

A child's molestation merits our attention, 1B



The game, 1D

A big fan of city dies at 92, 4A

Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 3203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

DO you want Santa or Mrs. Claus to personally call your child?
The Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Recreation Division has scheduled a Northpole Hotline for Thursday, Dec. 18. Hours will be 4:30-8 p.m., free of charge.
Forms are available at the Farmington Community Library. Deposit completed telephone request forms in one of Santa's Mailboxes — inside Tally Hall, 31005 Orchard Lake, or in front of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 3201 Grand River.
Requests also can be mailed to the Recreation Division, c/o Santa Claus, Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills 48018.
Requests must be received by 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17.

SING for breath.
The Metropolitan Detroit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will present the third annual "Sing for Breath Carolathon" from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Tally Hall, 31005 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills.
Singers will raise money for CF research, education and care programs by asking for donations. CF is the leading genetic killer of children and young adults in the United States.
The Southfield Lathrup High School Vocal Department will coordinate the fund-raiser, under David Jorlett's direction. Birney Middle School students in Southfield also will take part. Southfield Councilwoman Suzanne Goldstein is honorary chairwoman.

ON board.
Three area residents were elected to the Oakland County Republican Executive Committee at the county convention Nov. 20 in Pontiac.
They are Steven Bruce of Farmington and Jean Fox and Marlene Elwell of Farmington Hills. Jo Saltzman of Franklin also was elected.
All four will represent the 69th State House District on the committee, which will meet Dec. 18 to name a new county chairman. Candidates for the post are Alan May, 18th District chairman, and Larry Dickerson, county finance chairman. Joe Knollenberg, chairman for five years, is stepping down.

IT'S a different kind of New Year's resolution.
The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, an affiliate of the National Kidney Foundation, is asking everyone to consider adding one more item to their list of resolutions for 1987.
For details about the uniform organ donor card — a legal document throughout the country — call KCFM, a Unified Way agency, toll-free: 1-800-482-1455.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington Hills' tap water has been declared safe by state and local officials, following two recent reports of liquid mercury leaks into the water system on 14 Mile.

Group home foes press on

By Casey Hane staff writer
If given "specific" facts, Farmington Hills officials said they will continue to help residents block a proposed state group home to house mentally ill and emotionally disturbed people on Graying Street.

Through spokesman Dave Pilkington and several others, Graying Street residents again voiced concern before the city council Monday over allegations of sexual misconduct and drug use by an employee of the Ypsilanti-based Renaissance House Inc. — the organization applying to operate the facility at 28605

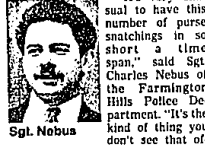
Graying. Pilkington also alleged he was given incorrect information by state officials who first discussed the proposed six-person facility with neighbors.
"I don't believe the Department of Social Services is effectively policing the facilities," Pilkington said.

"The department admits Renaissance does not have adequate staffing procedures, but they want to give them another license."
PILKINGTON CALLED on the city to appeal a recent state decision finding "no basis to deny licensing" and that the city seek a court injunction halting occupancy of the proposed facility. A license has not yet been given.
The Graying group home would be the first in Farmington Hills to house mentally ill and emotionally disturbed people. Other group homes

Please turn to Page 8

Thefts on rise in Hills

By Bob Sklar staff writer
Beware of cars following you home, warn Farmington Hills police after four homeowners reported having their purses stolen shortly after arriving home in recent weeks.



"It's very unusual to have this number of purse snatchings in so short a time span," said Sgt. Charles Nobus of the Farmington Hills Police Department. "It's the kind of thing you don't see that often."
Nobus doesn't know if the four cases are related. But he advises homeowners to "take extra precaution."
"It's the time of year to be especially careful," Nobus said. "It's the season for armed robberies and purse thefts by people in search of money to support their habits or to buy Christmas presents."
On Nov. 22, an elderly couple were victims of a strong-armed robbery at their house on Parker.
Two men thought to be in their late teens knocked on a side door, asked for directions, then forced their way inside about 3:30 p.m. The men then took the woman's purse and ring, the man's wallet, as well as jewelry from a bedroom while holding the couple at bay. The property

Sounds of the season



The First United Methodist Church of Farmington Choir (above) sang holiday songs and led a community sing-along during the Farmington Area Jaycees second annual holiday tree lighting Sunday night at the Farmington Historical Museum Gazebo on Grand River. At left is Jaycee Rena Swanson. At right is Farmington Hills Mayor Joe Alkateeb. Next to him is Miss Michigan, Kelly Lynn Garver of Farmington Hills. Both are holding candles. For a closer look at the tree lighting program, see Page 6A.

Most of their possessions are taken

By Louise Okrutsky and Bob Sklar staff writers
Former 20-year residents of West Bloomfield Township, Helen and Steve Tomen are in the process of moving to Novi after spending five

years in Chagrin Falls, a Cleveland suburb.
And neither will soon forget the day they returned to Oakland County, where Steve plans to re-establish business ties.
A 22-foot Ryder rental truck containing all of their furniture and

most of their clothing and valuables was stolen from outside their daughter's Farmington Hills apartment sometime Sunday night or Monday morning.
The yellow and white rental truck was recovered at 9 a.m. Tuesday in a bank lot at Warren and Southfield in

Detroit — empty, except for some clothing, cassette tapes and family photographs.
The stolen property was worth about \$70,000. The couple is uncertain about insurance coverage, Helen said.
"It's hard to put an actual value on the property because there was a lot of sentimental stuff, like pictures and Christmas cards," said detective Sgt. Dennis Hochford of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

ment at Glen Oaks in Novi.
The van held virtually all of the possessions the Tomens accumulated during 36 years of marriage.
Gone are a 18-piece service of Waterford crystal given to the couple on their anniversary, a 70-inch breakfront, silver serving pieces and brass pieces collected on trips to Mexico and Egypt.
"There's nothing of value left," she said. "They left one box of old pictures for which I'm grateful. They were old family pictures."
Her daughter's wedding portrait is gone, however.
"They took our tape decks but left the religious tapes we had," Helen added.

Reunion Her long-lost family surfaces

By Louise Okrutsky staff writer

After the initial shock and elation over finding the family from whom she was separated during World War II, Barbara Kulka anxiously awaits a long-delayed reunion.
"This is the best present I ever had in my whole life. It's a kind of unbelievable but it's true," said Kulka, 61.
The Farmington woman who last saw her family in 1941 long ago assumed they'd died in World War II. "War did a lot of harm. A lot of people got lost," she said.
All she had left of her family were childhood memories of her older brother, Matthew, and her younger sisters, Justina, Anastasia and Eugenia.
Kulka was 16 when the Germans came to their home in the Ukrainian village of Pryslip. They sent her and Matthew to labor camps. Kulka was sent to Austria. Her brother was shipped to Germany.
They were told they'd be gone for



six months. "The Germans thought the war was going to be over in six months," she recalled.
NOW, 46 years later — through a quirk of fate and the help of Joyce

THE STOLEN property includes the couple's wrapped Christmas presents, including new clothing for their four grandchildren.
"We lost everything we owned. We just have to start over," Helen said Tuesday from the couple's apart-

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