

# Farmington Observer

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George Fomin animatedly describes how he saved the life of a 6-year-old boy with a cut jugular vein by keeping his thumbs on the pressure points in the boys' neck for 20 minutes until medical help arrived. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Puts first aid class to test Reluctant hero saves a life

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

George Fomin remembers taking his only first aid class as a 16-year-old Boy Scout.

On July 8, 30 years after the course, he put that knowledge to the test when he helped save the life of a 6-year-old boy. Lauding Fomin while on vacation at Glacier National Park in northwest Montana.

Fomin, of Farmington Hills, was lunching with his family on the lawn of Many Glacier Lodge in the park when he heard a crash and turned in time to see Kevin Daniel Adache fall through a floor-to-ceiling-length window amid shards of glass.

Fomin remembers seeing the boy fall, heads and arms first, as if a slow motion movie sequence was playing before him.

The boy evidently had seen the lake and wanted to run out to look at it one more time as his parents checked out. The boy mistook the plate glass window for an open doorway.

He ran full speed toward the lake and crashed into the window.

Fomin, who has a son George Jr., 17, and a daughter, Maria, 15, receded out of his own experience as a parent.

"If your kids fall, you want to grab them. I wanted to grab him out of there before a piece of glass hit him in the neck," Fomin said.

HE RAN toward the boy who was lying on the ground, covered with glass. Fomin was relieved to find that the youngster apparently escaped injury because there wasn't any blood in sight.

But when he picked up Kevin under the arms, he saw a jagged cut across the boy's neck.

"Blood was coming out so fast," Fomin said. "I remember yelling 'jugular vein, jugular vein,' hoping someone would come up to me and

## Doctor adds tips

George Fomin's first aid knowledge served him well. The direct pressure he applied to the deep cut Kevin Adache suffered from falling through a plate glass window was exactly the procedure that should have been used.

That's the assessment of Dr. Paul LaCasse, an emergency room physician at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Basic first aid dictates that direct pressure on the artery just before the wound is the best way a layman can slow the flow of blood.

The second step, according to LaCasse, is to provide a dressing for the area, if possible. The dressing should be preferably sterile, or at least clean, according to LaCasse.

In a situation such as the one in which Fomin found himself, the ap-

plyment of ice wouldn't have appreciably added to the first aid treatment to slow the flow of blood.

"Direct pressure is better," LaCasse said.

The use of pressure points, which control the vascular supply to an extremity, require a fundamental knowledge of human anatomy, LaCasse said. A person who isn't schooled in the exact location of the body's pressure points should concentrate on applying direct pressure to the cut.

"IN MOST lacerations, pressure on the wound itself will control the bleeding," LaCasse said.

Once the bleeding is under control, the injured person should be treated by a doctor.

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tell me they could take care of it."

When no one appeared, Fomin cradled the boy in his arms, keeping his thumbs on the pressure points in the boys' neck to stop a portion of the blood from flowing.

With the persons at the information desk looking at him in shock, Fomin received directions to the lodge's first aid room. Still cradling the child, he raced up to the room believing someone who was trained to handle such an emergency would be waiting there.

The first aid station was closed.

Fomin remembers trying to kick down the door to get a bandage. But the door remained standing in spite of his efforts and he laid the 6-year-old on the floor next to the first aid station.

Fomin waited for the arrival of an ambulance and trained personnel.

"I DON'T know if it was 10 minutes or a half hour that I laid on the floor next to the boy," Fomin said.

"It was really scary, I tell you." For a while, Fomin, and the group of lodge employees and visitors who had gathered to help, feared the glass had cut through the boy's throat and that he was bleeding from the mouth as well. After cleaning the blood from Kevin's face, they realized that the jugular vein was cut in half and the facial aorta was severed.

The group tried packing the boy in ice but that only caused him to stir and cry for the first time during

the ordeal. The ice was removed and Fomin, along with the boy's father, Rodney Daniel Adache, kept their thumbs on the pressure points in the boy's neck.

When the doctor arrived, Fomin remembers looking up at the tall man and saying, "Oh, boy, doctor, am I ever glad you're here."

The ambulance, a station wagon with a blinking red light on the roof, arrived and took the boy, Mr. and Mrs. Adache and the doctor to Carleton Hospital in Cardston, Alberta, Canada, an hour's drive from the lodge.

Later that day, when Fomin and the ranger on duty, Terry Pentilla, learned the boy would live, they cheered and shook hands.

Although he was told he could inquire about Kevin's condition the next day, Fomin didn't, partly for fear that the boy's luck would reverse.

INSTEAD, he returned to the vacation which began through a class assignment his daughter researched in Dunckel Junior High this past year. The assignment, to plan a 30-day trip in a national park, intrigued the whole family to the point where they adapted it to their own vacation.

The second day after the accident Fomin learned from the lodge's employees that Kevin had returned from the hospital and was slowly but surely getting back on his feet.

During a brief meeting with the Adache family, Fomin, at a loss for words, remembers saying, "Boy, it's really good news to hear he's OK."

Fomin attributes his first aid knowledge to the Boy Scouts and to reading various magazine stories on the subject.

But his wife, Adela, has a slightly different explanation: "We're parents."

## Brotherton's showing is strong in Aug. 5 primary

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters in many instances reflected their county neighbors in the way they cast votes for state and county candidates and questions.

Incumbent state Rep. Wilbur (Sandy) Brotherton swept through Michigan's primary last Tuesday with 3,535 votes from the 64th District. His Democratic opponent, Karen Artinian gathered 1,351 votes. Farmington voters gave Brotherton 706 votes and Hills voters gave him 2,378.

In Farmington, Ms. Artinian gathered 106 votes. Farmington Hills voters gave her 775.

Two other Republican hopefuls ran in the primary for the seat. John Mulroy gathered 270 votes in Farmington Hills and 124 in Farmington. District-

wide, he earned 666 votes. Joseph Schmidt earned 179 votes in Farmington Hills and 12 votes in Farmington. District-wide, he earned 234 votes.

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters chose Republican L. Patterson to oppose William M. Brodhead to represent the 17th District in Congress. In Farmington, Patterson received 308 votes top Brodhead's 155. In Farmington Hills, Patterson received 1,128 votes to Brodhead's 1,060. District-wide, Brodhead earned 3,336 to Patterson's 2,320.

WHILE BRODHEAD ran unopposed within his party, two other Republicans vied for the seat. Arve Bakken received 550 votes in Farmington Hills and 183 in Farmington. Overall he received 1,093 votes. Raymond Cochran

received 771 votes in Farmington Hills and 160 votes in Farmington. Overall, voters gave him 1,479.

In the 15th District County Commissioner race, Republican Lillian V. Morfit received 502 votes in Farmington Hills and 1,671 overall. Her Democrat-

ic opponent in the primary and in November, Barbara Kukes Goldman received 199 votes in Farmington Hills and 675 votes overall.

In the 24th District County Commissioner's race, Republican Dennis L. Murphy gathered 539 votes in Farm-

ington Hills and 1,727 overall. His Democratic opponent, William D. Brinker received 151 votes in Farmington Hills and a total of 653.

In the 27th District County Commissioner's race, John McDonald received 581 votes in Farmington Hills and 583

votes in Farmington. The Republican candidate's total votes were 1,179.

His Democratic opponent Joann Blyth Echlin received 261 votes in Farmington Hills and 100 in Farmington.

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## District to release list of names

# Substitute teacher wins round

By MARY GNIEWEK

A substitute teacher trying to organize other substitute teachers in a non-union pressure group scored a victory for her cause Tuesday.

The Farmington school administration agreed to release to her names and addresses of 150 substitutes who regularly teach in the district.

Ernest Peterson said yesterday she will make a formal request to administrators "as soon as I can get a letter written."

Mrs. Peterson, who attempted all summer to contact the substitutes on her own, scheduled an organizational meeting tentatively for Aug. 28.

Improved working conditions, pay and district policy are major concerns

of the substitute teachers, according to Mrs. Peterson.

"Everyone who called has some special concern and would like to see some improvement," Mrs. Peterson said.

"I think we can work with the administration to improve our effectiveness." The decision to release the names was stalled for a month while administrators debated the issue. Past district policy dictated that no names of employees be released, citing invasion of privacy.

Mrs. Peterson challenged that policy, forcing administrators to confront the issue.

ROBERT COLEMAN, school personnel director, met with attorneys Friday who advised the district to re-

lease the names under the Public Employment Relations Act.

Provision of the names and addresses doesn't mean the district would agree that substitute teachers constitute an appropriate bargaining unit, Coleman said in a letter to school Superintendent Lewis Schulman and the board.

Board President Jack Inch said legal counsel was sought because of a conflict of information in federal and state laws.

Though Mrs. Peterson can obtain the information, Schulman said there is no formal list of names of substitutes who

teach in Farmington. Their names and addresses appear on individual cards.

"Substitutes are still calling in," Mrs. Peterson said. "Now with a list, it will make it a lot easier."

Mrs. Peterson didn't attend the Tuesday board meeting. Another substitute, Esther Hetfield, asked the board for its opinion.

"I have no problem with the request," said Michael Spiecke, board trustee.

"Down the road we might have other requests not in the public interest, maybe from vendors. We should be careful how far that goes."

## Gunman shoots insurance exec

The president of a Southfield insurance agency was shot once in the right hand Tuesday night as he was locking the doors of the Somerset building.

Providence Hospital officials reported Wednesday that Patrick Matthews, 41, of Farmington Hills, is in good condition.

Cathy Baker, vice president of Independent Agencies Inc., 21711 10 Mile, said robbery apparently wasn't a motive in the shooting.

She said Matthews doesn't remember hearing any demands from his attacker or even having a conversation with the three men who were in the building at the time of the shooting.

"He told us that he was making sure all the doors were shut and noticed a couple of guys hanging around," Ms. Baker said. "He was going to help the get out of the locked door when he was shot."

but normally carried more, police said. No business in the building reported a theft, according to police.

Steve Zultowski, public information officer for Southfield Police, said the shooting was reported at 8:30 p.m. by another employee in the building who administered first aid to the victim. According to police, Matthews only remembers locking the door, being shot and ending up on the second floor landing of the building.

"The victim couldn't immediately recall all the details," Zultowski said. "However, he was able to relate that he went down to lock the front door from the inside when he was met by two or three white males exiting the building. Then he recalls being on the second floor landing with a bullet wound in his right hand. He doesn't recall how he got there or what happened."

Police are unable to find any motive for the shooting but are investigating. The only description of the men in the lobby at the time of the shooting is that they were neatly dressed white men in their mid-twenties, police said.

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## THE FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Mrs. Dennis Blittz has found a foolproof formula for quick cash: one used car and one classified ad in her hometown newspaper. The result? Mrs. Blittz sold her 1977 Catalina in just one day. Call today to cash in on our success.

644-1070

## Bond School sold for office use

By MARY GNIEWEK

The long vacant Bond Elementary School in Farmington Hills has been sold to a West Bloomfield developer who plans to convert the building on 13 Mile west of Orchard Lake to offices. The \$340,000 offer made by Ronald L. Hughes was accepted unanimously Tuesday by the Farmington Board of Education over two other offers. All three bidders planned to convert the building to offices.

Hughes plans to work with the Oakland Subdivision Homeowners Association in developing a site plan. He met with neighborhood association members who live in the Bond School area last week.

The property must be rezoned by the Farmington Hills City Council from

school to office use. Hughes will pay the school district a \$12,000 non-refundable downpayment over the next 18 months while he attempts rezoning.

The offer calls for an \$85,000 downpayment initially and \$45,000 payments annually. The offer is on a land contract over three years at 10 percent annual interest.

Administrators favored the deal over offers by Albert Kabak, owner of Washington Clothiers in Farmington, and Louis B. Deziel, also a West Bloomfield developer.

Kabak's \$350,000 bid was rejected because it was contingent on a feasibility study and not a firm offer, according to Robert J. Kelly, attorney for the school district.

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