

New methods help
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Volleyball
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develop empathy, 3A

Farmington Observer

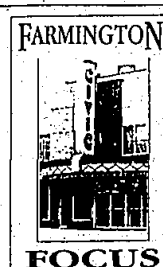
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Farmington, Michigan

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Fifty Cents



THE BLOOD will be flowing, hopefully, on Friday, Feb. 7, when the American Red Cross holds a blood drive at the Metro Multiple Listing Service, a real estate office at 24125 Drake Road, Farmington Hills.

The drive will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Chris Sheldon at 478-1700 for an appointment or more information.

YOUR VOTE does indeed count... and if you don't believe it, just switch your TV set to cable Channel 12 Wednesdays (8 p.m.), Thursdays (2 p.m.), and some Fridays (7 p.m.) during February and March.

That's when "My Vote Counts," a series on voting for Farmington-area residents, airs on Metro-Vision cable.

February's show features Raymond Frazier, a University of Michigan professor of political science. He speaks on the 1992 elections. John Akouri is the host.

In March, Linda DePorter, of the League of Women Voters, will speak on "How To Choose A Candidate." Host for that show will be Julieann Hovanecian.

The shows are presented by the Farmington Hills Committee To Increase Voter Participation. Each month, the program is hosted by a different committee member.

Opinions and reactions to the shows are encouraged. Call Dave Teilmeyer of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services at 473-9581.

THE 'REVENUEURS' are coming to downtown Farmington... and they just might be able to help you with your federal income taxes.

Two representatives of the IRS will be at the Farmington Branch Library, 23500 Liberty, from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, to help people with federal tax returns.

Participants should bring relevant documents, including W2 earnings statements, records of interest and dividends, proof of charitable contributions and the like.

No reservations are required. Call 474-7770 for more information.

MEMORY LANE — From the Feb. 7, 1992 Farmington Enterprise

From the Around the Block column: "A new kind of service is being added by the management of the Civic Theatre. As Ed Hahler, manager, puts it: 'Have you ever missed a good picture for the lack of a baby sitter? Well, from now on it can be different. The theatre is installing a special baby sitting service for parents. The next time you want to attend the Civic and need a baby sitter, just call the management. They will refer you to someone available for this kind of work.'"

• About \$2,500 was raised in the annual March of Dimes drive in the Southwestern Oakland County Chapter area, according to Pierre Delmonter, chairman. The area includes Farmington, Clarendonville and Novi.

• Mrs. George Williams, 29915 Gladstone, was one of 2,109 adults and students to participate in the blood typing program sponsored by the Farmington Township School District.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21805 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

A step ahead

Stair climbing is part of Marshall Seybold's physical fitness regimen. The 74-year-old recently completed the "vertical mile" — eight trips up 72 flights of stairs — at the Westin Hotel in downtown Detroit. For more on the fitness buff see Page 13A.

Men plead guilty after gambling raid

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A Farmington Hills homeowner is among four men who have pleaded guilty to fewer lesser charges, stemming from a Super Bowl Sunday 1991 gambling raid on his home, believed to be the site of a high-stakes gambling operation.

Jamal Abro, 43, owner of the house on Lake Park in the Colony Park West subdivision that police raided early Jan. 28, pleaded guilty Jan. 31 to conspiracy to maintain a gambling house for gain, and permitting gambling apparatus on the premises before Oakland County Circuit Judge Hilda Gage.

Abro also was recently mentioned in stories in the Detroit News' 10-month investigation into alleged fraudulent loans to party stores.

"As a result of this (gambling) investigation, we are now involved in a major spin-off investigation with the federal government," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said. "Obviously we are pleased with the final results as far as the guilty pleas and the findings by the court with the gambling case."

John Britt of the U.S. Secret Service confirmed the spin-off investigation. "We are cooperating with Farmington Hills regarding off-

shoots of the gambling raid. We are investigating unusual loan documentation and loan procedures. We are investigating a number of alleged loan frauds and problems with government entitlements and programs."

Dwyer said the additional investigation began when Farmington Hills police asked the U.S. Attorney's Office to begin forfeiture proceedings on Abro's house, which is allowed under federal law. Investigators found that the house had several mortgages, Dwyer said.

"We (Farmington Hills police) are providing documents and sharing information (with the federal government)," Dwyer added.

When Farmington Hills police raided Abro's house, 28834 Lake Park, south of 13 Mile, between Farmington and Drake roads, late Jan. 27, 1991, they seized \$56,892 found in the basement and on the 33 people found in the basement at either blackjack tables or a large dice table, Dwyer said.

Police conducted search warrants on the house based on information provided by an informant "that was developed and utilized during my tenure with the Detroit Police Department narcotics section."

Abro's attorney, Richard Lustig, could not be reached for comment.

'As a result of this (gambling) investigation, we are now involved in a major spin-off investigation with the federal government. Obviously we are pleased with the final results.'

— Chief William Dwyer
Farmington Hills police

The conspiracy charge Abro pleaded guilty to is a five-year, \$10,000 felony, and the permitting gambling apparatus charge is a misdemeanor charge that carries a maximum penalty of one-year in jail and \$500 fine. Sentencing is tentatively set for Feb. 11.

Also pleading guilty to other charges were Salwan Younis Marogi, 31, of Southfield, Imad Gorgula Samouna, 39, of West Bloomfield, and Gerald Nash, 48, of Detroit.

Originally, all four were charged with conspiracy to maintain a gam-

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Court expansion still in the running

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills voters are likely to be asked to give the proposed expansion of the 47th District Court for a third judge another shot later this year.

"This time we'll have enough lead time to get the message out," said 47th District Chief Judge Fred Harris.

But first things first. Whether Farmington and Farmington Hills get a third judge rests on the pens of state legislators who must provide money for the additional position at the two-judge 47th District Court on 10 Mile Road between Power and Farmington roads.

State Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills doesn't see that as much of a problem.

"It will come in as part of the budget package. It's pretty automatic that they (recom-

mendations) for additional judges) get approved. Usually this isn't a problem. We understand the need."

The proposed state budget — that will include money for additional judgeships — is expected to be presented to the state Legislature Friday, Dolan said.

The step to the legislature began with the Michigan Supreme Court's recommendation to create new judgeships Jan. 28, including six

new district court positions, one of which is Farmington.

HARRIS SAID said the recommendation is really a re-recommendation because the state Supreme Court recommended the additional judgeship in 1990. "We opted not to get involved in it then," Harris said.

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Rezoning request sparks controversy

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A downtown Farmington agency will ask Farmington Hills officials to consider carefully the retail climate when reviewing a proposal to rezoned for an expansion of the Mulwood Square shopping center.

The Downtown Development Authority board is not expected to take a position until its March meeting, several weeks before a public hearing about rezoning the property at the northwest corner of Grand River and Drake roads.

But discussion Tuesday about the proposed Mulwood expansion showed DDA members leaning in that direction, and away from taking a position "for" or "against" expansion of the center as they did in 1989. At that time, the DDA board strongly opposed it, saying an expansion

would be detrimental to downtown redevelopment efforts.

"I can't think of any center that is filled up," DDA board member and Farmington City Manager Robert Desmond said, talking about shopping centers in both cities. "Do we have enough unused retail space in the area? It's not in anybody's best interest to have an overbuilt situation."

"There's a question of how much more retail space can be absorbed," added board member Jody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. "My concern is that new retail space will sit vacant."

OTHER DDA members said the downtown has been surrounded by new centers in neighboring commu-

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

One of the things Michelle Ingalls remembers about Carol Butler's class at Longacre Elementary is that she offered students candy as a reward. The fifth grade teacher still does it today, and offers Ingalls some on a recent visit.

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Going back Student returns as hired designer

By Casey Hans
staff writer

In 1976, Michelle Ingalls was spending her days in Carol Butler's classroom at Longacre Elementary, learning the lessons of a typical fifth grader.

Today, the Farmington resident and Longacre alumna is a professional architect assigned to design new cabinetry for all the classrooms at the school, including Butler's. She is also assigned to do similar work at six other schools in the Farmington district.

"It was strange at first," said Ingalls, an architect with Greiner Inc. — the firm retained by the school

board to do a variety of capital projects throughout the district. "It was hard to get used to a different relationship with the teacher."

Ingalls said she had "mixed feelings" returning to the school off Arundel near Gill, because all her former teachers, except for Butler, are either retired or deceased.

She especially remembers Butler's classroom because they would read from the Laura Ingalls Wilder "Little House" series, and because Butler gave away candy for good behavior — something the veteran teacher still does.

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