



# Farmington Observer

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## School days

Tuesday was Allison Shepherd's first day of school. Her mom, Susan, and dog, Cotton, accompanied her the short distance from her Rolling Oaks subdivision home to Forest Elementary in the Farmington School District. For the story and more pictures on the kindergartner's first day, please turn to page 3.

JERRY ZOLYNSKI/staff photographer

# School task force takes on the future

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Preparing for the future — not just reacting to it.

That's what Farmington School District officials plan to do in the coming school year.

School board members voted 6-0 Tuesday to create a task force of school district staff and representatives from the community to study current changes in the economy, society and the family. Within a year, the task force is expected to present a list of recommendations on how these changes will affect the district and its future. Trustee Jack Cotton was absent.

"We want to look to the future," said Superintendent Lewis Schulman, the moving force behind the new task force. "We want to be avant-garde. We want to be imaginative. We want to be innovative."

Armed with a \$5,000 budget, the task force will examine the physical needs of the district, review future student enrollment projections and determine what the community would like to see the district provide both students and adults.

**SPECIFICALLY, THE task force will:**

- Develop a list of community needs. This list is expected to reflect "an in-depth look at the community, the desires and wishes of parents and students, and an appraisal of the future," Schulman said.
- Develop pupil enrollment projections and school housing capacities.

*'We want to look to the future. We want to be avant-garde. We want to be imaginative. We want to be innovative.'*

— Lewis Schulman  
superintendent



• Conduct a thorough examination of changes necessary for programs that reflect concern about total education, not just kindergarten through 12th grade programs.

To provide a list of recommendations to the board, the task force will have to consider some hard, cold facts about what's happening beyond the school doors. "There are moral responsibilities we are beginning to accept," Schulman said.

In 1980, only 9 percent of mothers of school-aged children were employed. Today, more than 60 percent of mothers work. What happens to the children

before and after work and school hours has been a concern of the school district. To date, seven elementary schools provide latch key programs through a cooperative venture with the YMCA.

But as board secretary Janice Rolnick indicated, the current latch key programs provide a service for only the younger crowd, not the adolescents.

"THESE ARE the children that are being left at home — 15-year-olds. These are the kids that are getting into trouble."

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# Security guard is shot

Police are investigating the sniper-type shooting of a private security guard Tuesday evening at the Putt 'N' Games on Grand River in Farmington Hills.

Terrence Metzler, 25, of Detroit is listed in serious condition from a gunshot wound in the abdomen at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, according to Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer. The bullet

traveled through Metzler's hand and forearm before lodging in his abdomen. Metzler works for a Southfield security company.

Metzler was wounded at 9:10 p.m. as he was leaning against the back of the miniature golf building at 30749 Grand River, Dwyer said. Police believe a rifle of some type was used in the shooting.

"At this point we have no suspects

and no descriptions of any persons. A number of witnesses were interviewed. All indicated they just heard a loud shot and observed the security guard bleeding. We think it was possibly a sniper-type shooting," Dwyer said.

Although Putt 'N' Games has been the site of "recent disturbances and altercations with people who frequent the place," nothing was happening when Metzler was shot, Dwyer said.

# Homes still foot local tax bills

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The buildings popping up in Farmington Hills make it seem as if the city is dominated by offices. But single-family homeowners pay the greatest share of property taxes.

Farmington Hills taxpayers pay 8.8 mills (\$8.80 per \$1,000 of assessed value) to support a \$16.7 million city budget. Farmington taxpayers pay 11.74 mills (\$11.74 per \$1,000 of assessed value) to support a \$5.4 million city budget.

The city's 10 biggest taxpayers are commercial — most are multiple housing developers. The same is true of Farmington, where growth continues

but at a much slower pace.

"Thirty-five percent of our (Farmington Hills) tax base is commercial. The rest is residential," said Charles Rosch, Farmington Hills treasurer and finance director.

In Farmington, residential areas account for 58 percent of the city's \$182 million SEV. City Manager Robert Deadman said.

"THE REMAINING is in commercial/apartments and industrial or personal property," Deadman said.

While residential assessments remained stable in the Hills, assessments on commercial and industrial properties were up an average of 22 percent in Farmington. Some increased as

much as 60 percent, said Dean Babb, Farmington Hills assessor.

The increase is based on an improved economy and sales, and a move to update appraisals, Babb said.

Hills officials have asked Oakland County to help reappraise commercial and industrial properties, Babb said.

"The city has grown so fast that some of our records are so old," he said. "We need to get back onto an even keel. Even with two commercial appraisers, we just don't have the manpower to do it ourselves."

Oakland County appraisers are expected to complete the reappraisals by 1987, Babb said.

**BUT THE GROWTH** goes on. In just the first six months of this

year, Farmington Hills issued 339 single-family building permits. Sixty-six permits have been issued for multiple uses, which will account for 693 units of apartments, offices, industrial and commercial buildings and hotels and motels.

In 1984, Farmington Hills issued 521 building permits for single-family houses and 52 permits for multiple uses (for 454 units).

Growth in Farmington Hills, both in residential and commercial/industrial, forced city officials last year to create a new division — planning/community development office — to coordinate the phases of development in the city.

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## FOOTBALL



**SPECIAL SECTION  
IN TODAY'S ISSUE**

# Self-defense

## New school teaches martial arts

By Tom Henderson  
staff writer

They were staring face to face when suddenly the muscular young man grabbed the smaller, older man by the collar.

Screaming, but not in pain, the smaller man whirled and, too fast to even be a blur, slammed the muscular man face down on the ground, latched onto a fistful of his hair and violently jerked his head backwards.

"Now," said the smaller man, "when you ask him if he wouldn't rather have a Coke and talk about it."

Just graduated from Farmington Harrison and a black-belt student of Tae Kwon Do, a form of Korean karate. The smaller man was Bill Isaac, Ford engineer by day, teacher of the martial arts by night.

Isaac let Gross up, and they centered themselves in the middle mat. This time, Gross put a nasty headlock on his master, who calmly asked of the 17 eager students who sat there enthralled: "What are my weapons?"

"Hands," some bellowed. "Feet," said others.

"What are their targets?" he yelled. "Head! Groin! Feet," they bellowed. Screaming again, Isaac — in a move

that had to be repeated in slow motion so the students could really see it — tapped Gross behind the right knee to throw him off balance as he plucked a nerve in the left side of his neck and hurled him to his back. Whomp!

**LESS THAN** two years ago, sitting in a room at the former West Bloomfield Racquet Club, Isaac didn't have any black-belt students. In fact, he didn't have any students. Over the summer, as a lark, he'd taught 10 persons — friends, neighbors and fellow recreational hockey players — the rudiments of taekwon do.

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Yellow-belt Dave Rankin (left) and white-belt William Mathews, both of Farmington Hills, spar during a karate session.