



# 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 typewritten note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

**SHARING** the work. Farmington Mayor William Hartsock recently made the following council committee appointments: Arnold Campbell, planning commission; Alton Bennett, board of zoning appeals and election commission; Richard Tupper, committee to review deferred special assessments and delegate to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; Ralph Yoder, committee to review deferred special assessments and delegate to the Oakland County Regional Systems Planning Committee.

**MATH** whizzes. Three Detroit Country Day School students from Farmington Hills scored in the top 5 percent of 25,000 high school students who took Part I of the annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Scott Clarke, Dan Horvath and Fazlur Zakariullah will be among those taking Part II to determine the state's top 100 math students, half of whom will receive college scholarships. The competition is sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

**KUDOS** are in order. Both Marshall Muller and Douglas Siedinski of Farmington Hills earned bachelor's degrees from Michigan Technological University, Houghton. Muller majored in chemistry, Siedinski in mechanical engineering.

**SHE'S** a degree winner. Nancy Gottschalk of Farmington Hills has earned a master's degree in industrial and labor relations with high honors from Wayne State University, Detroit.

The Western Michigan University graduate is a labor specialist for the Labor Council Michigan Fraternal Order of Police.

**OVERSEAS** studies. Senior Robert Wood of Farmington Hills is visiting the West Indies as part of the off-campus studies program at Albion College, Albion. He's majoring in biology.

**THEY'RE** student interns. Three students on Oakland University's Rochester Hills campus from Farmington Hills are working this semester in the Oakland County/Oakland University student intern program.

They are: Steve Villet, Pontiac Job Placement Office; Carol Aljourny, Oakland County Insurance and Safety Department; and Mary Nowacki, Oakland County Circuit Court.

**FOOTNOTES:** The West Farmington Cemetery, at 12 Mile and Haledale, originally was known as the Baptist Burying Ground and was associated with the Baptist Church. The Rev. Nehemiah Lamb organized the burying ground in 1835, 11 years years after Farmington's founding. About 50 graves were transferred here from a plot at Haledale and Howard dating from 1823.

"When a Baptist Church was organized in the village of Farmington, the West Farmington Church lost members, and finally was dissolved in 1823. Neighborhood 'Willing Workers' kept up the cemetery until 1878. The city of Farmington Hills now maintains it," according to a Farmington Hills historical marker that stands at the site.

## Hills' tap water is safe — city

**'The results came in Monday morning. There was no mercury found in the water.'**

— Thomas Blasell  
director, Hills  
public services

By Casey Hans and  
Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writers

Farmington Hills' tap water has been declared safe by state and local officials, following two recent reports of liquid mercury leaks into the water system on 14 Mile Road.

An Oakland County health official said the type of mercury used in water meters is not a health hazard unless fumes are breathed, and was at one

time used for medicinal purposes.

One leak was discovered by Oakland County Department of Public Works employees in a water-main pressure reduction valve in an underground pit. In another pit at a second location, employees of Detroit's Water and Sewerage Department found mercury on the floor.

Detroit supplies water to Farmington Hills. Because Farmington Hills does not have a water and sewerage department, Oakland County acts as

the suburb's water distribution agent and provides system maintenance. Underground meters measure how much water Farmington Hills is using.

To alleviate future meter problems, City of Detroit officials are suggesting replacement of mercury-type water meters. "We will probably replace all the mercury meters and correct any other flaws we see out there," said Charlie Williams, director of Detroit's Water and Sewerage Department.

**CHANGING NINE** of 11 mercury-type water meters in Farmington Hills would help alleviate Hills' officials' concern about the continued use of mercury.

In a letter to Detroit officials, Thomas Blasell, director of Farmington Hills' public services department, expressed concern about the continued use of mercury in the city's meters.

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## Saving lives — that is the aim

### people

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Francine Green considers herself headstrong, willful and determined. The North Farmington senior wasn't always that way.

Beginning as a quiet Forest Elementary student, she matured to lead a teen-age movement and her school's chapter of Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD).

"We have the power to help ourselves," the 17-year-old said, stressing the "driving" in her group's name — not the "drinking."

"We're not against drinking," Green said of the group, which has been chastised more than accepted by fellow students.

"Drinking is a personal choice," she said, adding she drinks an occasional beer herself. "But when you drive drunk, it moves out of that personal realm and into the community. When you drive drunk, you challenge death."

A **TURNING** point came at the beginning of Green's junior year, when she started the SADD chapter



North Farmington High School chapter president Francine Green (center) confers with fellow SADD members Duane Adler (left) and Jennifer Smith.

**'Drinking is a personal choice. But when you drive drunk, it moves out of that personal realm and into the community. When you drive drunk, you challenge death.'**

— Francine Green,  
North Farmington senior

despite negative peer pressure. "I asked for school administration's support, not their permission," she added.

Because of the negative student response, "It was about the hardest thing I've done in my entire life." Seven to 10 students are the power behind North Farmington's program. "We've gained a lot of respect," she said of the cause encompassing her life.

Growing up, she took a "headstrong" attitude, turning off the negatives determined to make good her goal of "caring for her fellow student."

Green has never lost a family member or close friend in a drunk driving accident. Her cause is one of simple caring.

"I don't want to die. I don't want you or anybody else to die. Everyone knows me and associates me with SADD, and I want them to be proud of that," she said.

SADD was founded nationally in 1981 and boasts 200 Michigan chapters. A "contract for life" is signed by student and parent, both agreeing not to drive drunk and to provide transportation, without ques-

tion, in a drinking situation if it is needed.

The group recognizes that young people do drink, which Green said is sometimes hard for a parent to accept.

This month, Green was given a Farmington Optimist Club award recognizing her SADD promotional efforts. The Optimists provide moral and financial support to the local SADD effort, according to president Robert Reed. "It is our intent to continue following the program," he said.

Green's high school years have been filled with other school activities including cross country, choir, work as a football statistician, as well as a part-time job.

She awaits word of her future from Kalamazoo College, where she hopes to attend school in the fall.

**MOVING FROM** high school into her future, she said the SADD motto is one she will follow: "If you dream it, it can be done."

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## Smoking limits pursued

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

State Sen. Jack Faxon (D-Farmington Hills) believes legislation limiting the rights of smokers in public and work places statewide has a "good chance" of passing in 1986.

Meanwhile, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce continues to oppose "the legislation of private business." If Faxon's beliefs prove correct, legislative approval will end 20 years of failed smoking-related proposal attempts for the J. Faxon senator.

In 1965, Faxon introduced a health education bill proposing students be "instructed on the effect of smoke on their bodies." The bill came within one vote of passing, he said.

Senate Bill 198, introduced by Faxon, is scheduled for committee hearings in early 1986, following recent national efforts to ban cigars, ads, state-level efforts proposing a tax on all tobacco products and passage last week of an East Lansing city ordinance strictly controlling smoking in public buildings.

**THE MEASURE** is opposed by the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce because of an "aversion to costliness and business repercussions," Faxon said. In eight states where similar measures have passed, no reduction in tobacco product sales has been measured, Faxon said.

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## Zeroing in

### Plan's focus: improve 12 Mile corridor

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

After more than a year in the making, a preliminary plan for major improvements along 12 Mile Road — one

of metro Detroit's hottest office corridors — has been unveiled.

The plan documents potential office development along the corridor and a growing need for improvements on the roadway to alleviate current traffic

congestion and accommodate expected traffic growth.

Presented Saturday to the Farmington Hills City Council, planning commissioners, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Farmington

Public Schools officials, the preliminary plan documents major improvements along 12 Mile and I-696.

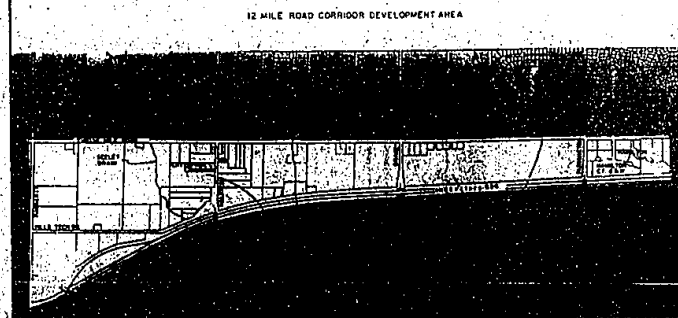
The improvement projects listed in the 12 Mile study plan serve as a foundation for the city's proposed creation of a Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) along the corridor.

Touting 12 Mile as "a unique and quickly developing area of the prime metropolitan Detroit real estate market," the need for major improvements is a fact of life if the corridor is expected to be developed to its potential, according to the preliminary plan.

**EVEN THOUGH** 12 Mile is an Oakland County road, "right now, there are no construction improvements planned by the county," city manager William Costick said.

Rather than wait for county and state officials to recognize and act on the urgent need for improvements, city officials more than a year ago decided to develop an independent plan, complete with cost estimates, that could be implemented with the help of a TIFA plan — a financing scheme available to municipalities to make capital improvements.

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This is an outline of Farmington Hills' proposed Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) plan.

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