



# Farmington Observer

Volume 97 Number 35

Thursday, February 6, 1986

Farmington, Michigan

68 Pages

Twenty-five cents

## 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.

CONDOS in Florida, South Carolina and Colorado. A mink jacket and a microwave oven.

These are some of the items to be auctioned at Farmington Hills Mercy High's Auction '86 Saturday, Feb. 15.

An international table will feature donations from Mercy alumnae around the world.

Proceeds will help pay for the school's new roof. Sportscenter Steve Caragola of WXYZ-TV will be master of ceremonies. The Mercyairens will provide entertainment.

Auction chairwomen are Cathy Seydel of West Bloomfield Township and Pat Young of Livonia.

Mercy parents have sponsored pre-auction parties and students helped film a promotional video.

**WATCH** that speedometer. Farmington City Council has authorized Department of Public Safety Director Frank Lauhoff to purchase five electronic radar units under the state purchase contract that expires Feb. 15.

Four of the five will replace 9-year-old units beginning to experience maintenance problems, Lauhoff said. The total purchase price is \$5,697.

The courts accept officer testimony as to radar results as acceptable evidence in proving violations of speeding laws. It is essential that police agencies maintain records of the highest quality and reliability so that this evidence continues to be acceptable," City Manager Robert Deadman said.

**LOCAL** business folks can trade business cards and meet other chamber members at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce mixer 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20, in the Quality Inn, 31525 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Display tables are available to chamber members to display their wares. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. The cost is \$5 per person. Call the chamber for reservations, 474-3440.

**ON stage.** Kris Williams from Farmington Hills was selected to be part of the 98-member Michigan Intercollegiate Honors Band that will perform a concert Saturday at Albion College.

The junior plays the oboe.

**SHE'S** re-elected. Farmington Hills Historical Commission member Jean Fox was re-elected vice chairman of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

She was commission secretary in 1983 and 1984.

**COMPUTER** talk. Farmington Hills will enter into an agreement with Creative Ideas, a computer consulting firm, to develop a five-year strategy plan for continued computerization of city departments.

The plan will cost \$6,500.

**FOOTNOTES:** During the U.S. bicentennial year of 1976, Michigan was awarding certificates to any family which could show continuous residence within the state during the past 100 years.

Ninety of these certificates were awarded in Farmington Hills, wrote Jean Fox in the introduction of the 1978 Farmington Hills Historical Commission publication, "Farmington's Centennial Families."

## Farmington: a step closer to local DDA

For a related editorial comment, see Page 18A.

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Taking the lead from consultant Christopher Wzacny and area residents, the Farmington City Council introduced an ordinance Monday authorizing formation of a Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

The unanimous vote followed the Birmingham consultant's presentation highlighting a recently completed 10-month study. It also followed questions and comments from more than 40 residents and business leaders during a

public hearing. The hearing is a necessary step in forming a DDA.

Mayor William Harisock voiced his support, calling the DDA "a catalyst that will spearhead improvements" in the downtown area. "It is not the end-all or be-all," he cautioned. "It needs the input of merchants and residents to be sure we're moving ahead."

Council is expected to consider the DDA ordinance Monday, Feb. 17, having already passed a resolution, unanimously, in support of its formation.

"I have been concerned," mayor pro-tem Alton Bennett told the group. "We (council) give up certain kinds of rights and authority, and we retain some powers (with a DDA). You can be sure we will be doing more reviewing during the next two weeks."

WZACNY CALLED the DDA a way to "maintain a position of strength" for the downtown area. It is a necessary measure to revitalize in downtown Farmington, he added.

Public Act 197, enacted in 1975, allows a city to establish a DDA with autonomous decision-making powers. Its intent is to prevent physical deterioration, promote economic growth, increase property values, bolster the commercial tax base and strengthen ties between merchants.

Although a DDA has continuing responsibility to city council, it holds powers to own, buy, sell, lease and accept property. It also has budget management authority although its budget requires city council approval.

The Farmington DDA ordinance proposes an eight-member board, plus the



Mayor Harisock

## State of the state revisited

By Joanne Mallisowski  
staff writer

State Rep. Wilbur (Sandy) Brotherton of Farmington and state Sen. Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills have opposing opinions about Gov. Blanchard's proposed random sobriety checkpoints.

Yet both lawmakers also offered similar comments about the governor's 70-minute state-of-the-state address Jan. 30.

"I found that it was the best speech he had ever made," said Brotherton, a six-term Republican representative. "I would give him good grades. I thought he bent over backwards to recognize the contribution of the (state) Legislature."

Faxon echoed Brotherton's sentiments.

"He loves to repeat words, so I think his speech was thank you, thank you, thank you," said Faxon, a 22-year Democratic veteran of the Legislature.

Both Faxon and Brotherton appeared delighted that Blanchard acknowledged a cooperative effort between his office, the state Legislature and business in working to improve the state's economy.

"This could not have happened by executive fiat," Faxon said. "He (Blanchard) feels a lot of thanks goes to those of us who helped to make Michigan the number-one growing state."

DESPITE HIS agreement with both Faxon and Blanchard's assessment of the state's improved economy, Brotherton said he was surprised the governor omitted a couple of important items from his annual address.

"He failed to mention two very important and controversial issues, both relating to insurance," Brotherton said. The issues are the Essential Insurance Act, which involves auto insurance, and tort liability — medical malpractice and municipal liability, for example.

"We were sort of waiting for the governor to see what role he was going to play," Brotherton said.

Blanchard outlined his proposal to continue the fight against drunk driving last week in his fourth annual state-of-the-state message. The governor's proposal would be instituted by executive order.

"I have some real problems about that," Faxon said. "To subject people to this is to whittle away from some of our very basic safeguards."

"Traditionally, I don't encourage the enlargement of police powers, to begin with, to trespass on the rights of free people in our society."

BROTHERTON LOOKS at Blanchard's proposal in a different light. "I don't visualize it as a lot of people do. It's not so much to catch people. But it's a way to make people aware."

The Republican lawmaker said he

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photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

ABOVE: "I think I could come back (from space) and use the words to make others feel they have been there too," said Harrison High teacher Laura Sparrow. AT RIGHT: "Private citizens should go (into space) because there is going to be some form of future travel," said Harrison 10th-grader Tony Moschini.



## Future lies in space — teens

By Joanne Mallisowski  
staff writer

Farmington Harrison High School 10th grader Aaron Friedman wants to travel into space, "just to see what it's like."

Classmate Brian Riggs hopes the recent space shuttle explosion that killed the seven-member Challenger crew — including New Hampshire high school teacher Christa McAuliffe — won't put a damper on space exploration.

"They had the guts to put them up there. Why stop now?" Riggs asked.

Tony Moschini imagines that one day his grandchildren will live in space.

But 10th grader Ray Snyder would like the space exploration stopped. "I don't think they should go up in space because they can't do anything up there, anyway. If we were meant to go we would be able to breathe up there."

Fourteen Harrison 10th graders — students of Laura Sparrow, one of three Farmington Public Schools teachers who had hoped to be chosen as the first Teacher in Space participant — discussed their feelings and opinions this week about the recent shuttle tragedy and the future of space exploration.

THE DISTRICT's science consultant, Kathy McAdaragh, and Marie Poria, a Power Middle School teacher, also made their bid for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Teacher in Space program.

Sparrow — who received a personal letter from her 10th grade English class shortly after last week's shuttle tragedy — was one of

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## Officer of the Year

### No 2 days alike for Hills police sergeant



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Sgt. Charles Nebus joined the Farmington Hills Police Department in 1974 as a police cadet.

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

For Charles Nebus, becoming a cop fulfilled a boyhood dream.

"I was drawn by the challenge and excitement," said Nebus, 30, the Farmington Hills Police Department's Officer of the Year for 1985 and recipient of several departmental merit citations and commendation letters.

His career aspirations were solidified while a student at Westland John Glenn High School, where he became a police explorer through the Garden City Police Department.

"We had training classes and went out with officers on details and park patrols," he said.

## people

Nebus grew up in Detroit before moving to Westland. Joining the Farmington Hills Police Department in 1974 as a police cadet, he has risen to the rank of sergeant, in charge of the youth and crime prevention sections.

THE DEPARTMENT has more than met his expectations. "I've truly enjoyed it," he said.

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