inform you of current plans by the Department of Mental Health to develop specialized residential programs for mentally ill residents of Oakland County," according to the letter.

"Presently, a need for seven residential programs, and eight scattered site apartments is projected this year to serve some of the needs of the nearly 400 Oakland County residents in state mental hospitals."

THE LETTER also asks for officials' assistance in locating patient residential sites in the cities.

"The purpose of this letter is to seek your advice and consultation regarding appropriate sites in your community and to indicate our availability to answer questions that you may have regarding these programs. We will notify you if a specific location is being considered in your community for any of these programs," the letter said.

Tom DeLoach, DMH public information officer, said the psychiatric residential program is not new, although some areas, such as Oakland County, may not have been targeted for such placements before.

Planned for Oakland County is a 10-bed crisis home, two 10-bed independent living programs, four six-bed group homes and two-person apartments.

"Homes will be designed to provide supervision, training and activities, according to specific needs of the residents," the letter said.

RATHER THAN building new facilities to accommodate expansion of residential mental health programs in Oakland County, hospital officials say they are seeking existing homes that offer enough space for residents as well as space for in-house programs.

Residential programs are designed "to provide a transition between the hospital and community life," DeLoach said. "These are people who have lived in this area (Oakland County), or have ties or family in the area."

Under all circumstances, patients will be screened before being placed in a residential program, DeLoach said.

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Budget, con-con proposal is 'dead'

By Tim Richard
staff writer

In a major political setback for the state Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan House of Representatives said "no" to a federal balanced budget amendment and constitutional convention. The vote was 51 in favor and 56 against.

"The Democrats are cursed with the labor unions, and the Republicans with the state Chamber of Commerce," said a Republican who asked to remain anonymous.

"This," added Democratic state Rep. Maxine Berman of Southfield, "will determine which legislators will be targeted or bankrolled by the state Chamber of Commerce next year. They have bankrolled much of this campaign."

Observer & Economic area representatives from Oakland County gave

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On the air Cable viewers watch as votes are counted

By Casey Hana
staff writer

Farmington-area residents viewed live election results from four sites last week via local cable television.

It was a first for cable technology in southeast Michigan.

Following three months of preparation, 40-50 people brought viewers results from the Metrovision of Oakland County cable studio and city halls in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

"We took a big risk — and it worked," said Lark Samouelian, director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission, which oversees cable operations in the three cities. "It was a wonderful test."

The co-hosted the election night cablecast with Farmington Hills resident David Pollock, a member of the mayor-appointed cable access committee representing the three cities.

IT WAS the first time two-way cable transmission from several sites was used in southeast Michigan. The result was "technically perfect," Samouelian said.

She gave two Metrovision engineers, Gary Selski and Mary Nelson, the credit. Metrovision systems coordinators



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Metrovision student intern Jerry Dragovich (center) of Farmington Hills served as floor director of Election Night coverage. At left is election show host Linda DePoortor of the Farmington/West Bloomfield League of Women Voters and local council watcher Aldo Vagnozzi.

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