

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1992

NEWS

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Firefighter honored

The Optimist Club of Farmington/Farmington Hills, a breakfast club dedicated to the assistance of youth, has honored the Farmington Hills Firefighter of the Year at its Jan. 6 meeting at the Farmington Elks.

Jim Cheyne, a nine-year veteran of the Hills Fire Department, was picked as the firefighter who has contributed the most to the department and the community.

"Jim has unselfishly given of his time above and beyond the call of duty," said Fire Chief Richard Marinucci as he presented Cheyne with a plaque.

In 1990, Cheyne was promoted to sergeant and the department got positive letters about him from the community. Among the many tasks Cheyne accomplishes beyond the role of firefighter are working with the local Goodfellow to deliver appliances to needy families and implementing in-service training for Botsford Hospital employees.

Cheyne's father, Kenneth Cheyne, was a Farmington Hills firefighter for six years.

The Optimist Club meets 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Farmington Elks Club, 23666 Orchard Lake Road.

Let cameras roll

Film Craft Video, a Farmington Hills-based company, teamed up with General Motors Corp. and Carlson Marketing of Troy to introduce the new GM credit card through a video presentation to dealers throughout the United States.

Jim Schmier, a director and producer for Carlson Marketing, contacted Film Craft Video to edit the video. According to Schmier, the video needed to convey the innovation of the new credit card, and also to make dealers aware that the card was an important sales tool.

"Video was the only way that we could convey a consistent message in a professional and positive manner," Schmier said. "Film Craft helped us achieve our goal of editing dealers and building nationwide excitement for the new card."

Credits include: Kirk Moller, Film Craft senior editor; video technicians Dave Murto and Jim Leggett; animator Dave Moon and paintbox artist Joyce Woznick.

■ John (some call him Sean) Magee has an interesting history that includes lots of soccer expertise. The Farmington resident is happy to share his knowledge with local teams.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

You can call him John. You can call him Sean.

He doesn't mind what call him . . .

"Oh, don't tell them that. They'll think I'm old," says the man named Magee, who goes by John and the Gaelic variation of Sean. "I don't feel like I'm 70."

The Farmington resident is a spry man, who embodies whimsy and wisdom. He passes most of it along in the form of soccer knowledge to the teams he helps coach.

Ask about anything else, though, and chances are he's been there. The retired Ford Motor Co. tool machinist shares his vast experiences with no cantankerous reflection.

Plenty to share

There's much to tell.

He grew up in Belfast, Northern Ireland, living on a large estate with his father, a chauffeur. He ran track, finishing second in the 440 once to eventual Olympic gold medalist Arthur Wint.

Magee drove an ambulance at night in Southampton, England, during the World War II blitz. He worked by day helping build Spitfire fighter planes. He recalls how workers received only three minutes warning as German bombers approached. Magee, in the biggest races of his life, usually



SHARON LEHRER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Still coaching: An intense Sean Magee checks the clock and score during a recent soccer match. Eleven-year-old Ellen Adams also has her eyes on the clock.

made it to a shelter.

"The second time, I didn't make it in time and I dove into a ditch," Magee said. "My mother was none too happy with the way my clothes looked when I came home."

"A lot of people had worse things happen to them, though."

Magee recalls another unsettling feeling at the time. There was no laughter of children around. They

had all been sent away from Southampton, which was a prime target during the German air assault.

Pictures of young faces fill his apartment walls. Mostly, they're youth soccer teams he's coached since arriving in the United States in 1963.

He points them out with undimmed pride. Many are of the Farmington Angels, a girls team that went unbeaten for three years and captured

a state regional championship in 1983.

Magee helps coach three women's teams now: Farmington Angels, Mercy High and Canton Express. He only offers advice or "lend an ear" to the head coaches and players.

See COACH, 13A.

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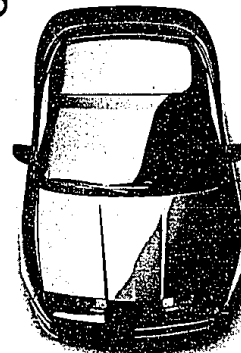
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