

A 'Royale' welcome to Michigan, 1D



Lifeless lakes, 1C

Where to find special foods, 1B

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**On line.** Farmington Hills is planning a neighborhood liaison program to open up "lines of communication between city hall and our various subdivision associations," city manager William Costick said. He sees the city council not only learning about homeowner activities but also "some real concerns... that we might not be aware of."

While campaigning in 1987, councilman Aldo Vognozzi, who suggested the program, said he "discovered many interesting features about our city — dazzling flowers and trees, wild animal preserves, ponds stocked with fish, streams meandering through beautiful grounds. This represents our heritage. We should be proud of it by giving recognition to our community and our people."

### Memory lane

**25 years ago.** The Farmington Planning Commission has determined that a saturation point in the number of apartments the city should allow has just about been reached. Billie Fernum, Michigan's auditor general and a candidate for this area's new congressional seat, visited Farmington Democrats in their new local headquarters at Farmington Road and Grand River. — Farmington Enterprise, Aug. 15, 1964

### This week

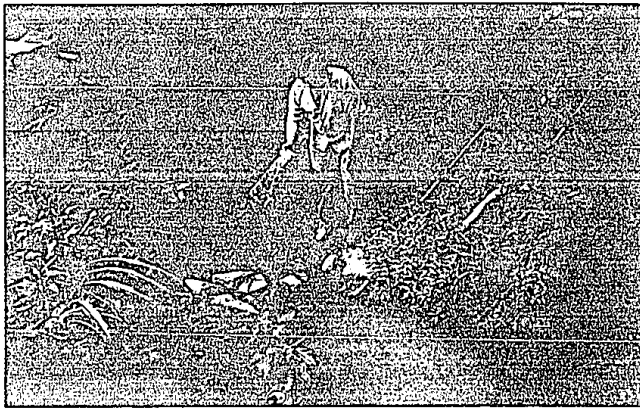
**F**ARMINGTON school board members will consider a name for the planned westside elementary at their regular meeting Tuesday night. The choice is between Challenger and Maple Hill.

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## Creek dumping spurs DNR probe



By Susan Buck staff writer

The state Department of Natural Resources is fed up.

It's asking anyone who witnesses dumping near the Rouge River's headwaters to blow the whistle. The most-recent complaint involved the tributary that runs through Springbrook subdivision, north of 10 Mile, west of Middlebelt.

"It's preventable," said Maggie Fields, environmental quality analyst for the DNR's Northville office.

"We do not have enough staff to act like Big Brother, nor do we want to. What we need to do is to educate people on the simple things they can do to protect the environment. When you put anything into a waterway like grass, fruit from a fruit tree or animal waste, you pollute the environment. We need the residents' eyes and ears."

Four DNR staff members handle spills in a five-county area as well as other responsibilities.

Joe Derek, a Farmington Hills resident and outspoken environmentalist, alerted Fields to the dumping incident on July 31 when he noticed floating material and a strong odor in the tributary that runs downstream through his 1.9 acres.

ONE OF the suspected offenders removed part of the debris, mainly grass clippings, that was causing the problem, Fields said.

The resident apparently admitted he was responsible for part of the dumping, Fields said. But he was only willing to clean up his portion of the dumped grass clippings.

Apparently, a 50-foot area is affected. When grass clippings are thrown into the river's headwaters — especially in a shallow, slow-moving area — oxygen is depleted from the water, Fields said.

"How am I going to prove whose grass clippings are whose?" Fields asked.

She plans to write two other families that live along the creek, telling them the DNR is aware of the dumping problem. A littering ticket could bring a fine of up to \$500.

Fields admits she has no proof, evidence or witness as to who's responsible for what. "I can't prove who did it," she said. "All I have is visual evidence. The conservation officer may think that's sufficient or he may not."

A STRONG odor alerted Joe Derek, a research lab technician for

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Joe Derek removes a pad of material, provided by the DNR, that soaked up an oily substance he spotted in the creek that runs through his property.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Trial ordered for employee in robbery



Raymond Edward Shavers Jr. robbery suspect

By Horeen Flack staff writer

A McDonald's manager said the four-year employee charged in the July 10 robbery of the restaurant had similar traits to the gunman who deliberately fired at her, according to testimony in 47th District Court Friday.

Day manager Peggy Richard said Raymond Edward Shavers Jr., 18, of Detroit has the same build, the same walk and the same type of jeans that the masked gunman wore.

At the end of a two-day preliminary examination Friday, District Judge Fred Harris of Farmington bound Shavers over for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court on eight felony counts, including assault with intent to commit murder.

On the morning of the robbery, Richard was standing behind the counter at the McDonald's restaurant on Orchard Lake Road, near 10 Mile, talking with Lisa Davis, another manager, and Eric Anderson, a Guardian Armored Security courier picking up weekend receipts, when a

masked gunman entered from the side door.

Richard thought the robbery was a hoax because the gunman wore a "witch's mask," with a long, pointed nose and long white hair.

She recalled the gunman, who never spoke, was serious when he grabbed the courier's canvas money bag and gun, a .357 Magnum, and pointed a .38-caliber revolver at her, firing a shot that narrowly missed her. The spent slug, found five inches from her left side, would have struck between her chest and nose.

THE ROBBER left with \$7,000 and met an accomplice in a getaway car parked about a block away, police said. About 50 patrons and employees were inside the restaurant, but no one was hurt.

Richard said she recognized the jeans the gunman wore, saying they were the same "unusual" jeans she had seen Shavers often wear. Richard has known Shavers for four months while working at the restaurant.

**Manager Peggy Richard thought the robbery was a hoax because the gunman wore a 'witch's mask.'**

Richard also said the gunman walked with the same "certain walk, like Ray's."

When questioned why she originally did not bring up the similarities to police, Richard said, "all the characteristics were Ray's, but I didn't want to falsely accuse anyone."

Shavers is known to have had minor problems with Richard, police said.

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## Ex-member might run for Hills council

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Former councilwoman Joan Dudley is among the latest of 17 potential candidates in the race for a Farmington Hills City Council seat.

The former charter commissioner served on the city council from 1973 to 1977 and 1983 to 1987. She served as mayor in 1977.

"I have some serious concerns about what's happening in the city: ethical considerations all the way to superstructure things, such as roads," said Dudley, seriously considering filing her nominating petitions.

Five of the seven nonpartisan council seats will be up for grabs this fall. Others recently taking out nominating petitions include Bettye Stynes of Bunker Hill and Frederic Levine of Country Ridge Circle.

In the race for four expiring council terms, incumbents Ben Marks and Aldo Vognozzi have filed for re-election and incumbent Philip Arnold has taken out a nominating petition. Incumbent Jody Soronen is not seeking re-election after 12 years of service.

**'I have some serious concerns about what's happening in the city: ethical considerations all the way to superstructure things, such as roads.'**

— Joan Dudley ex-councilwoman

Paul Sowerby, appointed in March to fill a vacancy, is required by a 1985 city charter amendment to seek election to fill the remaining two years of former councilman Joe Alkatech's four-year term. Alkatech resigned in February. Sowerby has

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## Race for 3 seats lures 5 hopefuls

By Bob Sklar staff writer

At least five residents, including three incumbents and a minister whose biracial family has been the target of racial slurs, are interested in three Farmington City Council seats this November.

Expiring terms are now held by Mayor Richard Tupper, completing his second two-year term, Mayor Pro Tem Arnold Campbell, completing his first four-year term, and councilwoman Shirley Richardson,

appointed to fill the remainder of Alton Bennett's term in 1988. Bennett resigned and moved away.

The three incumbents have said they plan to seek re-election. Also taking out nominating petitions were John Kenney of Pickett and the Rev. Derwin Success of Shlawassee, city clerk Jo Busley said.

"Neighbors want me to run for the city council," said Success, a Methodist minister at a Highland Park church and the organizer of a

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## Trading hats

### Hills man turns from TV news to city service after work hours

By Susan Buck staff writer

The squawk of 16 police monitors blares out a stream of calls, while Channel 7 reporters peek furiously into typewriters, cradling telephone receivers on their shoulders.

Obscured by their noisy, distracting surroundings and yet keenly perceptive of developments, they are first to be privy to news stories that will soon become public knowledge.

News is in the making. A board keeps track of the stories.

And John Trafolet, 42, the most senior of four assignment managers at WXYZ/Channel 7 in Southfield, determines exactly what constitutes that news from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. After work hours, Trafolet, a Farmington Hills resident since 1971, trades his journalist's hat for two community service caps.

He's into his third term on the planning commission and his second year as chairman. He also works as a paid, on-call firefighter as well as an emergency medical technician (EMT) in Farmington Hills.

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John Trafolet (center) spends his days working as a news assignment editor for WXYZ-TV in Southfield. Behind him

are John Fuller (left), news videographer, and Bob Kuzynski, also an assignment editor.