

Miss Farmington is crowned, 1B



Olympians speak, 1D

School district names 2 new principals, 6A

# Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 83

Thursday, July 20, 1989

Farmington, Michigan

88 Pages

Fifty Cents

© 1989 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

**LOOKING** north and west. Farmington Hills' city council and administration will host a meeting with their counterparts in Novi to review areawide growth problems and other issues of mutual concern.

City manager William Costick sees the meeting ultimately resulting in a consortium representing Farmington Hills, Novi and West Bloomfield. The consortium would promote a "better understanding of what is occurring within each of our communities and how events occurring in one city will impact their neighbors."

A substantial amount of land is still to be developed north and west of Farmington Hills.

"The growing problems of congested traffic and inadequate roads, resulting in part by zoning decisions made by the various area units of government, require that we begin to take an area approach to such zoning decisions," said Farmington Hills councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, who suggested creating a consortium.

## QUOTE of the week

The abuse, the attacks by people. This is more than just a fence. It's to protect my family.

— Farmington resident Derwin Success, a black minister who says a stockade fence around his back yard is one way to fight racial slurs toward his biracial family. Story on page 1A.

# Harassment continues for family

## Racial attacks spur request for a fence

Related opinion: 14A

By Casey Hans staff writer

A biracial Farmington family is still being harassed by passersby and others, two years after their house was spray-painted with racial epithets and slogans.

Derwin and Dianna Success and their two young children — plus neighbors and their families — have been subjected to continued comments, brick-throwing and taunting from people driving by their Shilawassee Street home. They also receive phone calls at night.

Derwin Success talked about the incidents Monday night at the family requested a fence variance from the Farmington City Council — a request he called a matter of life and death. Derwin is black; Dianna is white.

"The abuse, the attacks by people. This is more than just a fence — it's to protect my family," he said. "Daily, my life is threatened. When are

we going to do something about it? This community not ready to have us around," added the four-year resident. "If something is not done, somebody's going to lose their lives." He asked the city council to "stand strong behind me."

FARMINGTON PUBLIC safety director Frank Lauff said his department had received two calls recently involving the Successes' house. One involved destruction of a fence being installed, the other about doorbell-ringing at night.

The city council granted the Successes a height variance to install a six-foot stockade fence from their front building line back. It denied their request for a section of four-foot-tall stockade fence in the front yard, behind a newly installed basketball pole, because front-yard fences are prohibited by ordinance. Derwin Success said he was ticketed for working on the fence before receiving city approval.

But the issue Monday seemed to center around the community request for a fence.

Please turn to Page 7



DOUGLAS E. SUSALLA

Derwin Success, a minister at Boroa St. Paul's Matthew, 11, in the fence-enclosed yard of his home, with his daughter, Sarah, 6, and his son,

## 'People care' Message of love given to Rivlin

By Joanna Maliszewski staff writer

"David We Love You." That's the message displayed across a 30-by-40-inch poster from 594 listeners of WMUZ-FM, a Christian radio station in Detroit, to quadriplegic David Rivlin of Farmington.

"We were getting such a response from listeners on our studio lines. Then about two weeks ago, we decided we should let him know how much people care," said Robin Sullivan, WMUZ afternoon disc jockey. Posters were stationed at Christian bookstores throughout the Detroit area where people could write their good wishes, prayers or thoughts. The 12 posters were taped together to make one large greeting card.

When the greeting card was delivered Tuesday to Oak Hill Care



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

David Rivlin: "Mourning is natural."

Center, a spokeswoman at the Farmington nursing home gave radio officials the bad news: Rivlin, 38, had been moved after three years to an undisclosed location. Sullivan said Wednesday the

card had been forwarded to Rivlin. "We really wanted him to see it," she said. "There are people who care. How many people have seen

Please turn to Page 4

## Banner spurs review of parade rules

By Casey Hans staff writer

Extra care will be taken to avoid political statements in future Founders Festival parades after some adverse community reaction to a pro-life message carried by one group Saturday.

An organization of Catholic men, the Knights of Columbus, had members from a Farmington Hills chapter carrying a banner the width of the street proclaiming "Right to Life," the name of a national pro-life activist group.

Jody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and administrator of this year's Founders Festival, said her office had received "several phone calls" complaining

about the parade entry and its political message.

She plans to draft a letter to the group, with the permission of her board of directors, to let them know political messages of any kind will not be allowed in future parades.

"Their parade application did not indicate they were going to do this," she said. "It is indeed an inappropriate place for this... or any issue. We just don't do that in the Founders Festival."

"I think it was very tacky."

JACK STONG, a Birmingham resident and member of the Knights of Columbus-Farmington St. Francis Council No. 4401, is listed as "person in charge" on the group's application.

Please turn to Page 4

## what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 4B
- Business . . . . . Sec C
- Cable connection . . . 9C
- Classifieds . . . Sec. C,E-H
- Index . . . . . 11G
- Auto . . . . . Sec. C
- Real estate . . . . . Sec. E-G
- Employment . . . . . Sec. C,G,H
- Creative living . . . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . . 2F
- Entertainment . . . . . 2C
- Obituaries . . . . . 5D
- Opinion . . . . . 14A
- Points of view . . . . . 4A
- Police/fire calls . . . . 15A
- Recreation news . . . . 7D
- Sports . . . . . Sec. D
- Suburban life . . . . . Sec. B

## Observer & Eccentric Classifieds Work!

STOP! STOP! STOP! Please STOP! At last count twenty-five (25) phone calls. That's the trouble I got from a "one time", three line ad in your paper.

This is crazy! I wanted to see that ad but your paper had to go and "REALLY" not that cool. I'm sorry, but if I get one more phone call.

Yours in Gratitude, D. Kalota

One call does it all! WAYNE COUNTY 591-0900

## Bonelli's mental exam extended

By Carolyn DeMarco staff writer

Investigators at the Ypsilanti Regional Psychiatric Hospital have asked for a 30-day extension in the psychiatric examination of Anthony Joseph Bonelli, the Oakland County Prosecutor's office learned Tuesday.

Bonelli is in Oakland County Jail pending a trial date, charged in the mid-March drowning murder of his 17-year-old former girlfriend, Kristina Marie Fracchia, in Orchard Lake. Both were Farmington Hills residents.

Bonelli is being tested by the forensic center for competency and criminal responsibility, according to assistant Oakland County prosecutor Fred Miller.

Miller expects Bonelli's trial to begin in about a month, he said Tuesday.

Warrants are expected shortly charging a Farmington Hills resident with being an accessory after the fact in Fracchia's death, Miller said. In Bonelli's pre-trial exam, North Farmington High School student Jim Nader, 17, testified he helped return Fracchia's car after Bonelli told him Fracchia was dead.

In an agreement with the prosecutor's office, Nader is expected to testify in the Bonelli case, waive his own preliminary exam and plead guilty to being an accessory, Miller said.

BONELLI WAS arrested March 17 by Orchard Lake police when he agreed to come in for an interview regarding Frac-

chia's death. The fully clothed body of Fracchia, a Farmington Hills Mercy High School student who had been missing for several days, was discovered earlier in the day floating in shallow water off the north shore of Orchard Lake.

At the Orchard Lake Police Department's request, West Bloomfield police later that night videotaped Bonelli as he recreated the events that led to Fracchia's death.

At the time of the incident, Bonelli was a student at the Farmington Training Center, a district-run special education center for students with emotional, physical or mental problems.

Please turn to Page 7

## Group wants vote on C'ville issue

By Kevin Brown staff writer

Organizers of a group seeking to dissolve the Clarencenville School District say they plan to put the issue on the November ballot.

"We want better education and we want our taxes lower," said Tammy Inacnell, one of the organizers of the group Community to Dissolve Clarencenville.

Inacnell, of Farmington Hills, said the group needs to collect petition signatures totaling 25 percent of the number of voters

who cast ballots in the last state election to put the issue on the November ballot.

Should a majority of district voters support a vote to dissolve the district, Inacnell said it would send a message to the state and to school boards in Farmington and Livonia.

Clarencenville includes the northeast section of Livonia, the southeast section of Farmington Hills and the northeast section of Redford Township.

THE GROUP collected about 1,000 petition signatures this spring in support of dissolving the district.

"The signatures we got were to show the board that people did care about what was going on," Inacnell said.

The Clarencenville Board of Education last month unanimously passed a resolution against consolidation, as another group (Informed Residents for Clarencenville) organized to demonstrate support for maintaining the status quo.

Inacnell said a new petition drive would begin soon to get enough signatures to place the issue on the ballot.

Please turn to Page 6



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## Tiny taster

Christopher Lanto, 2, helps his dad, Bruce, a Farmington businessman, judge this year's pie-baking contest at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington during last week's Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival. For a festive wrap-up and more pictures, please turn to Page 2B.