

Photographer takes arts honors, 1B



Best track times, 2D

Safety stressed at graduation time, 3A

# 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 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

**I**T'S a high-flying flag. Veterans of Foreign Wars Farmington Post 2269 and its auxiliary have donated an American flag to St. Paul Lutheran School in Farmington Hills. At the flag-raising, Fred Esser, post commander, spoke about the American flag's evolution. The donated flag was then raised to the top of the school's 94-year-old flagpole. School principal Randy Zielinski was joined by students and teachers at the ceremony. Representing the donors were Joan and Sy Simonson, Irene and Jerry Rodebaugh, Harold Rundquist, Irene Johnson, and Esser and his wife, Marilyn. A reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance closed the ceremony. The donation is one of many community service projects the post has sponsored.

**ON** board. Farmington Hills City Council made two appointments to the beautification commission last week. Jeff Stewart, representing the Farmington Area Jaycees, was appointed to a two-year term. Beatrice Smith was reappointed to a two-year term. Both terms expire Feb. 1, 1989.

**PAVING** set. Farmington Hills City Council has adopted the assessment roll and authorized the treasurer to collect the special assessment to help pay for paving Halsted, between 12 and 14 Mile. Total project cost is \$3.4 million. Owners of abutting property together will pay \$527,189 through special assessment. The city will pay the rest.

**MISSION** accomplished. East Middle School seventh grader Christine Borowski of Farmington Hills is one of 33 Michigan Metro Girl Scouts spending the week at the U.S. Space Camp and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. During the five-day mission, the Scouts will participate in a study of rocketry and basic principles of rocket control, simulate astronaut training with full gear, prepare for space walks in zero gravity conditions with the Moon Walk Trainer and study computer technology in the mission control lab.

They'll complete the week by conducting a simulated space mission that includes countdown, launch, orbit and return to Earth. Borowski is a member of Troop 866 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Southfield.

**KEEP** these numbers handy for reference when calling the Observer: new line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Farmington Hills' proposed extension of Northwestern Highway appears to be a dying issue in light of opposition from West Bloomfield Township officials.

## Hills day care ordinance may be liberalized

Group day care home operators speak out: 20A.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Another chapter is being written in the continuing drama of child day care in Farmington Hills. In the latest episode, Farmington Hills City Council members have asked city attorney Paul Bibeau to draft two new amendments to the less than month-old ordinance permitting day care in residential areas.

One proposed amendment would establish special conditions under which a larger group child day care home — permitting up to a maximum 12 children — would be permitted in neighborhood interiors. The ordinance adopted by the council in March restricts group day care homes to major or secondary roads. Family day care homes, with a maximum six children, are permitted in neighborhoods. Restrictions apply to both types of homes.

Councilwoman Jan Dolan suggested the amendment following a series of unsuccessful votes to address the city's two existing state-licensed group day care homes that are within neighborhoods. Three Jan Dolan other licensed group homes are on major or secondary homes.

**EVEN THOUGH** supportive of the council's original ordinance and the restrictions it applies to child day care, Dolan said she believes there can be exceptions to any rule. Councilwoman Jody Soronen stood alone in her opposition to the suggested amendment. "I rather like the ordinance the way it is written now," Soronen said, before various proposals were voted on.

A second amendment proposed by Councilman Joe Alkateeb would eliminate the original ordinance's requirement that there be 500 feet between day care homes, both family and group. Council members Soronen, Donna Wolf and Terry Sever were opposed.

"I think the ordinance is OK. It solves the problem," Alkateeb said, adding his only concern involved the 500-foot restriction. "Personally, I think the law of supply and demand will take care of that."

## Slightly lowered levy eyed

By Casoy Hans staff writer

A slight millage decline and lower retail water and sewer rates are proposed for Farmington in the coming fiscal year, according to budget information presented Monday to the city council.

Due to "strong growth in new and existing property values," the city administration is proposing lowering the operating millage from 10.76 to 10.65, about one tenth of a mill, city manager Robert Deadman told the council. The budget proposal suggests debt millage of .88 remain the same.

"We believe for this fiscal year that the community has adequate reserves, and with the growth in the State Equalized Valuation, that a re-

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## A special birthday



George "The Animal" Steele blows out his birthday candles as a group of newfound friends looks on.

## Wrestler pays a visit to pediatrics

**P**RO WRESTLER George "The Animal" Steele celebrated his birthday Saturday at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. Among Steele's hospital stops was the pediatrics unit. He later went to the cafeteria to share cake with 50 children as well as sign autographs.

The 296-pound heavyweight champion is registered with the World Wrestling Federation and has wrestled champions worldwide. He's a former football coach at Madison High School.

Photos by S. Kay Young



Botsford patient Norman LaPoret of Southfield, with George "The Animal" Steele.

## Bid to outlaw Fuzzbusters under fire

**'I don't have any big hangup with the use of radar detectors. But if the bill before us, allowing the 65 mph speed limit, will only pass with the radar detector ban, I'm going to vote for it.'**

— Wilbur Brotherton, state representative



State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, outlines his position: 10A.

By Bob Sklar staff writer

State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton, R-Farmington, says he'll support a bill outlawing radar detectors if that's what it takes to assure a 65 mph speed limit on rural interstates.

Brotherton — who has no "big hangup with the use of radar detectors" — says more constituents have called about this bill than any previous legislative proposal.

"Every single caller favors retaining radar detector use," he said. "Many use them and like them. Some say radar detectors keep them alert. Others resent being told what to do on constitutional grounds."

"But if the bill before us, allowing the 65 mph speed limit, will only pass with the radar detector ban, I'm going to vote for it," the lawmaker said.

On April 14, Gov. Blanchard came out in favor of boosting Michigan's speed limit to 65 mph on rural interstates as long as the state also makes it illegal to own or sell radar detectors.

**BLANCHARD FAVORS** boosting the speed limit on about 720 miles of rural interstate highway in Michigan, but his support has strings attached. For starters, he thinks radar detectors encourage speeding and thus threaten highway safety.

If faced with an independent vote on whether to ban possession of radar detectors, Brotherton says he "can't see any justification for making them unlawful."

The new radar guns that police use are so advanced and so fast, "they really make radar detectors almost ineffective," he said. "They simply take one quick shot to get a reading. I don't think radar detectors offer as much protection as people think."

Sgt. Vern Reidsma, legislative analyst and lobbyist for the Michigan State Police, said it was "ludicrous to allow motorists to circumvent the law."

Studies have shown that drivers with radar detectors travel at speeds higher than the posted limit. "Other people pick up that speed," he said. "And the faster the speeds, the more serious the accidents."

He estimated that 25 percent of Michigan drivers have radar detectors.

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## Jail sentence affirmed in manslaughter case

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

A former Farmington Hills resident — convicted of manslaughter in a 1985 traffic death — is going to jail despite claims of mental and psychological fragility.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Norman Lippitt Wednesday ordered Connie Doa, 24, of Novi to appear May 4 to be remanded to the Oakland County jail to serve her scheduled six-month sentence. Doa was convicted of manslaughter in the death of Beverly

Ann Lambert, 20, of West Bloomfield Township. Lambert was killed when the car she was driving was struck head-on by Doa's car. The collision occurred about 11:30 p.m. March 18, 1985, on Mulrwood Drive, near Conifer, at the Mulrwood Apartments, Farmington Hills.

Doa's blood-alcohol level, taken after the collision, was 15 percent higher than the 10 percent level at which people are considered legally drunk. Lambert's mother, Sharalyn of West Bloomfield Township, was pleased with Lippitt's decision.

"The criminal justice system works. Justice has prevailed... so other kids will not be killed like my daughter was," Lambert said.

**LIPPITT REJECTED** Doa's request to reconsider the jail sentence and serve her time at home, monitored by the Oakland County Probation Department by an electronic tether that would alert authorities if she tried to leave.

Mitchell Ribbitzer, Doa's attorney, asked for the new tethering program

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## condo queries

by Birmingham attorney ROBERT MEISNER will be a regular Thursday feature in our Creative Living section.