



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 35203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

STUDENT scholar

Farmington Mercy High School senior Sangeeta Gandhi is one of 12 finalists in the U.S. Senate youth scholarship competition. Selections were based on academic achievement, leadership ability, articulation and community involvement. Two delegates will be chosen to represent Michigan in Washington, D.C. They will receive an expense-paid trip and a \$2,000 college scholarship.

MAKING music

Paul Marquis of Farmington Hills was tenor soloist in the Marygrove Choral's version of Handel's "Messiah," performed Dec. 4 in St. John Episcopal Church, Detroit. The senior is majoring in music on Marygrove's Detroit campus.

HE'S honored

Barfield of Farmington Hills was one of seven Birmingham Brother Rice High School students finishing in the top 5 percent of 21,000 Michigan high school students who took Part I of the 29th annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. The 1,000 finalists will compete for about 500 college scholarships.

JUNIOR Kris Witte

Farmington Hills is spending the fall semester working as an intern in the General Motors Parts Division in Detroit as part of the liberal arts program in professional management at Albion College, Albion. She's majoring in business and German.

IN THE spotlight

Lawrence Barfield of Farmington Hills presented a scientific paper at the American Osteopathic Association's annual convention. Barfield's paper, entitled "Vasculitis," was presented at the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology seminar in Atlanta.

AT THE helm

Bill Gravits of Farmington Hills was appointed news director of the "News Central" cable TV program at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. The senior is majoring in broadcast communications and the cinematic arts.

KUDOS are in order

Three seniors from Farmington Hills earned diplomas at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Dec. 8.

Patricia Parillo received a master's degree in science and engineering. Maryjane Parillo Van Nieuwen was awarded a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance. Lauren Parillo Johnson gained a bachelor's degree in international studies with a double major in business and Spanish.

SHE'S elected

Sharon Scott of Farmington Hills was elected Pi Tau Phi, the national engineering honor society at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The senior is majoring in industrial engineering.

FOOTNOTES: The city of

Farmington's boundaries have changed through the years as a result of annexations of land to the west, south and east. The northern boundary along 10 Mile, however, hasn't changed. Farmington incorporated as a village in 1907 and as a home-rule city in 1923.



The gazebo-housed Christmas tree was lit in a public ceremony Dec. 8.

Jaycees host yule-tree lighting

A community sing-along highlighted the Farmington Area Jaycees' holiday tree-lighting ceremony Sunday, Dec. 8, at the gazebo beside the Farmington Historical Museum on Grand River.

Farmington Mayor William Hartsock helped light the tree, donated by Farmer Jack in the new Crossroads shopping center at 9 Mile and Farmington Road. The tree was originally at the shopping center, but blew over in a windstorm. It was headed for firewood before the Jaycees welcomed it as their holiday tree.

The tree-lighting ceremony was made possible through donations of money or services from many area businesses.

AMONG THOSE who participated in the ceremony were the North Farmington Twilight Tones and the Northern Lights Choral Groups, under Linda Corns' direction. Others were the band members of Harrison, Farmington and North Farmington High Schools, who participated in the caroling.

Girl Scout Troop No. 3167 from Power Middle School, under Eunice Podscadlik's leadership, assisted with the distribution of programs and refreshments.

"Downtown Farmington is especially beautiful this year. The white lights in store windows and trees add so much to creating a holiday atmosphere in the city. It is wonder-

ful to see and feel the enthusiasm expressed by the downtown merchants and community as a whole," said Rena Swanson, chairwoman of the 1985 holiday tree lighting ceremony.

THE WOODEN octagonal gazebo, dedicated in September, was fashioned after the Victorian Warner Mansion that houses the 5-year-old museum.

The gazebo was three years in the making as the pet project of two museum committee members, Margaret Walker and Kay Blackeney, who coordinated the required fundraising.

A better I-696 is proposed

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials are recommending widening I-696 to six lanes and the addition of three new interchanges — two in Farmington Hills and one in Southfield.

Announcement of proposed I-696 improvements came Thursday morning by Robert Adams, MDOT deputy director of transportation planning.

Adams made his announcement before 40 area developers, corporate representatives, Farmington Hills and Novi city officials and representatives of homeowner associations, who met in the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. building to briefly review the city's preliminary 12 Mile master traffic plan.

Only one business representative — Jervis H. Webb — publicly opposed some of the city's plans, based on estimated costs and the amount of land needed to accommodate improvements.

Adams' announcement confirmed what city officials had assumed would be MDOT's recommended improvements and had backed on in developing the city's preliminary 12 Mile master traffic plan.

BUT MDOT's recommendations were not accompanied with cost estimates. "I don't know at what point they will give us cost estimates," said Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick. MDOT has not yet prepared a final report of I-696 improvements.

Despite the lack of cost estimates, Adams briefly discussed financing of proposed improvements. "A lot of things will influence that," Adams said. A reauthorization of the Federal Highway Act — a trust fund financed by user fees that currently generates about \$12-13 billion — is needed.

But a wrench could be thrown into that avenue of financing by legislation passed last week by Congress requiring a balanced federal budget by 1991. The question will be whether user fees will continue to finance highway improvements or will be diverted to other areas to balance the budget, Adams said.

Despite Adams' lack of specifics on

"... the decision (involving I-696 improvements) will be made in Washington."
— Robert Adams, state highway official

cost estimates and financing schemes, he asked for continued local cooperation and support, particularly in looking to Washington for funding and approval for additional highway access. "I think we won't have any problem with that. But the decision will be made in Washington," he added.

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City EDC beefs up tax base

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

With only 8-10,000 acres of undeveloped commercial land available in the city, Farmington Hills Economic Development Corp. (EDC) members are searching for the most capital-intensive businesses they can to maintain the city's tax base.

"We are really growing up fast, and there is really not a lot of land left," said EDC Chairman Robert McConnell. Members are "making a select, discreet mailing" to the top 500 companies in the United States encouraging business leaders to consider Farmington Hills as a home for their companies.

"We are now at the stage where we have to be selective," McConnell told the Farmington Hills City Council last week during a presentation of the

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Earmarked for fitness Farmington Y nears its fund-raising goal

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Nearing the end of a major capital improvement campaign, the Farmington YMCA has reached 85 percent of its \$400,000 goal, according to executive director Kevin Bush.

Bush projects that 100 percent of the goal will be reached within 15 days. A total of \$385,650 was pledged, with 55 percent attributed to local business contributions. Capital improvements will create a "state-of-the-art fitness center for the community," Bush said.

Major contributions were received from Manufacturers Hanover Mortgage Corp. and Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, both in Farmington Hills, he said.

Enough money has been received to allow the late November purchase of property adjacent to the facility on Farmington Road north of 12 Mile, Bush said. Two parcels totaling 1.5 acres were purchased for Phase II of the facility's capital project. A total of \$118,000 was budgeted for this purchase.

THE YMCA has a five-year mortgage on a brick house that sits on one parcel. Bush said the house will most

The YMCA plans to work with the Farmington Public Schools to provide 'non-mandated leisure activities for handicapped students.'

— Kevin Bush, executive director Farmington Y



likely be rented out as a revenue-generator for several years until the plan completion phase. The second parcel holds a garage that will probably be demolished. Both parcels will be developed for additional parking, allowing expansion of the present facility.

The YMCA capital campaign was launched throughout metro Detroit last April with 131 business community volunteers. "We picked up momentum the

past two months," Bush said. Area-wide, the YMCA is seeking \$1.55 million for its facilities, including Farmington. In a reciprocal agreement with the United Foundation — one of the YMCA's funding sources — the YMCA did not solicit heavily during fall months, the main campaign time for the United Foundation, Bush said. Plans include hiring an architect in early 1986 to begin plans for the Farm-

ington Y's capital improvements. A series of room additions are planned, including community meeting rooms and an activity room for sport skill instruction and aerobic activities, Bush said.

Expansion is also planned for youth, aged and handicapped programs. The YMCA plans to work with the Farmington Public Schools to provide "non-mandated leisure activities for handicapped students," Bush added.

LONG-RANGE PLANS call for beautification of the newly acquired parcels along Farmington Road.

The largest addition planned is a 1,600-square-foot Health Enhancement Center, offering the latest in weight-training exercise equipment and personal fitness planning, according to a campaign statement of purpose.

The Farmington Area YMCA was officially chartered in 1893 at the request of former school superintendent and current YMCA chairman Marjorie Van Amedy. The first headquarters was in a farmhouse at the corner of Drake and Grand River.

Phase I of the capital improvement campaign in 1978 was used to build the current facility, Bush said. Phase II was started because of "tremendous growth" in membership.

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