

Singles look at the singles scene, 1D

Girls track results, 1C

School candidates give their views, 6A

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48924. To call: news line, 477-3250; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0209; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

**VOTERS forum.** The four candidates for the Farmington school board have been invited to debate before the Farmington Democratic Club at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at the Belaford Inn, 23800 Grand River, Farmington Hills. Chalmers Robert Ranney and John Akouri will join incumbents John Cotton and Helen Diluzury in making brief opening statements. A question and answer session will follow. MetroVizion of Oakland County will tape the public debate for viewing on cable Channel 12. On June 12, voters will fill two four-year school board terms.

**SURVEY deadline.** City manager William Costick asks Farmington Hills residents to complete and return by Friday the four-page resident attitude survey mailed to them recently. Your answers will help improve existing services and determine the priorities for a future budget.

## Memory lane

50 years ago: Farmington Township property owners voted decisively against the proposed construction of a new town hall building. The vote, 442-53, was a margin of 17 to 1 against. A \$10,000 bond issue also was defeated. The Detroit city traffic committee is considering road widening, banning on-street parking and removal of street car tracks to eliminate traffic hazards on Grand River, the main artery from Farmington to Detroit. — Farmington Enterprise, May 11, 1939

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## MONTHLY ALBUM

Special Section in Today's Issue

# Rape charge spurs review at home

By Bob Sklar staff writer

A Farmington Hills home for abused, neglected and emotionally disturbed children is evaluating placement, truancy and teaching policies amid charges that a 12-year-old boy raped a 12-year-old girl in the woods there May 3. Up to six other boys may have witnessed the sexual attack, which occurred between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. while the girl and the boys were truant on the grounds of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, 27400 12 Mile. The victim returned to her room that afternoon. The suspect returned to his room the next morning. Wards of the court, they are both from Detroit, officials said. The suspect faces one count of first-degree

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— Thomas Conklin center spokesman

criminal sexual conduct, involving penetration, and one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct, involving contact, police said. "We're still interviewing," Farmington Hills Sgt. Charles Nebus said. The police investigation could lead to other charges, he said. "We're evaluating each of the youths in-

involved in the truancy incident to determine if they are benefiting from being here or whether an alternative placement might be more helpful to them," said Thomas Conklin, director of agency relations at the 68-year-old center. THE RAPE is the first such incident at the

center. The boy who is charged has no such criminal history, Conklin said.

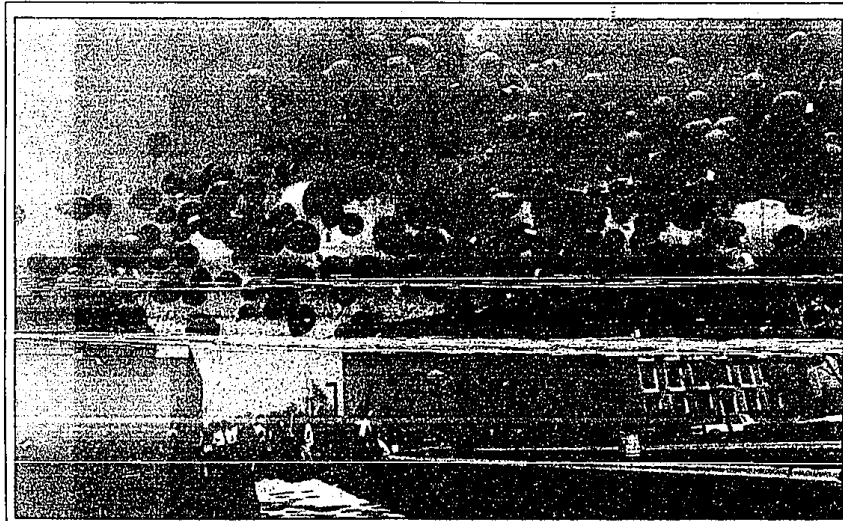
The center's residential treatment program provides care and treatment for 55-60 children ages 5-14, who lives in cottages of 10-12 residents per cottage.

"We have adequate staff to take care of kids on the grounds, but there's a need to bring in more staff more quickly when there's a truancy incident. We're putting in place measures to do just that," Conklin said.

The center will continue to emphasize to "each of the children what can happen to them when they are truant," Conklin said.

"When an incident of this magnitude occurs, all of the kids turn their attention to it. It cracks through the 'nothing can happen to me' attitude."

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HANDY BORSST/staff photographer

## Awash with color

To kick off National Hospital Week May 7-13, Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills held a balloon launch May 8. Prizes will be awarded for the balloon that travels the farthest. Late in the week, balloons had traveled as far as Kentucky and Niagara Falls. Theme for the week was "Wellspring of Our Community."

A wellspring is a source of continual supply for the community it serves. "Like a wellspring, our hospital nourishes our community with constant care, information and services," said Margo Gorenow, administrator. The week included a barbecue for all employees and volunteers.

# Rules oust 5 part-time firemen

Full-time fire department would double budget, 7A

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Drastic changes aren't expected in the Farmington Hills Fire Department as a result of union enforcement of rules that have forced five paid, on-call firefighters to resign. "It makes it a little more difficult to do our job. It forces some good people to leave the department," fire Chief Richard Marinucci said. "These tactics will not put us out of business."

The resignations resulted from enforcement of union bylaws by the Michigan State Firefighters Union and its parent organization, the International Association of Fire-

fighters. Career firefighters may moonlight as carpenters, plumbers or painters. But according to union rules, they may not work as paid, on-call firefighters.

Union officials say they are simply getting their house in order. Department officials call the enforcement "tactics" designed to stop the use of part-time firefighters in departments like Farmington Hills, which has both full- and part-time firefighters.

"We're simply trying to clean house. We want firefighters in our union to abide by the bylaws and constitution," state union president Larry McCall said. "We find there are a few people in Farmington Hills (who can be affected by the union rule)."

The local union president, Lt. Michael Garr, refused to comment, cit-

ing rules against providing information to anyone outside the department.

MARINUCCI BELIEVES the union's efforts are, in part, directed toward the department's combination full-time and paid, on-call fire-fighting system.

"I think it is a big issue. Because we are doing a good job, we are posing a bigger threat," Marinucci said. Farmington Hills has nine full-time firefighters and approximately 90 paid, on-call firefighters, many full time in other departments. Of the five who resigned from the paid, on-call force, one is a full-time Farmington Hills firefighter and the others are full time in other departments.

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Richard Marinucci no drastic changes

# Judge to rule on DNA results

## Rape victim tests at issue

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Oakland County Circuit Judge Robert Templin in June will determine whether results of sophisticated genetic tests on evidence gathered from victims of the Oakland County serial rapist may be admissible in court.

Templin agreed May 10 to combine the cases against Steven A. Szerman Jr., 25, of Rocky River, Ohio, accused of being the Oakland County serial rapist, and one against Sean Perkins, charged in a Southfield murder, for purposes of the evidentiary hearing only, Oakland County assistant prosecutor Brian Zobel confirmed.

Templin will hear arguments and testimony from experts to determine the admissibility of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence gathered at the crime scenes in both cases. The hearing is expected in the third week of June though a specific date has not been scheduled, Zobel said.

"Any new scientific evidence has to be shown to be reliable," said Szerman's court-appointed attorney, Lawrence Kaluzny of Bingham Farms.

In Michigan, these Davis Frye hearings are used to determine admissibility of evidence that "has not been ruled upon by any appellate courts," Zobel said.

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# Hills salutes fallen police

Farmington Hills will fly at half-staff Tuesday, May 16, in honor of Police Officer Gary J. ...

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# School budget to be previewed

Public budget hearings for Farmington Public Schools are scheduled for Tuesday night, when trustees will hear comments on the proposed \$85.5 million operating budget for the district.

The hearings will be held during the regular school board meeting, scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 33600 Shilavasse, Farmington. One will be a required budget hearing; the other a "Truth-in-Taxation" hearing, required if tax dollars collected will exceed last year's.

The district is proposing to levy 32.39 mills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, an increase of 1.74 mills from the current year. This is the maxi-

mum the district can levy because of the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment.

Compared with last year's approved budget of \$74 million, this would be an \$11 million increase; compared with actual expenses of \$76 million, this would be a \$3 million increase.

The district spent \$5 million over the budgeted figure because of required asbestos abatement and removal of PCB from lighting ballasts in district buildings, according to deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan. Budget adjustments for these and other items are voted on monthly by the Farmington school board.

The \$8 million budget increase figure used in

the May 4 issue of the Observer was calculated incorrectly.

The budget increases would cover a 10-percent reserve, or fund equity, 4.1 percent across-the-board in rate-of-inflation pay increases — although contracts with all school unions are being negotiated this year, \$300,000 in new textbooks, and a 31-percent increase in health insurance costs.

It does not include a separate contingency for school finance reform, which could adversely affect the district.

The school board will approve a new budget in June.