

9 battle for 2 seats  
on school board, 4-5A



Off to the  
races, 1C

Tempting taste buds  
with exotic foods, 1D

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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### CAMERAMAN Tony Gallucci of Film Craft Video in Farmington Hills got

a chance to fine-tune his boat and water-shooting techniques on location in Florida. The zoom lens he used "works on the property of centrifugal force. Like when you'd spin a bicycle tire in physics class and you learn that a rotating tire is harder to move side-to-side than a non-rotating one. The lens works the same way. . . there's a motor that spins around the lens, keeping it steady." Film Craft Video did Florida shooting, some animation and all post-production for MDI Creative, which is producing a sales training program for a manufacturer of marine engines.

### Memory lane

50 years ago:

- A survey to relieve traffic congestion on Grand River will begin soon, said Murray Van Wagener, state highway commissioner.
- Six years of continued service to residents of Farmington and the surrounding area will be celebrated Sunday by the Farmington State Bank.
- The graduating class of 86 seniors is the largest in Farmington High's history.

— Farmington Enterprise, May 16, 1940

### This week

CANDIDATES for the Farmington school board will be quizzed at 7:30 tonight in the Farmington High Media Center.

### what's inside

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**The CLASSIFIEDS**  
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Anthony Bonelli found guilty

## Bonelli guilty of murder

By Darrell Clem  
staff writer

Anthony Bonelli was convicted Friday of first-degree murder for the drowning death of his former girlfriend, Kristina Marie Fracchia. He faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

Both Bonelli, 18, a Farmington Training Center student, and Fracchia, 17, a Mercy High student, lived in Farmington Hills. Family members of Bonelli and Fracchia, including both mothers, collapsed into tears when an Oakland County Circuit Court jury re-

turned its verdict late Friday afternoon, culminating the two-week, emotionally charged trial.

Bonelli remained silent as the verdict was announced. "I'm ecstatic, and I'm very pleased for the family of the victim," said assistant prosecutor Fred Miller, who earlier had described Bonelli as "a cold and calculating killer who went after his victim with a premeditated plan."

"I'm just happy that Kristina's family can start putting their lives back together again," Miller said. On Saturday, Sandy Fracchia, the victim's mother, said, "I'm extreme-

ly relieved. I've been storing this up for 14 months. He (Bonelli) is responsible for what he did to my daughter and I'm grateful he'll pay for it. I just hope the maximum sentence is imposed."

THE JURY began deliberating late Thursday afternoon after Miller and defense attorney James Andary made closing remarks in the trial that jammed the courtroom with teens — many of them Fracchia's friends. Some wept as they heard testimony about the death of their friend.

reached a verdict. Sentencing by Judge Alice Gilbert was set for June 7, though she has no discretion to reduce the mandatory life term for a first-degree murder conviction.

Andary had tried to convince the jury that Bonelli was insane and not criminally responsible when he killed Fracchia, whose body was found floating face down in Orchard Lake on March 17, 1989.

"I know there was ample evidence of mental illness, but obviously the jury felt that Anthony could deter-

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## Tree branch falls through roof

More on windstorm, 2A

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Joe and Mary Chickvara lost a big part of their household when a 100-foot-tall silver maple snapped near the base in Thursday's windstorm and crashed through the roof of their two-story house in Farmington Hills. A branch from the front-yard tree poked through the roof of the second-floor master bedroom, extending down 3 1/2 feet and spewing drywall onto the bedspread. "We grew up around that tree," said Joe, standing outside his Colony Park subdivision home in shortsleeves despite brisk 40 mph winds. "It was the focal point of our front yard."

One of the tallest in the subdivision, the tree was home to at least five squirrels. "Our kids — Kathy, Joe, Jenne and Dan, all adults now — are going to miss it the most," Joe said.

No one was home when the wind twisted the 150-year-old, V-shaped tree so hard, it broke a few feet above the base.

It not only crashed into the second-story facing and penetrated the master bedroom ceiling, but also sprayed limbs across the roof.

If that wasn't enough, the street lost power between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. because of the wind.

BY LATE Thursday, a contractor had removed the tree and a tarp had been put over the hole in the roof. Joe estimated structural and bedroom damage at \$8,000.

Mary Chickvara left at 10 a.m. with her mother, Mildred Downey of Farmington Hills, and her mother-in-law, Ann Chickvara of Beverly Hills, Fla., for a Mother Day's shopping spree in Birch Run.

Next-door neighbor Ann Neme, who found one of her smaller front-yard maples toppled at 1 p.m. Thursday, discovered the Chickvaras' fallen tree shortly before noon.

"I heard a big noise about 11:30," she said. "I ran around upstairs looking out the windows. I thought something hit my house — one of my trees. Then I went downstairs and looked out the front door."

She called Joe at work at New American, a bath product manufacturer in Novi, and told him the bad news. He said he remembers thinking, "Oh, my God!" But he knew no one was home so there was no chance of injury.

JOE HAD been working with a forester to save the tree, which was fairly healthy despite some interior rotting.

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RANDY BORSTHAFF photographer

A limb from the tree penetrated the master bedroom on the second floor of Joe Chickvara's house and came through the ceiling of the

## Man pleads guilty to rape

By Joanne Mallazowski  
staff writer

A 23-year-old Dearborn man pleaded guilty to the sexual assault of a Farmington woman at Drake-shire Apartments last September.

Darryl Lee Brawdy pleaded guilty before Oakland County Circuit Judge Barry Howard Thursday to a criminal sexual conduct—first degree. He also pleaded guilty to one count of breaking and entering of an occupied dwelling, according to Howard's court clerk.

Brawdy remains in Oakland County Jail, pending sentencing May 21. He faces up to life in prison.

"We were prepared to go to trial. We felt we had a very strong case," said deputy director Gary Goss of the Farmington Department of Public Safety. "It's only speculation, but I would assume he would rather be sentenced by the bench than to go before a jury."

Brawdy's attorney, Stuart Young of Birmingham, could not be reached for comment.

A police investigation headed by Farmington detective Dan Dellar, and many tips from the community, led to Brawdy's arrest Oct. 24 in his home.

THE WOMAN, who was 29 at the time of the attack, was raped between 11:30 p.m. and midnight Sept. 20 in her apartment at Drake and Grand River. Brawdy claimed to be a maintenance worker and is be-

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## Precinct candidates line up

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Both parties have 'em. Both parties love 'em. Republicans call them the "backbone of the party."

For Democrats they are the "eyes and ears" of the party. "They," of course, are precinct delegates.

Both parties focused on precinct delegates last week because Tuesday was the deadline for filing their nominating petitions.

Candidates for more widely known positions — judges, county commissioners, state representatives and state senators — have until 4 p.m. Tuesday to file and get on the Aug. 7 primary ballot. But precinct delegates — the often unknown heroes of grass roots politics — were required to file a week earlier.

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## Hills man hurt in Weiner's freedom bid

By Tim Smith  
and Brian Lysaght  
staff writers

Kenneth Weiner's sweet freedom ride Thursday quickly soured when he was spotted and then arrested in Southfield about one hour after driving away from a Bloomfield Township office building.

Weiner was a deputy police chief in Detroit. His testimony is sought in a probe of possible corruption in that department.

Weiner was believed seen at a Providence Hospital pay telephone. Before that, he reportedly stole an attorney's minivan from an office parking lot near Maple and Telegraph. He drove to the Big Boy restaurant on J.L. Hudson Drive, apparently to meet his brother. But shortly after noon he became involved in a pedestrian-vehicle accident in which 27-year-old Jerome Ralston of Farmington Hills was bruised.

WEINER RAN off after the accident, but he didn't get very far.

"A patient in our emergency room was waiting to be seen by a physician, and he just watched something on TV (about Weiner)," hospital spokeswoman Carol Jonson said. "Right about that time (1 p.m.) Ken Weiner walked into the emergency room to use the pay phone."

"The young man said to his mother, 'That's the man I saw on TV,'" Jonson said.

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JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Federal informant Kenneth Weiner (handcuffed, second from left) shields his eyes Thursday from photographers as the U.S. marshal's car

in which he was a passenger began its trip from the Southfield police garage to the federal courthouse in Detroit.