

Michigan seniors
vie for the gold, 1B



O&E golf
title, 1D

YMCA plans new
fitness center, 4A

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.

NOMINEES sought

Nominations are open for the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Citizen of Year for 1986.

Nominees must have given outstanding service to the Farmington area during the past year or over several years either as a volunteer or in connection with their business. They need not be local residents.

"Do not hesitate to resubmit a name of a worthy individual who was nominated but not selected in a previous year," said Russ Tuttle, award committee chairman.

Call the chamber office for nomination forms, 474-3440. Nominations are due Oct. 1.

MOVING along

Plans are progressing to help build an alliance between the local school and business communities.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Farmington Public Schools are developing a partnerships committee to develop programs to benefit "our young people," said John Handley, outgoing chamber president.

Handley sees the committee surveying educators about students headed toward the working world.

"I see us asking the schools, 'What can we do for you? These are some of our resources.' Or, 'We're not getting students from your district who can do this or that. This is what we need.'"

MAKING friends

Tony Loacano of Farmington Hills will appear in a film with TV-2 anchorman George Sells during the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, to be aired Aug. 31 through Sept. 1 on WJBK-TV2.

The film, shot at the Muscular Dystrophy Summer Camp near Lexington, features Tony and other Detroit-area campers who benefit from telethon pledges.

Pledges benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, of which Lewis is national chairman.

HIE'S the new vice chair. Sheikh Saeed of Farmington was elected vice chairman of the American Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Chapter board of directors.

He is division head of hematopathology and Blood Bank director at Henry Ford Hospital. He has been associated with the Red Cross chapter for 20 years.

Saeed has been an assistant professor of pathology and hematopathology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and associate clinical professor of pathology at the University of Michigan Medical School.

TIFA is part of DDA plans

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington's Downtown Development Authority will seek a multi-year tax increment financing plan, a \$400,000 loan from the city's general fund and an additional 2 mills to begin revitalizing the downtown area.

The DDA board unanimously approved these provisions and a seven-

phase preliminary plan presented Tuesday morning by city planner Christopher Wzany. He said it would take five years to complete physical changes and an additional two years to pay for the project, estimated to cost just under \$1 million.

"I would support . . . making a major statement and impact," DDA board member Richard Donner said. "It makes sense to me."

City hall lighting to be improved: 2A

The group will present plans to the city council sometime in September and hopes to have the TIFA in place by the end of 1986 so work could start as early as next spring, according to Farmington administrative assistant Robert Schultz.

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BEFORE A TIFA can be implemented, a public hearing must be held and the DDA board must garner support from the Farmington school board and other taxing authorities.

City Manager and DDA board member Robert Deadman said the board remains unsure of the commu-

nity reaction to a proposed TIFA.

"I think we're going forward with the thought that other units will be sympathetic to the central business district," he said. "This is the kind of program TIFA was envisioned to solve. We'll have to throw it out there and see what the response is."

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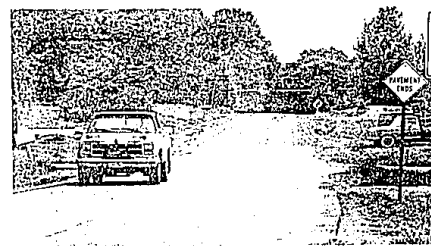


Learning and playing

AT LEFT: Child care aide Christine Gregory (left) works and plays with Matthew Smith, a child of a Botaford General Hospital employee, at the newly opened child care center on the hospital grounds in Farmington Hills. The center opened in early June and cares for 38 children each weekday while parents work at the hospital nearby. For a closeup look at corporate child care and the Botaford facility, see Page 3A.

RANDY DONST/staff photographer

Hills residents identify top road needs



file photo

This is a view of Drake Road, between 11 and 12 Mile, looking north. The picture was taken from just north of 11 Mile. This stretch of Drake was identified in a recent survey of city residents as requiring much-needed improvement. The roads identified in the survey, as well as additional roadways and intersections suggested for improvement, are being evaluated by city staff for inclusion in the city's road improvement program. Future improvements are to be spread citywide.

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

Farmington Hills residents and city administrators for the most part agree on which roads offer the biggest problems and the greatest need for improvement.

Results of a survey conducted in mid-July show that residents consider 13 and 14 Mile roads, Drake Road and the M-108/Grand River intersection in need of improvement.

"Many of the projects we had already indicated were a priority to the administration came out very high on the survey," Assistant City Manager David Call said. "It supported our feelings and indicated there are also some other concerns in the city."

Of the 27,000 road surveys mailed to Farmington Hills households in mid-July, 3,666 (14 percent) were completed and returned, with responses from each of the city's 27 sections.

"We had responses from every area of the city. We had very good

'Many of the projects we had already indicated were a priority . . . came out very high on the survey.'

— David Call
assistant city manager

coverage, which was important to us because we didn't want to respond only to parochial needs," Call said.

THE SURVEY'S purpose was to assess residents' opinions about the condition of the city's roads and to determine voters' awareness of the city's three-year major road improvement program and accompanying general obligation bond issue that will be on the ballot Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Residents were asked which major roads and intersections they

avoid when driving and which roads need improving. They were also asked for comments on any other problems involving the city's road system such as signs, traffic lights and congestion.

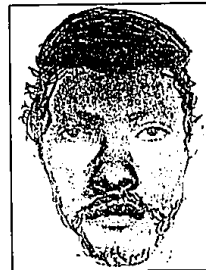
"We wanted to make sure we were accurate in our assessment of road needs," Call said. "We'll use this to

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This is a composite drawing of one of the West Brandon thieves.

had short, black Afro-style hair. The other had a partial beard and mustache.

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Two men armed with a gun tied up a couple in their West Brandon house Sunday night and left with a VCR, a wedding ring and cash valued at \$1,100, Farmington Hills Police said.

Neither victim was injured. The bandits, thought to be in their 20s, told the victims they had cocaine addiction problems, Detective David Lee said.

Lee believes the robbers planned to fence the VCR and wedding ring. "They'll sell the VCR for maybe \$100 and the wedding ring for what the gold was worth, maybe a couple of hundred dollars," he said.

According to the police report: At 9:45 p.m. Sunday, the couple heard a knock on the front door. When the husband went to answer the knock, he was met in the living

room by a man with a handgun. The man apparently entered through an unlocked door.

After the couple was ordered to lie on the floor, the bandits tore the telephone cord from the wall and asked about valuables. The couple was told they wouldn't be injured if they cooperated.

After handing over a wedding ring and cash, the couple was led to a basement closet, where their hands and feet were bound with extension cords and bathrobe belts. The bandits then pushed furniture against the closet.

Returning upstairs, the bandits ransacked the house, apparently using trash bags to carry valuables.

TWO YOUNG people told Lee they saw a tan, full-sized, older-model car parked in front of a house on North Brandon about 10 p.m.

"They said that at about 10:30 p.m. they saw two guys, each carrying a sack, walk from the direction of West Brandon toward the car," Lee said.

"The car, with its lights on, then backed down the street to Tredwell, where it headed north to Nine Mile, now with its lights on."

Farmington Hills has had few such residential robberies, which have become commonplace in some nearby cities.

"It's kind of a new trend," Sgt. Charles Nebus said.

"We haven't gotten any information about the theft that this robbery is related to any of the ones in other cities," Lee said.

The Farmington Hills thieves were described as black, in their late 20s, 5-10 and 160 pounds, each with a thin to medium build. One



SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE