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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Happy grads: It was a great day for the North Farmington seniors who picked up their sheepskins on graduation day at the U of M. /A3

Just say no! The Farmington Hills city council had a collective thumbs down for a developer who had visions of a new subdivision. /A8

An appeal: Dismissal of charges against seven strikers has been appealed. /A8

OPINION

Silly season?: The election season is in full swing in the Farmington area. Let's hope the candidates manage to keep their campaigns on the high road. /A10

Letter ript! Once again, Observer readers are not shy about sharing their opinions. /A10

CLARIFICATION

Right number: An item about donating day lilies in the June 17 Farmington Focus column should have listed Jeff Stewart's number as 553-7297.

INDEX

A&E	B1-2	Obituaries	A8
At Home	Section D	Opinion	A10-11
Cable Connection	A17	Police & fire	A4
Comm. Life	A13-15	Real estate	Section E
Employment	G4	Sports	C1-6
Movies	B8		

Her helping hand is hurting

If a Farmington woman's story is to be believed, she was treated rather shabbily by a Detroit man she and her husband had tried to help.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington couple found the Christian thing to do is not always the safest.

A Detroit man, 36, is in custody and has been charged with armed robbery after stealing a wedding ring from a Leelane Street resident Saturday. The victim, a 44-year-old

woman, suffered cuts on her finger and rug burns after struggling with the assailant.

Edward Moses Brown was arraigned by 47th District Court Magistrate James Brady Sunday. Cash bond was set at \$10,000.

The man lodged with the couple for a week as part of a Detroit street ministry and a drug rehabilitation

program. "When you extend yourself in these situations, you have to keep in mind your safety should be a concern as well," Deputy Director Michael Wiggins said. "You have to look out for your best interests as well as the person's you're trying to help."

The man had stayed with the couple until Friday and returned Saturday to pick up his belongings, police reports said. He came in through the back door, using a key the couple had given him.

He asked to speak to the woman's husband, who was not home. Then

he asked for money.

When the victim told she didn't have any, the man looked at her ring and showed her a paring knife.

"That's real," he said. "Give me your ring."

He threatened to cut the ring off and a struggle ensued when the robber grabbed the victim by the throat. The man found the woman's purse and took \$2 and asked about some German marks, which she told him were useless.

After he removed the ring, he told the woman to lie face down on the

See HAND, A3

Lot gets a lift



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LARSEN

Summer work: Al Vetowich of Greenbriar Construction of Farmington Hills mounts a machine he's using to re-tar the parking lot at the Farmington Elks Club on Orchard Lake Road. He says he enjoys the Oz Roast held there during Founders Festival.

It's a slower go on Gill Road

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Gill Road speeders have slowed down a notch, which has Farmington Public Safety officials program honking a horn of success on its 90-day selective enforcement program.

Speeding fines doubled on the north-south residential street from March to June. Sixteen motorists were ticketed, Public Safety Director Gary Goss said.

More so, a study done in April found the top speeds had dropped from 38 miles an hour to 33 mph. The average speed 26 miles an hour, which is average for a residential street.

Residents have complained about the volume and speed of motorists on their street. Speeders are a particular concern on Gill Road, which intersects with a school crosswalk for Longacre Elementary. The average speed had been 30 miles an hour there.

"The program was a success in that it achieved what we wanted it to achieve: To reduce the speed by the school crosswalk," Goss said.

A follow-up study will be done in the fall to see if there is any carry-over effect, Goss said.

Residents took a petition to the Traffic and Safety Board, asking for stepped up enforcement. Additional stop signs and speed bumps were suggested by residents as possible solutions.

"Now that the signs are down, we feel the speeds are up again," said Sandra Davis, who lives on Gill Street. "There's still a sign but it doesn't any fines doubled."

"I think it (the enforcement program) slowed it down, but not everyone."

Selective enforcement programs are used in other cities. Whether it will be used in Farmington on another street in Farmington depends on three criteria: If the 85th percentile speed is 10 miles over the posted speed limit; if there is a high accident rate; and if there is an environmental concern such as school crosswalk.

Gill Road met all three.

Grant to leave council, Hills

By WILLIAM COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills political landscape is going to get even more complicated with the news that Councilman Jon Grant will not be running again next fall.

Grant and his wife Deborah have purchased lakefront property in Commerce Township, where they plan to move after his term ends in November of 1997.

"We've been going back and forth about the idea for a long time," said Grant, 45. "We finally both decided that this is what we wanted."

The couple are both life-long residents of the city. Jon Grant graduated from North Farmington High and Deborah Grant graduated from Farmington. The couple have three children.

"I like being on the water," he said. "But it was hard."

Grant is selling his house and apparently wasn't joking when he recently said the new city manager could buy it. They couple are building a house on Woodbridge Lake.

Grant said he and his wife will keep their businesses in the city and will rent an apartment if they sell their house before his term ends next year.

Grant served as mayor in 1992 and is completing his second four-year term. In addition to his political service to the city, Grant has been president of the library board, has been active with the Chamber of Commerce and has been involved in a number of other community events and causes.

Grant's move out of the city ensures that he won't run again for the council and opens up a place for some new candidates.

Councilwoman Masie Kurzeja, who was appointed to finish the term of elected Mayor Aldo Vagnoni, faces Parks and Recreation Chairman Jerry Ellis in August to determine who will finish the last year and three months.

In addition to Grant, the terms of Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio and the winner of the August election will be up for election in November of 1997. Mayor Vagnoni's two-year term will also end. He can run for one more two-year term.

"We'll still be involved," Grant said. "But I think if I go near another city hall, my wife will stop me."

Dem: Office belongs to the people

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Johnny-come-lately candidate is asking voters: What has your state representative done for you lately?

Democratic hopeful Carl Christoph flutters his eyelids to mimic the quizzical looks that follows his query. Those zero replies is what the Farmington Hills attorney is counting on his first-ever run for office.

HOUSE RACE

Christoph is one of two Democrats seeking his party's nomination in the Aug. 6 primary for the 37th District House seat.

A Dem winning a state House seat in this area is perceived to be the equivalent of Wyle E. Coyote catching the Roadrunner. Instead of an anvil or TNT, the Farmington Hills

resident is using a door-to-door grassroots campaign.

"They refer to this as the Jan Dolan seat," Christoph said. "I don't see it as belonging to the Republican party, John Engler or anybody else. I think it belongs to the people of Farmington and Farmington Hills."

"I think the people of this district are owed something more than rubber stamping what John Engler has

See CHRISTOPH, A3



Carl Christoph

Election fund-raiser set

Farmington Hills voters will find a non-partisan city council race on their ballots when they go to the polls for the Aug. 6 primary.

Contestants are Councilwoman Masie Kurzeja, appointed to fill a vacancy last year, and Jerry M. Ellis, chairman of the Hills Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ellis has planned a fund-raiser for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 20, at Leo's Conoy Island, 12 Mile and Halsted. Donation is \$25 per person and \$45 per couple.

Piston star at Borders

Piston basketball star Grant Hill will sign his book "Change the Game: One Athlete's

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Thoughts on Sports, Dreams and Growing Up" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, at Borders book store, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

From Hill's relationship with his father, a former pro football player, to his life as a 23-year-old celebrity, "Change the Game" tells the story of a true success. Hill has been described as "an all-star without the attitude."

Optimist golf for youth

The Links of Novi will be the setting for the sixth annual Farmington/Farmington Hills

Optimist Golf Outing Monday, July 22.

The local Optimists have established a partnership with the Farmington Public Schools in an effort to assist students with prevention and intervention of substance abuse.

Funds donated by the Optimist Club will be given to student assistance teams and spent on assemblies, student recognition activities and prevention materials.

Registration deadline for the golf tournament is July 15. Call Leon Kohls at 489-8884 for more information.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9723; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address: packy@seonline.com.