



Keeping it moving: Evelyn Spears facilitated the Farmington multiracial/multicultural forums.



Talking it over: Farmington High senior Eunice Lee and Farmington Hills police Sgt. Gary Hawald talk about racial and ethnic fears and stereotyping.

Audience: '20/20' brings stereotypes into focus

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Multiracial/Multicultural Council found itself on familiar ground Tuesday.

The issue: Police and perceived racial bias. At Tuesday's meeting — the final one in this year's series — audience members watched a segment from ABC-TV's "20/20" show titled, "Presumed Guilty."

The news report depicted how blacks, in particular, appear to be singled out by Los Angeles police on routine traffic stops. Some in attendance said the is-

ssue hits closer to home.

"In our group, we believe that what we were viewing on '20/20' happens here in Farmington Hills," said Larry Muloney, a Farmington Hills resident. "I don't think it's isolated to Los Angeles."

Added Farmington Hills resident Margot Lindeberger, who is black: "We believe we have a good police force. I don't want them to feel defensive, but it does happen. It does happen more with African Americans. That's from personal experience."

Farmington and Farmington Hills police officials were at the

meeting. Some sat quietly with arms folded.

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer responded. Since the Rodney King and Malice Green incidents, police have been stereotyped, Dwyer said.

"I think the perception is now all police officers are like those police officers that acted in that manner," Dwyer said. "That's not the truth at all."

"I think for the most part, a majority of police officers do an outstanding job and don't overreact and don't use excessive force."

Farmington Hills officers are

more community oriented, Dwyer said.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills police are involved in sensitivity training, said Farmington Public Safety director Gary Goss, who attended the meeting.

"I think the issue for us is perception," Goss said later. "If people perceive departments doing that (singling out black motorists), we need to react to that. Farmington and Farmington Hills has done that in terms of training..."

The issue wasn't going to be

resolved in an hour discussion.

Facilitator Evelyn Spears, who is with the Institute for the Healing of Racism of Mid-Michigan, suggested a positive approach. People should look at how they want their communities to be in the future, and work on preventing stereotypes built from fear and unfamiliarity, she said.

"I think the primary thing for us to do is not get into the blame, shame and guilt and defensiveness," Spears said.

Spears said she's encouraged other institutions such as Farmington Public Schools are tack-

ling the issue. Three Farmington high school students were at the meeting.

Otherwise, turnout was low for the last multiracial/multicultural session. But, Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick was optimistic.

"Even though I see the same group of people to this forum as last month — the faces don't change a lot month to month — I want to encourage this group to keep at it," Costick said. "We are getting a few new people from time to time."

"This will help in some small measure to break down barriers of unfamiliarity."

County spraying program to clip gypsy moths' wings

BY BILL COULTANT

A program to control gypsy moths that defoliate trees will get off the ground within the next few days.

Oakland County's gypsy moth suppression program, which includes part of Farmington Hills, is scheduled for sometime in the middle of the month, weather permitting.

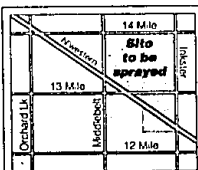
Letters were sent to residents in the area, which for the most part is northeast of Northwestern Highway in the city, and residents were given the opportunity to not have their trees sprayed. Only two property owners opted out, said Dan Rooney, department of public works director.

"Mother nature will dictate the time," Rooney said.

A biological insecticide, called *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt, will be sprayed in the area by helicopter. The insecticide, which is a naturally occurring bacterium, is not harmful to people, mammals, birds, fish, bees or other insects. It is deadly to the gypsy moth larvae which are actively feeding at this time of year.

Too much wind, rain or cool temperatures would spoil the effects of the spray, which is a fine mist that cannot be observed from the ground.

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Spraying area for gypsy moths

Oakland County's Gypsy Moth Suppression Program will involve only the northeast corner of Farmington Hills. A helicopter will spray the area with a fine mist of the insecticide that does not harm other insects, birds, animals or people.

"This is a very safe, very selective insecticide," Rooney said.

The moths were imported from Europe to produce silk, but without much success. But they did succeed in establishing themselves in the Northeast and had moved to Michigan by the mid-1950s. By 1990, they had spread throughout most of the lower peninsula.

The moth caterpillars feed primarily on deciduous trees such as oaks. The feeding can cause severe defoliation and their droppings and decaying bodies can be a nuisance in picnic, recreation areas and back yards.

Bt has been used successfully

in the United States since 1961. Unlike chemical insecticides, which can remain in the environment and kill or harm other insects and animals who consume them, Bt is naturally occurring and specific.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Raffle to benefit MDA

And the winner is... well, you'll just have to drop in at Page's Food & Spirits in downtown Farmington Saturday night to see who did win the drawing for two prized tickets to the Barbara Streisand concert.

The winner's name will be drawn at 9 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at Page's, 23621 Farmington Road, south of Grand River.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each and the proceeds go to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Dennis Page, the eatery's owner, bought the \$350 seats for the Tuesday, May 17, Streisand concert at the Palace of Auburn Hills. He thought he'd attend with his wife, Sharon, but decided instead to raffle off the seats and help the MDA.

Page, a Farmington Hills resident, said he'd sold 825 chances as of Monday morning. He hopes to raise \$5,000 for the MDA.

"I enjoy working for charity," said Page, who

has helped other causes in the past. "I'm just happy I have a chance to do this."

Invest in Youth Run

The Farmington YMCA and D. Dennison's seafood restaurant will co-sponsor the 11th annual Invest In Youth Run beginning Saturday morning, May 14, through the Kendallwood subdivision in Farmington Hills.

Check-in is 7:30-8:45 a.m. Saturday at Dennison's restaurant, on 12 Mile west of Orchard Lake Road. A one-mile fun run/walk starts at 9 a.m., and the five-mile age-group race gets going at 9:30 a.m.

Registered participants are eligible to win prizes after the race. Grand prize is two nights in Toronto, including rail transportation, from Kaye Britton Travel. Winners must be present when the prizes are announced.

Participants can register at the YMCA, on Farmington Road north of 12 Mile, until race morning, when registration moves to Dennison's. Call 855-4020 for more information.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.



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