

Murdered girl had Farmington ties, 2A



On the beam, 1B

'Piano Lady' takes back the title, 5B

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Farmington FOCUS

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EXPECT sidewalks along Grand River and Farmington Road in downtown Farmington to be torn up this summer.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will seek a city loan with a \$450,000 cap as upgrading of the central business district can begin.

Preliminary plans for this construction season call for new pedestrian lighting, new trees and new patterned walkways with brick highlights. Detroit Edison will install new street lighting at the same time.

"We expect a lot of concern when we begin to tear things up. But when it's all done, hopefully it'll be a real improvement," City Manager Robert Deadman said.

The DDA board decided last week to ask the city council for the loan at the council's next meeting, Monday, Jan. 19. If the loan is approved, the DDA board will be allowed to draw from the balance to \$50,000 increments. The loan would be paid back through future tax increment financing revenue.

PLANS are taking shape as the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce prepares to hold a drawing where the top prize is a new Chevrolet Corvette.

Proceeds will help defray expenses for the Farmington Founders Festival.

To help improve the odds of winning, only 750 tickets will be sold. Each ticket will cost \$100. Tickets are expected to go on sale later this winter. The intent is to prevent having to tap chamber revenue to subsidize the annual summertime festival.

Corporate sponsors also are sought for the festival's three major events — the parade, the fireworks and the showmobile. Botsford General Hospital will sponsor the 1987 parade.

SIMILAR to the largely successful Neighborhood Watches in many Farmington-area neighborhoods, Business Watches are being organized in downtown Farmington and other parts of the city.

Farmington Department of Public Safety Commander Charles Lee described the Business Watch program to the Downtown Farmington Business Association.

"Businesses will be classified as to type and further information about how each business is to react to suspicious persons or actual crime will be forthcoming," according to minutes from the association's Dec. 3 meeting.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-3313; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Calling a Downtown Development Authority "a positive link," city planner Christopher Wasany said a Farmington DDA would be "the best way to capitalize on opportunities and to support the downtown."

Soviet visit tugged at nun

By Casey Hens
staff writer

A Catholic nun who was part of a recent Soviet delegation said she cried every day during her trip and had personal conflict about "human" aspects of the Communist country.

Sister Carol Rittner, a member of the Farmington Hills-based Sisters of Mercy, talked about her experiences last October in Moscow. She traveled with several others, including Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace laureate and chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

"The trip was extraordinarily conflicting for me," she said. "Emotionally, I was pulled apart."

"I learned that one should always read history from the eyes of the victims — those who are suffering the most. The Jews in the Soviet Union are suffering the most. They have no voice."

SHE MADE her comments Thursday before the quarterly delegate assembly meeting of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills.

Rittner is a specialist in Holocaust studies and Christian-Jewish relations and is directing an international conference in February on the non-Jewish victims of the Nazi regime.

The mixed religion delegation, headed by Wiesel, went to the Soviet Union to invite officials and historians to be a part of the conference, which will be held in Washington, D.C.

They also met with others, including some Auschwitz survivors and a group of divided spouses, those who are being denied exit papers to be with their husbands or wives in other countries.

But perhaps the most moving part of the Moscow visit, Rittner said,

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RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Peter Baldwin has been a firefighter since 1972. Starting in Pittsfield Township, he joined the Farmington Hills Fire Department in 1979.

Community crackdown

Rowdy youths prompt forum

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Assaults with baseball bats, destroying property, bullying, shouting obscenities, smashing cars and car windows are some of the disruptive acts teenagers are accused of committing along Orchard Lake Road.

No one — parents, merchants, Farmington Hills police — is disputing a problem with teen rowdiness along the city's major retail corridor.

Beyond that consensus, however, parents, merchants and police dispute each others' description and extent of the problem and what's being done to solve it.

Some chalk up teen antagonism to cultural differences between Chaldean, Jewish and black teenagers. Others disagree, maintaining the problem is caused by a lot of wealthy, spoiled teenagers who have nothing better to do but harass others.

"It's ethnic. But it has nothing to do with religion. There is jealousy in the area between friends, the clothing they wear, the vehicles they drive," Police Chief William Dwyer said.

Kim Kain, manager of Tally Hall-Hunters Square — a favorite teen hangout where 40 juveniles and adults were ticketed in November for misdemeanor violations — has a similar opinion.

"You've got a real complex social problem here. You have a lot of different ethnic groups living in this area," she said. "You also have a lot of youths with a lot of money and expensive cars. They have a tremendous amount of idle time. Where do these parents think their kids are?"

CONNIE EFSTATHIOU, owner of the Ram's Horn Family Restaurant on Orchard Lake Road, south of 13 Mile, agrees. The Ram's Horn was the site of recent teen violence that prompted the latest barrage of media coverage.

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Connie Efsthliou, owner of the Ram's Horn on Orchard Lake Road — often where young people gather.

Heavy media coverage of problem leaves a rift

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

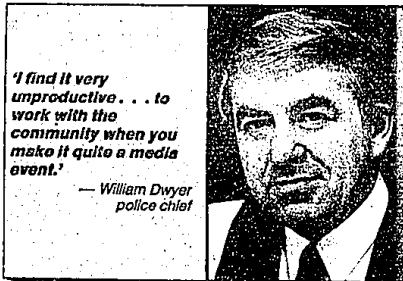
"A news media circus." That's what Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer calls the recent heavy media coverage of teen rowdiness and alleged violence along Orchard Lake Road.

Parents disagree. They defend their decision to draw attention to what they call teen gang violence along the city's major retail corridor.

Though some merchants have refused to comment on the growing teenage problem, others welcome the publicity, hoping attention will produce a solution to the destruction, disruption and violence that has allegedly occurred near and in their businesses.

The recent heavy media coverage began when parent Mary Ann Zarb contacted the police Jan. 6 after her teenage son was allegedly twice assaulted in the parking lot at the Ram's Horn Family Restaurant on Orchard Lake Road — first on New Year's Eve, then several days later.

Zarb and other concerned parents quickly formed Parents



'I find it very unproductive . . . to work with the community when you make it quite a media event.'

— William Dwyer
police chief

Against Violence. They scheduled a meeting between themselves, merchants and Farmington Hills police

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Deputy fire chief enjoys challenge

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

For Farmington Hills' new deputy fire chief, the enjoyment and the challenge are the lures to firefighting.

There aren't many challenges out there like fighting a fire," says Peter Baldwin, 34. "There's an immense amount of satisfaction in beating a natural element like fire."

Danger always lurks but you can't fear it if you're going to succeed. Says Baldwin, who moved from lieutenant to the newly created position of deputy chief Jan. 1. "With our level of training and experience, accidents that do occur are usually because of human error."

Unforeseen danger is most prevalent in a burning building where your vision is obscured. "But if we worried about being hurt or killed," Baldwin said, "it'd be hard to concentrate on doing our job properly."

Hazardous wastes and materials also present problems. "We're not totally prepared yet for our new responsibility — to mitigate the hazards associated with the processing and transportation of chemicals," Baldwin said.

TO MEET this new responsibility, the Farmington Hills Fire Department has organized a new Special Emergency Response Team. Dubbed

people

'There's an immense amount of satisfaction in beating a natural element like fire.'

— Peter Baldwin
Farmington Hills

SERT, it will undergo special training and be outfitted with special equipment.

"Eventually," Baldwin said, "it'll deal not only with hazardous materials, but also serve as a support team to the stations in situations where their expertise is required — like special rescues."

Baldwin first looked to firefighting as a career while a part-time firefighter in Pittsfield Township. He and his parents moved to the Ann Arbor suburb from Toronto when he was 4.

"I probably got some of my most valuable training during my years in Pittsfield Township," said Baldwin.

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