



# 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 33293 Grand River, Farmington 48924.

IT'S red. It cost \$80,000. And it'll be used to fight fires and handle rescue calls in Farmington Hills. The city recently purchased a new fire truck from Sutphen Corp., Columbus, Ohio. The truck is equipped with a 300-gallon tank. Carried aboard is 15 gallons of foam for hazardous material spills. The truck will be based at the Farmington Hills Fire Department headquarters on Drake.

**START** thinking about a nominee. That's the message from the American Association of University Women's Farmington Branch, which will recognize a local woman who has made a contribution to women's equality. Rules will be spelled out soon in the Farmington Observer. Nominations will be accepted in January.

**SENIOR** Kevin Woodhouse of Farmington Hills was elected to membership in the Society of Phi Beta Kappa, an international academic honorary, at Indiana University.

He's majoring in criminal justice/political science on the Bloomington campus.

**MOVING** up — Airman Kelly Rugh completed Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The airman will remain at Lackland for special training in the security police field.

**KUDOS** are in order for Julie Richardson. The Farmington resident graduated from Albion College in September. She majored in biology.

**DETROIT'S** famed Thanksgiving Day Parade will be co-hosted by Maria Smith, a 1970 North Farmington High School graduate. The other co-host will be Martin Kove of "Cagney & Lacey." Now on "Scarierrow and Mrs. King," Smith plays Francine Desmond.

**THEY'RE** honored. Two Farmington High School students were awarded a second place by Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield for outstanding scores on the Junior Engineer Technical Society's National Engineering Aptitude Search Test. The students are Allison Frontier and Stephen Succlo.

**AMONG** the latest graduates at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo was Andrea Myers of Farmington Hills. She earned a bachelor of science degree.

**FOOTNOTES:** Organized Masonry came to Farmington in early 1983. That's when a small group of Masons who had earned a Masonic light in other Lodges assembled to compare views about having a Masonic Lodge in Farmington. The result was the organization of the Farmington Lodge. A petition, seeking dispensation to form a lodge in Farmington, was sent to the Grand Lodge. On Oct. 15, 1983, Most Worshipful Grand Master J. Eastman Johnson, granted dispensation to 18 charter members to form a lodge in Farmington.

## Artwork is rooted in nature

By Lisa Simon  
staff writer

In a studio addition to his Farmington Hills home, wildlife artist Larry Hayden spends months creating single works of art that accurately mimic nature. A waterfowl art specialist, Hayden, 51, houses several varieties of wild duck for quick reference in a backyard aviary. The waterfowl paintings and decoy ducks that Hayden creates have brought him national recognition as a specialty artist.

A native of northwest Detroit, Hayden acknowledges that his family was not inclined toward the outdoors or toward bucolic artwork. His artistic streak was expressed through various childhood projects, quite different than his current work.

Wood carving was a hobby that Hayden pursued by snatching one of his father's double-edged razors, breaking it in half, and whittling. Scars on the ends of his fingers still remind him of the work. As a child, Hayden carved puppets, guns and other creations from wood blocks. In high school, Hayden made illustrations and cartoons for his school paper.

**TRAINED** as a commercial artist, Hayden left his job in 1979 to pursue waterfowl painting and his favorite hobby — decoy duck carving. Creating art for a client with specific artistic and time guidelines was stifling, according to Hayden. "It's a pleasure to do what I want," Hayden designs and produces his own waterfowl paintings, then finds a publisher.

His current project, a series of five waterfowl limited-edition prints, was commissioned by the California Waterfowl Association. Hayden often creates several detailed draft drawings before completing a final painting. Waterfowl painting was actually a vocation that resulted from Hayden's success with decoy ducks. He



Larry Hayden practices the art of wild fowl painting in his Farmington Hills home. The studio is decorated with Hayden's award-winning work.



**AT LEFT:** This Canvas Back hon shows Larry Hayden's attention to detail. The carving was awarded best of show in the 1977 world championships.

"Birds of a feather flock together," is the prime reason for a decoy, Hayden said.

A decoy duck draws real ducks to the area. Originally, decoy ducks were made by American Indians from woven reeds and tied-on feathers for hunting, he said.

**AS FOR** duck hunting, Hayden says he enjoys sharing the camaraderie and relaxation with a group of friends. He finds watching wild duck in their natural environment most appealing.

In the fall, migrating ducks tend to flock together for security and food, Hayden said. Aside from being duck-hunting season, the fall is also the season when a male duck shows his most vibrant colors. Female ducks are less colorful anytime of the year.

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## Grant seeks a recount of Hills ballots

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Newly elected Farmington Hills City Councilman Terry Sever will have to go through it again.

Challenger Jonathan Grant — defeated by Sever by six votes in last week's council election — has requested a recount. For Sever, Grant's request is a repeat of events in last year's special election.



J. Grant eyes recount

Jody Soronen and Ben Marks were sworn in Monday night.

"Yes, I am going to ask for a recount," said Grant, who was at Monday council meeting. "I am interested in finding out if there is a clear mandate of the voters."

**GRANT FILED** a request for a recount by the Tuesday deadline — within six days of the election's local certification. The recount's winner will serve on the non-partisan council.

Grant's request will be forwarded to Oakland County Elections Director Howard Altman, who will schedule the recount. Grant will have to pay \$10 for each precinct recounted, Reynolds said.

Reynolds expects the Oakland County Board of Canvassers to begin the recount Friday, Nov. 22.

In 1984, Sever edged past Councilman Ben Marks by 25 votes only to lose a long-sought council seat after three weeks by one vote to Marks in a recount.

Grant's recount request was no surprise to Sever. "I suspected there would be one. I don't think anyone is surprised there is going to be a recount," Sever said.

But Sever, 33, says the recount "will not be a repeat of last year. I am definitely more knowledgeable now. I will fight for this one. I just feel better to-

day knowing what I went through last year. I am more familiar with the law, and I will use it."

Grant, 33, said he is seeking a recount "to get an accurate count. I do not believe that the procedure by which ballots are cast and counted is precise." The method is adequate but the "percentage of inaccuracies is important in a race this close," he said.

**AS REQUIRED** by city charter, Grant resigned his position as vice president of the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees to run for council election.

Candidates may have the vote totals of an entire election recounted, a portion of the total precincts or just absentee ballots.

Although Grant believes the inaccuracies (in vote totals) are probably in the absentee ballots, he will most likely request a recount of the entire election — precincts and absentee ballots.

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## Placement rules are challenged

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

As far as state Rep. Mat Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion, is concerned, there's "no rhyme or reason" to the development of group homes in certain communities.

That's why he has joined state Sen. Richard Fessler, R-West Bloomfield, in sponsoring a bill that would restrict the number of group homes in communities based on population.

"I checked into the rules, and found no restrictions on the amount of group homes that can be in a community," said Dunaskis, who doesn't expect action on his bill until after the first of the year.

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## people

has won more than 15 decoy duck contests, including three best of shows in Michigan, a national competition in New York and a world competition in Maryland.

A decoy duck that might take up to 300 hours to craft is judged "on realism to a live duck," Hayden said.

During competition, decoys are placed in a water tank and judged on both their buoyancy and resemblance to real ducks, Hayden said. Character and likeness are more important than detail, he added.

Decoy duck carving is "one of the only true forms of American folk art," Hayden said. The only other American innovation is jazz music, he added.

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## End of term

## Williams reflects on years as councilman

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

For the first time in four years, Charles Williams was speaking from the podium in front of the half-moon-shaped table, where he and other Farmington Hills City Council members spend at least three Monday nights a month.

"It was strange this weekend not receiving the usual packet," said Williams, referring to reports that council members receive prior to each council meeting from the city manager.

Fourth-place election victor Terry Sever took Williams' place Monday following swearing-in ceremonies at the start of the regular city council meeting.

Incumbents Jan Dolan, Jody Soronen and Ben Marks were also sworn in by City Clerk Joan Reynolds as they began four-year terms. Sever was elected Nov. 5 to a two-year term.

In the past, outgoing council members would continue to serve until Jan. 1 when the newly elected members would take office. But voters last week approved Proposition A, allowing newly elected members to take office immediately following the election's certification. The amendment eliminates lame-duck council members.



Outgoing councilman Charles Williams delivers his farewell comments during Monday night's city council meeting.

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