

FARMINGTON NOTES

Spring flower theme

**D**ottie Mengden of the Greater Detroit Flower Arranger's Guild will highlight the "Spring is Busting Out All Over" theme at the Farmington Garden Club's upcoming meeting. The club will meet at noon on Monday, Feb. 1, at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. Prospective members from the community are invited to attend.

Mengden will demonstrate flower arranging using spring flowers. Ann Audette, the club's horticulture chairman, will present some new varieties of seeds, including an almost white marigold.

Seeds of this plant will be distributed to club members as horticulture specimens for a summer flower show.

The Farmington Garden Club will join the Hill and Dale and North Farmington clubs in a joint flower show in July at the Visitors' Center of Heritage Park in Farmington Hills.

For more information on the Farmington Garden Club, call Gerry Tobin at 478-9710.

Dinner dance

**T**he annual Valentine Dinner Dance, sponsored by the Farmington Community Band, will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at Vladimir's, 21126 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

The event will feature a cocktail hour, a dinner and dancing to the Farmington Community Dance Band.

Tables for eight or 10 persons may be reserved, but seating is limited so early reservations are suggested.

Tickets are \$27 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 476-5014 or 489-3412.

Wins 5 contracts

**I**n the past five years, the Farmington Hills firm of Sigal/Tuomala Associates Architects and Planners has won five remodeling projects at A&P/Farmer Jack super markets.

Star power  
Bit roles bring recognition, ribbing

**I**f you see a man on TV or in the movies who looks a lot like Farmington Hills' Lou Nolan . . . well, it just might be Lou Nolan, who has played a few small parts.

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER



If Farmington Hills businessman Lou Nolan's face seems more like that of a kindly grandfather or an esteemed judge, then his second career must be taking hold.

Nolan, an independent business forms broker, enjoyed a "premier party" thrown for him by friends during the Farmington Hills debut of "Hoffa," a film in which he had a minor, non-speaking part.

The program listed his name ahead of better-known stars Jack Nicholson and Danny DeVito. That kind of good-natured ribbing from friends and family over his parts in local TV and print ads has been a part of his modest fame.

"Someone at a wedding reception said to me, 'There's a guy in an ad on TV that looks an awful lot like you,'" Nolan said. "Well, it was me."

But all kidding aside, Nolan, 57, has come a long way in a short time since starting to audition for TV, radio, print and movie parts two years ago.

His family moved to Farmington Hills from New Jersey when he was 7. He attended Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School, St. Theresa's High School and the University of Detroit



SHARON LEMIRE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Autograph anyone? Actor Lou Nolan, pen at the ready in case anyone should ask for an autograph, displays one of his publicity stills.

before embarking on a business career.

But his rich, clear voice was too great a gift to keep quiet, said Bev Smith, a friend and public relations professional.

"I heard him speak at church functions and I just told him, 'Lou, you've got to do something with that voice,'" she said. "He also has a certain look that makes him believable in a variety of roles."

See an agent

Smith convinced Nolan to see an agent. After some acting lessons, he registered and began to audition for parts. But he had expected to use his voice, not appear on screen.

"The competition is very tough," he said. "There are a lot of people getting voice-over jobs."

What Nolan found more of were chances to appear before TV and movie cameras, mostly in commercial training films.

"I would do films on how to sell, things like that," he said.

And although he appeared as a "silent" judge in an episode of "Unsolved Mysteries," like most actors, rejection has been the usual result of auditions.

"They'll sometimes ask for five people to audition for a part," he said. "But they are looking for a certain type. So, you have to understand that there's nothing wrong with you. You're just not what they want."

Still, the father of four grown children does admit to dishing rejection. And so when he was selected for a part in "Hoffa," he was thrilled. So was his family.

See ACTOR, 15A

FRI, JAN 22ND THRU SUN, JAN 24TH

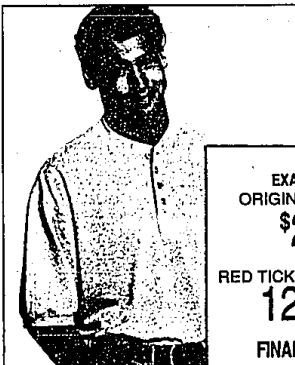
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- Twelve Oaks Mall 12 Mile & Novi Rd.
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