

Private eyes are watching you, 1D



Volleyball finals, 1C

Downtown salute will be one of a kind, 3A

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To write the Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. To call news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; weekend line, 591-2305; home delivery, 591-4300; classified ads, 591-0500; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

AFTER a discussion about a tough, new ordinance proposal that would prohibit outside banners, resident George Roberts, a Farmington Democratic Club member, quipped from the podium at last week's city council meeting:

"How can a city that has more than 80-percent Republican voters even remotely be considered hostile to business?"

DID you know \$2 million of local roads have been paved through residents petitioning for a special assessment district road improvement project?

Since 1980, the city council has proceeded with such projects when petitions signed by at least 51 percent of the affected property owners have been presented, city manager Bill Costick reported last week.

Memory lane

50 years ago:
• Farmington Superintendent of Schools O.E. Dunkel is among local folks serving on the Oakland County Citizen Day program, set for May.

• Farmington voters will go to the polls in April to consider granting a 30-year franchise to Detroit Edison for electrical power.

• Cook & Co. in downtown Farmington is selling shoes for the family at prices ranging from \$1.75 to \$6.50.

— Farmington Enterprise, March 14, 1940

This week

THE mayors and managers of Farmington and Farmington Hills will discuss the State of the Cities at a breakfast co-hosted by the local chamber of commerce and Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. Thursday.

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SUBURBAN LIFE'S MONTHLY ALBUM

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Growth gives towns new ZIP

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Living in Farmington Hills and having a Northville mailing address and ZIP code is frustrating for a lot of newcomers in south-west Farmington Hills.

Long-term residents in the Eight Mile-Haggerty area have gotten used to it.

"For us older ones, I've been here 17 years, it's gone this way for this many years, the feeling is, leave well enough alone," said Dick Majors, vice president of the Meadowbrook Hills/Woods Homeowners Association.

The southwest corner is among just a few sections in Farmington and Farmington Hills that won't be getting new ZIP codes when 270,000 Oakland County mailing addresses get new ZIP codes.

"I don't think anyone is angry about it. I think most people understand the massive growth out there."

— Susan Gillespie

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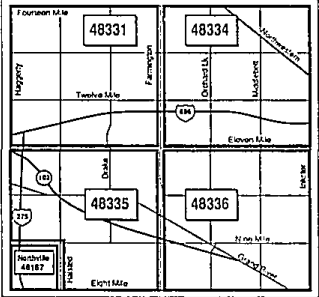
The existing Farmington Hills ZIP code, 48018, which covers customers between 10 and 14 Mile and Farmington and Inkster roads, will also be no more. Two new numbers, 48334 and 48336, will share the work. The existing 48331 covers an area in Farmington Hills bounded by 10 and 14 Mile, and Farmington and Haggerty roads. That area will now extend down only to 11 Mile.

"THE ENTIRE combination of the two cities is just divided into four sections," Gillespie said.

The existing ZIP code, 48024, which covers Farmington and the southeast portion of Farmington Hills, will be no more as of July 1. Farmington will now share a new code, 48335, with Farmington Hills, south of 10 Mile, between Farmington and Haggerty roads.

The existing Farmington Hills ZIP code, 48018, which covers customers between 10 and 14 Mile and Farmington and Inkster roads, will also be no more. Two new numbers, 48334 and 48336, will share the work. The existing 48331 covers an area in Farmington Hills bounded by 10 and 14 Mile, and Farmington and Haggerty roads. That area will now extend down only to 11 Mile.

New Zip Codes for Farmington and Farmington Hills



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Trial set in tot assault case

By Bob Sklar staff writer

A Farmington Hills man must stand trial on a charge of assault with intent to murder in the alleged severe beating of a 7-month-old boy he was helping care for, a district judge ruled Wednesday.

After a preliminary exam Wednesday in 47th District Court in Farmington, Judge Fred Harris bound over for trial Ronald Lowell Dring, 23.

Dring was remanded to the Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 surety bond pending arraignment before Oakland County Circuit Judge Gene Scheetz April 2.

The boy, Joshua Martin, was reported in fair condition Thursday at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit.

Oakland County chief assistant prosecutor Gerald Polsson said he expects the child to be hospitalized "for the foreseeable future."

"The child's mother, Kim, who visits him on a daily basis, said he's smiling, laughing, eating, etc.," said defense attorney Joseph Kosmala of Mount Clemens.

Dring and Joshua's mother are considering marriage, Kosmala said.

AT HIS district court arraignment Feb. 21, Dring stood mute to the charge and an innocent plea was entered in his behalf. Harris signed the arrest warrant the day before.

At Wednesday's exam, Harris lowered the bond from \$250,000 but denied Kosmala's request for personal bond. The attorney said he intends to request personal bond again in circuit court.

Kosmala said Thursday he wasn't "particularly surprised" his client is headed to trial. "A preliminary exam is just a probable cause hearing," he said.

"It's not a finding of guilt."

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Dorothy Pfaff (right), Farmington-Farmington Hills Community Center executive director, listens as her attorney, William Brukoff of Southfield, tells District Judge Fred Harris that community center officials and neighbors are eager to resolve their differences.

Judge sets deadline for noise accord

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Community Center officials and neighbors have until mid-April to decide how much noise is too much.

If they can't compromise by then, the center's executive director, Dorothy Pfaff, will face a trial on a disturbing the peace complaint. The complaint was lodged by Farmington Road resident William Shortt.

The center is on the west side of Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile. "If it's not resolved by the 18th (April), it's apparent to this court that it's not going to be resolved," said Judge Fred Harris of the 47th District Court in Farmington.

Before it even began, Pfaff's long-delayed trial was adjourned Thursday when city prosecutor Tim Kenny said it would take three days. "Gentlemen, you're certainly both aware of the court's docket. There is no way I can start a trial today," Harris said.

Kenny told Harris efforts are continuing to reach a compromise between center officials and neighbors tired of loud noise from the center.

PFAFF'S ATTORNEY, William Brukoff of Southfield said "I feel confident . . . if we can't do it by then (mid-April), then we can't do it."

Pfaff was cited for disturbing the peace on Aug. 23, 1989, when

'If it's not resolved by the 18th (April), it's apparent to this court that it's not going to be resolved.'
— Judge Fred Harris
47th District Court

Shortt complained about the loudness of an outdoor guitar concert at the center's amphitheater. The misdemeanor offense carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and \$500 fine.

Within the next month, a city council-appointed, four-member committee is expected to meet again with neighbors and center officials.

Committee members are council members Aldo Vagozzi and Nancy Bates, city manager William Costick and assistant city manager David Call, a former center board member.

"No. We really don't have a deadline. But a goal of the city council that we discussed in an executive session Monday (March 12) was to have the court put (the trial) off for 45 days. We thought

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County sweetens pothole contest

Now there's even a bigger incentive to enter our Oakland County Pothole of the Year contest.

Brent Blair, deputy managing director of the Oakland County Road Commission, has said the commission will put all reported potholes on its work schedule.

And everyone has a horror story about those Chevy-crunching, Bron-

Everyone has a horror story about those Chevy-crunching, Bronco-bashing potholes that pock our Oakland County roads each spring.

co-bashing potholes that pock our Oakland County roads each spring.

The Observer & Eccentric wants to hear yours.

To nominate your favorite Stinger-swallower or axle-buster, send a postcard, letter or fax with the location of the hole (i.e. I-75 near Crooks) and what it did to you to make it eligible for "Oakland County

Pothole of the Year." Send nominations to: POTHOLE, Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48008. Fax number is 644-1314.

Don't forget to include your name, hometown and a daytime phone number in case we need more gory details.

Deadline is fast approaching — Wednesday, March 21.



Farmington Hills resident Murray Feldman, on the set at WJBK-TV2 in Southfield, where he is the business editor. He shares office space with news anchor Joe Glover.

Channel 2 newsman plants roots in Hills

By Susan Buck staff writer

Murray Feldman's flexibility as a TV newsman has made him a recognizable mainstay since he joined Channel 2 as a general assignment reporter in 1978.

Feldman, a 10-year Farmington Hills resident, has been business editor for WJBK-TV2 Eyewitness News for the last four years.

Since January, he also has delivered Consumer Reports segments as well as morning and evening business reports five days a week for WWJ-TV. On the last Sunday of each month, Feldman hosts Moneywife, which offers financial tips.

people

Feldman has staying power, unusual in the television market, which frequently has turn-overs in management.

During his time at Channel 2, Feldman, 38, has worked for seven newsroom managers. He is second only to reporter Nancy McCauley in continuous on-air longevity.

"I'm very lucky that I started early. My first

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