

Miss Farmington '91 is crowned, 1B



Baseball results, 1B

Why is Doug Ross back in town? 9A

# Farmington Observer

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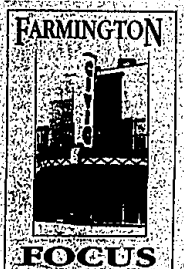
Thursday, July 18, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

72 Pages

Fifty Cents

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**ATTENTION**—all you folks who think the Farmington area is a bad place to live and work. Now you can wear your opinion on your upper torso.

The Farmington area is being celebrated in colorful T-shirts now available at \$10 each at the treasurer's office in Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, and at selected area businesses.

The white shirts have the words "Farmington Farmington Hills naturally!" surrounding the recently chosen symbol of the community. They are tan, oak tree, a key lily, a glass, a swallowtail butterfly and a cardinal.

Totebags with the Farmington logo are also available at \$8 each. The shirts and bags are also available at Backyard Birds on Mookey in Farmington, Wild Birds at 12 Mile and Farmington Road and at the Chamber of Commerce office on Grand River in Farmington Hills.

This (the T-shirt sale) was a way to gauge interest, which has been phenomenal," said Esther Frank, community relations specialist for the city. "We'll use the money to buy other things that will help us like posters, banners and coffee cups."

They'll all sing the praises of the Farmington area, of course.

**HEY, EARTHLINGS**... now there's a play named for you. And you can see it at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 18, at the Farmington Community Center's amphitheater. "Earthlings," a play about ecology, will be presented by the Community Center's Creative Drama Camp.

**LOOKING FOR** something to do outdoors Sunday evening, July 21? Consider a concert beginning at 6 p.m. at the Salvation Army facility, 37500 Skia wasace at Inkster Road, Farmington Hills. Rodney Bonfield, a Christian recording artist, will sing, and Gene Taylor, a radio talk show host, will speak.

Admission and parking are free. Concert-goers should bring blankets or folding chairs. "It's not a fund-raiser or anything," said a Salvation Army spokeswoman. "We just want to get people acquainted with our church."

**TAKE NOTE**, all you sixth graders through 12th graders who participated in the "Murder They Read" summer program at the Farmington Community Library. They're planning a "Mystery Party" for you.

It's no mystery where and when the party will be, though. It'll start at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 25, at the Farmington Hills Branch on 12 Mile east of Farmington Road.

Those who plan on attending should call the Hills Branch (585-0304) or the Farmington Branch (474-7770) as soon as possible.

**MEMORY LANE** — From the July 19, 1981, Farmington Enterprise.

• Curbs along Grand River were being replaced in preparation for the resurfacing of the highway from Farmington Road to the Detroit city limits.

• The Farmington City Council approved a resolution of intent to construct a sewage disposal plant by December 1993.



The Farmington Hills Police and VFW color guards stand at attention Saturday as Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson offers comments during a "Salute to the Troops — Operation Desert Storm" program for returning veterans and their families. Hold at the picnic shelter at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills, the afternoon event was co-sponsored by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. It also included the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Persian Gulf vets.

DAN LIPPITT/staff photographer

## Hometown welcome Cities salute Operation Desert Storm troops

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The tidal wave of patriotism sweeping the country hit the Farmington area Saturday, crushing any negative thought in its wake.

A program called "Salute to the Troops — Operation Desert Storm" was co-sponsored by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and welcomed home local troops from the Persian Gulf. It also praised everyone, past and present, who has fought to save our freedom.

"For veterans from all wars... thank you for a job well done," said Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson at the Saturday afternoon ceremony, held at Heritage Park in the Hills.

The ceremony — which included a

*"For veterans from all wars... thank you for a job well done."*

— Mayor Shirley Richardson

multitude of local dignitaries and lots of red, white and blue — included dedication of a special plaque in the park honoring Desert Storm personnel. It was one of the many events listed in this year's Founders Festival lineup.

"WE COME here today not to glorify war, but to honor those who helped bring it to an end," said Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, making note of those who

served, family and friends who gave their support and to those who gave their lives in the 6-month military effort.

Also praised by Vagnozzi were "those among us who protect our domestic tranquility — our police officers, firefighters, prison officials and others — far too many of whom have died in the line of duty."

More than 20 vets were either present, or had family members at the July 13 ceremony, to accept the



praise bestowed upon them including a state proclamation written on their behalf and single yellow roses as a welcoming gesture.

TRIBUTES FROM the White

Please turn to Page 2

## Residents win fight to close hospital gate

By Joanne Malliszewski  
staff writer

Oxford Street residents came armed with history.

"I don't know what you're trying to do to us on Oxford Street. What we want is what we were originally promised," said Massie Kurzeja, representing the Olde Town-Meadowbrook Heights Homeowners Association.

Armed with copies of stories from the old Farmington Enterprise, residents Monday attempted to show the Farmington Hills City Council that Botsford General Hospital was never given use of a driveway from the facility onto Oxford.

As of July 30, Botsford Hospital must permanently close the gate that has been used for emergency traffic — and other types of traffic, according to residents — with the start of a \$30 million construction project at the facility on Grand River north of Eight Mile.

Those comments were revealed during a pretrial examination before 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer in Farmington Tuesday afternoon.

"Don't talk like that," Nebus said he responded to Florian's emotional statement. "Killing is worse than stealing."

Florian, a 27-year-old former Marine, will be arraigned on first-degree murder and felony firearm

Under a temporary traffic order issued in May, right turns are prohibited onto Oxford through July. Residents had opposed continuation of the order because it allows the gate to be open.

"The motion [to close the gate] is not presented on the city having promised by writing in blood that the gate would not be used," said councilman Larry Lichtman.

HE SAID that the history of the Oxford gate "isn't necessarily relevant" to the council's decision. The hospital, however, had not provided enough information of why the gate must remain open for emergency vehicles.

But Kurzeja is skeptical of the permanence of the council's order to close the gate.

"We were told you cannot light big money. We are under the impression Botsford has us under the Ambassador Bridge syndrome," she said.

That's where a major facility,

*"I don't know what you're trying to do to us on Oxford Street. What we want is what we were originally promised."*

— Massie Kurzeja

Kurzeja said, makes life so difficult for nearby residents they eventually move out. "They [Botsford] have changed our way of life."

Kurzeja's skepticism comes from the city council's failure Monday to take a stand on whether Botsford in fact has no right whatsoever to use the gate for any reason.

Historically, the gate has been made available only for emergency fire trucks that can use the hydrant on Oxford, resident Bob Boyd said.

Hospital administrator Gerson Cooper Monday night referred to the hospital's two entrances as residents

shouted "you only have one entrance."

Since residents complained to the council about hospital traffic on Oxford June 24, the gate has been closed to exiting hospital traffic, Cooper said.

BUT IT has been kept open for entering emergency vehicles. Emergency traffic — both ambulances and private vehicles carrying emergency patients — also have been routed north around the hospital

Please turn to Page 6

## Cop testifies in murder exam

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Three hours before Raymond Joseph Florian's roommate was shot three times on July 3, Florian told Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills police: "I'm so mad at him that I could kill him."

Those comments were revealed during a pretrial examination before 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer in Farmington Tuesday afternoon.

"Don't talk like that," Nebus said he responded to Florian's emotional statement. "Killing is worse than stealing."

charges July 29 in Oakland County Circuit Court before Judge John O'Brien.

According to testimony at the district court exam, Florian sat distraught outside Nebus' office about 8:30 a.m. July 3, Nebus testified.

Florian was upset because he thought Daniel Magon, 40, his roommate of two months, who he met just a month earlier, had somehow bilked him out of \$25,000.

Magon told Florian that he would make him an employee in his company, Nebus said. Florian and Magon lived in an apartment at 44 of the Newport Creek Apartments, 34766 W. Eight Mile.

meeting in a McDonald's restaurant with a woman named Debbie Lee who wanted a similar bad experience of investing with Magon.

When Florian came to the police station, he wanted Magon arrested immediately, said Nebus, the key witness. At that time, Nebus said that police would investigate the matter immediately and act on any outstanding warrants.

"We told him if there were warrants, we would serve them in the afternoon," Nebus said. "He was upset and disappointed that there couldn't be an immediate arrest made. He seemed to be more interested in telling me what happened to the other people [who invested] be-

Please turn to Page 2

## Bigger court up to voters

### Councils seek 3rd judgeship

By Joanne Malliszewski  
and Casey Hans  
staff writers

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters will decide in November whether to approve a \$1.8 million expansion of the local 47th District Court to accommodate a third district judge.

Meanwhile, both city councils are requesting that the state legislature authorize a third judgeship for the local court which serves both cities. City and court officials are aiming for a new judge to begin Jan. 1, 1993, after a November 1992 election was held to elect that person.

"We are squashed," Chief District Judge Margaret Schaeffer told the Farmington City Council Monday. "We just can't continue to do it without another judge and more space."

Schaeffer and District Judge Frederick Harris both appeared before the respective city councils Monday continuing to plead the case they have made for the past year, saying that the 47th District Court is the third busiest in Oakland County and the 14th busiest in the state. According to court records, the case-load jumped from 22,399 in 1983 to 37,340 in 1990. Three part-time judges currently help the two judges handle the overflow.

ON NOV. 5 voters will consider a \$1.8 million, 20-year bond issue, which would cost about \$180,000 in debt millage per year to expand and renovate the local courthouse. A homeowner with a \$100,000 house with \$50,000 State Equalized Value would pay about \$3.45 per year in new taxes under the proposal. The tax rate would be less than one mill, said Farmington city manager Robert Deedman.

Farmington Hills bonding attorneys were authorized by both city councils Monday to put together ballot language for the general election. The project would be done in two phases, including a \$995,900 court expansion and existing building renovation totalling \$432,500, according to estimates offered by John Allen Architects, the company which did preliminary work on the project.

Phase I would include: an 8,520-square-foot addition to the west side of the current courthouse building on 10 Mile Road. The new section would house the probation department, a magistrate hearing room, a jury assembly room, an employee lounge, clerical area and storage. Money from this phase would also include new furnishings.

Phase II would include: conversion of the current probation area,

Please turn to Page 2

## what's inside

Building scene	1G
Business	12B
Cable connection	6C
Classifieds	D-G
Index	5D
Auto	E, F, G
Real estate	D, E
Employment	F
Creative living	1D
Crossword puzzle	6D
Entertainment	7B
Obituaries	15A
Opinion	16A
Police/fire calls	10A
Sports	1B
Suburban life	1C

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