

Club women rev up for the year 2000, 1B



Girls cage honors, 1C

Polish heritage in spotlight, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

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**S**PARTAN mania hasn't yet peaked. "Our Michigan State business is wonderful," said Maureen Surmann, sales clerk at Hamon's Sports Collectibles in Farmington Hills. Sweaters, T-shirts, hats and musical buttons are among the hot sellers. "We had to reorder T-shirts and sweatshirts," Surmann said. "All of the hidden MSU fans are now coming out." She expects Spartan sales to continue to be strong right up to the Rose Bowl New Year's Day — "and beyond if they win."

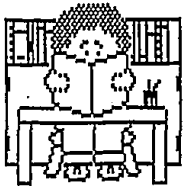
University of Michigan items usually outsell MSU items. But "MSU things have picked up so much they're probably now outselling Michigan things for the first time," Surmann said.

**JAYCEE** Week. That's what the Farmington City Council has declared Jan. 18-22 in recognition of the Farmington Area Jaycees "for its continuing contributions to the community."

**TAKE** note, motorists. The Farmington Hills City Council has approved a traffic signal for 13 Mile and Haggerty and a parking prohibition for Eight Mile, from Haggerty to Grand River.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Ben Marks and Jody Soronen were named mayor and mayor pro tem, respectively, in separate unanimous votes by the Farmington Hills City Council.

## Approach to reading upgraded



Novel reading program now under way, 10A

By Casey Hans staff writer

Reading is the "cornerstone" of learning and is a "lifetime pursuit," according to an educator and head of a reading study committee for the Farmington school district.

The committee is revising the district's approach to reading. It will pilot and select new textbooks, train teachers through in-service sessions,

and advise parents of the change in reading philosophy during this school year.

"This is not just a teaching philosophy, but a philosophy for all time," Farmington reading specialist Carolyn Mahalak told the school board last week. "All of us have to be teachers of everything, right on down."

The group's immediate focus is to put in place a reading series for students from kindergarten through grade six. Involved are Farmington teachers, principals, consultants and

advisers, members of the gifted staff and other departments.

**THE COMMITTEE** will select two textbooks this month, which will be piloted at selected elementary classrooms in Gill, Larkshire, Beechview, Longacre, Eagle and Wood Creek in early 1988. This spring, the committee will study pilot results and recommend a textbook for the 1988 school year, Mahalak said.

The reading study committee was formed one year ago to help the district revise its reading program. Members spent the fall reviewing

curriculum, texts and teaching methods, following a summer session when 22 Farmington teachers rewrote the district's reading philosophy and goals, Mahalak said.

The district's new philosophy says it will "assure that all students . . . develop to their fullest potential as readers."

"Reading is an element of the communication process that enables the reader to access information, gain knowledge and derive pleasure."

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## Hills introduces park regulations

Park's Estate House debated, 8A

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington Hills officials will welcome residents to their parks, but with restrictions.

No pets, no loitering in parking lots, no ball games except in designated areas, no feeding the wild animals, and a variety of other regulations have been introduced as the city continues its development of

Heritage and Pioneer parks.

City council members voted 6-0 Monday night to introduce an ordinance specifying rules and regulations for all city parks. Councilwoman Jean Fox was absent.

Breaking any of the rules will constitute a misdemeanor violation, in which violators could be fined up to \$500 and spend up to 90 days in jail.

Although the vote was unanimous, the proposed ordinance brought opposing discussion from council members Aldo Vagnozzi and Joe Alka-teeb.

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## Wish fulfilled; he dies with dignity

By Casey Hans staff writer

Clifford Culham Jr. always fought for his beliefs and the things he loved, whether they were political rights, his organic garden or his close-knit Farmington Hills family.

His most recent fight, to be allowed to die with dignity, was granted in an Oakland County courtroom this month — one year to the day after he made his request.



Clifford Culham Jr.

Clifford Culham, 57, died at his daughter's Farmington Hills home Dec. 18, surrounded by the family who had supported him throughout his struggle with ankyrostatic lateral sclerosis.

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## Good cheer



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Patrick Corbin hoists himself up for a closer look at Santa, also known as Farmington Hills police officer David Loe. Because he won't be home for Christmas, Patrick's parents, Mary and Ron Corbin of Farmington Hills, sisters, Kelly and Maureen, and brother, Mike, will join with his grandparents in bringing Christmas to him in Botford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. For more about David Loe's special brand of good cheer, see Page 3A.

## We do it for the kids and the seniors



staff photos by BOB SKLAR/staff photographer

Farmington High juniors (from left) Joe Crow, Jennifer Stumpo and Roberto Davoto help load a Goodfellows "basket of joy" delivery truck Saturday morning.

## Helping hand

### Goodfellows spread good will

By Bob Sklar staff writer

**I**T DIDN'T matter what the reason was as long as it was legitimate. They could have been laid off from work, at the poverty level or victims of a major illness, a serious accident or a bad fire.

No matter. The Farmington Area Goodfellows helped brighten their holiday season.

The Goodfellows delivered specially packed holiday baskets Saturday to 130 needy families and 141 low-income seniors.

"We do it for the kids and the seniors. We're making sure Christmas is good to them," said Bill O'Connor, a Goodfellows director. Volunteers from Farmington-

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Goodfellows Durward Heister (left) and Bill Liba of Farmington help pack a "basket of joy" Saturday morning.

## Oakland's police chiefs are seeking unity, safer streets

By Casey Hans staff writer

Oakland County police are finding the need to communicate better because of changing laws and new technology that link their agencies together.

As Oakland becomes one of the fastest growing counties in the state, the effect of the 60-member Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police is also growing, according to Frank Lauhoff, the group's newly elected president and Farmington's public safety director.

"We have quite a responsibility," he said. "Many things start here in Oakland County. Years before, there wasn't the collective support. Now we think we can make positive changes."

From the planned E-911 county-wide emergency phone system, to in-car terminals for patrol officers, to work on legislating a statewide fingerprint identification system, this Oakland County police network involves itself both here and in Lansing.

OCACP WAS formed in 1987 with 43 law enforcement agencies, including the Oakland County Sheriff and Michigan State Police, and others such as the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, traffic improvement agencies, and the county police academy. Many were members of the former South Oakland Chiefs of Police, in existence since the 1960s. A survey showed 100 percent support

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Frank Lauhoff public safety director

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## Early Holiday Deadlines

To place your classified in-column "Lines" ad in our Monday, Dec. 28 edition, please call before 5:00 Wednesday Dec. 23.

Oakland County 844-0770

Wayne County 591-0500

Rochester 852-3222

Happy Holidays