

Diploma time

Grad, 70 treats self to big party

She had just completed her bachelor of arts degree in history at Madonna University, never missing a class from the day she first started in 1986.

Now that graduation was here, 70-year-old Shirley Smith of Farmington wanted her friends to share her accomplishment.

"I gave myself a big party," Smith said. "I invited 35 of my closest friends to the Livonia Marriott on May 5. Some came from as far as Colorado.

Smith admitted, however, that the party turned more into a friendly roast. Each person stood and told how they knew Shirley, and all added a few puns and took turns trying to guess her age.

"Now, they'll probably find out how old I am by reading it in the paper. But, who cares, anyhow.

There were some trying times, but Professor (Dennis) Bozyk got me through . . . As my advisor, he would cheer me on, encouraging me to hang in there.'

Shirley Smith

decide from now it won't make any difference," Smith said. "I never gave them my age exactly, nor told them that I was the most senior member of Madonna's 1992 graduating class."

Having spent 35 years of her life working primarily as an executive secretary for the Federal Reserve Bank in Detroit, Smith has been retired for the past 15 years. Her most memorable achievement of the bank was when she establish-

ed a word processing center to have all the operating manuals put on disks so that data could be updated much more easily.

A history buff, Smith had very little hesitation choosing her major when entering Madonna. And, as she looks back over her college years, she knows she made the right decision. Smith attributes much of her success in completing her degree to Dennis Bozyk, who is an associate professor in history

at Madonna.

There were some trying times, but Professor Bozyk got me through," Smith said. "When I took an algebra course, it was difficult for me, but, as my advisor, he would cheer me on, encouraging me to hang in there. He also made history come alive for me.

"His class always held my interest, not just because Professor Bozyk was so knowledgeable in history, but because he has a special way with words and a sense of humor."

What's next for this very ambitious person? Smith said since she loves language, particularly French, she will probably take some courses in French.

"My mother always told me there is no such word as 'can't,' she said.



A proud graduate: Shirley Smith of Farmington cracks a big smile as she shows off her diploma.

Shootout at Ginopolis



Splish-splash: Channel 2 sports commentators Denny McLaine (left) and Eli Zaret get a dousing from Farmington Hills firefighters Wally Kurzeja and Denny Hughes recently during a waterball challenge in the Ginopolis restaurant parking lot on 12 Mile. Firefighters controlled the ball throughout the game.

'Anchors Aweigh' at parade

By TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Don't be surprised if you hear "Anchors Aweigh" played a time or two at Farmington's annual Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 25.

That's the Navy's song and the United States Navy will be honored at this year's parade, which will feature the armed forces, veterans organizations and civilian components passing in review along Grand River Avenue.

The parade will start at the Uptown Shopping Center at 10 a.m. Memorial Day. The one-mile route will be northwest along Grand River to the memorials at Oakland and Grand River.

About 50,000 will line Farmington's main street to watch, said Walter Christensen, parade chairman, and some 5,000 will participate.

"I feel it's important to the community to have this kind of thing," said Christensen, a member of the Grassy-Walker American Legion Post who has organized many parades over the years.

"It's for our patriotic identity. It's important for all of us — especially the kids — to remember that they

have what they have today because of the veterans who gave their lives."

Clifford E. Mann, past commander of the American Legion post in Berkley, will give the welcoming address. Mann, a Vietnam veteran, is a 21-year veteran of the Southfield police force. He has held numerous Legion offices.

Capt. Shirley J. Thomas, a Birmingham resident and a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve, will be the keynote speaker at the parade.

She was one of the first women officers to be accepted into the Training and Administration of the Reserve (TAR) program. She became the first woman to be promoted to the rank of captain in the TAR program.

Four high school bands — including three from the Farmington public schools and another from Clarenceville — will play in the parade. Sea Cadets, ROTC members, Boy and Girl Scouts and local politicians also will be on hand.

Many awards will be presented and special plaques will be given to members of the new U.S. Naval Reservists who participated in Operation Desert Storm last year.

It's Centertown Merchants

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Centertown Merchants Association. That's what merchants along Orchard Lake Road, between 12 Mile and 14 Mile, have decided to call their new organization, designed to bring some care and attention to Farmington Hills' retail center.

With a new name in hand, and plenty of phone calls under their belts, four merchants along the thoroughfare have been working hard to bring all merchants together.

The hope is that all will attend a meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, in the lower level conference room at Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 14 Mile.

Kim McNamara of Mr. Sports One of a Kind, 30860 Orchard Lake

Road, is hoping this is the meeting that will generate a burst of activity.

"If the interest generated in telephone conversations comes to the surface, it should be a great meeting," she said.

Topics for discussion will include interest among merchants in joining forces; the city's cooperation for traffic control along the busy thoroughfare; encouraging tenants in individual shopping plazas to join with one another for improvements; involvement in the upcoming Founders Festival; and the city's 20th anniversary in 1993.

Farmington Hills traffic engineer Kevin McCarthy will be on hand to discuss traffic improvements on the roadway.

Association membership and fees will be discussed. The next meeting

should feature the election of officers, McNamara said.

The idea of a merchants association began with Farmington Hills councilman Ben Marks, who organized two initial meetings for merchants and property owners along the corridor.

"Incidentally, we have not paid the kind of attention we should have with businesses along Orchard Lake Road, which is our main road," Marks said in March. "There's a big need to bring people together. We have a lot of people driving through Farmington Hills. We don't have a lot of people stopping and shopping."

Attracting customers to the corridor is a primary focus for the group. Landscaping and new store fronts are a possibility, as well as traffic improvements.

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