

Put some tackiness into holiday gifts, 6D



Falcons fall, 1C

New librarian leads carolers on tour, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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## Cops give drug testing booster shot

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

The lack of participation in the police anonymous drug analysis program doesn't mean the use of illegal drugs is on the decrease in Farmington Hills, police say.

It just means that people aren't taking advantage of the department's more than two-year-old free and anonymous program.

"We've had very few requests. I think parents are complacent and aren't taking advantage of the program," said Lt. Richard Murphy.

Residents, including parents and spouses,

may have any substance they suspect might be an illegal drug analyzed at the police department without fear of police action.

"We don't ask for a name, an address or a phone number," Murphy said.

Residents who want a substance or pills analyzed should take the items to the police department's command desk and say you want to participate in the anonymous drug analysis program.

RESIDENTS need not give their name for the items to be analyzed. Police will provide residents with a code number, which matches a number placed on the substance. The resi-

dent also will be given a contact name at the police department.

Program participants will be asked to call back in 10 days with the confidential number to receive the test results.

"Parents are sometimes aware their kids are using drugs. But they're fearful if they bring the drugs into the department, it won't be anonymous," police Chief William Dwyer said.

But anonymity is promised and the program is not designed to punish drug users.

The purpose of the program is to provide help. If the results are positive for illegal drugs, the resident will be provided with

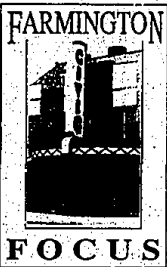
names of organizations and centers that can provide counseling and rehabilitation.

"We see drugs use as a disease. We hope we can assist residents identify their spouse or children who have a problem and assist them with referrals," Dwyer said.

Police will analyze marijuana and other narcotics such as heroin and cocaine. Pills brought in will be analyzed with the help of a Physicians Desk Reference if they contain a brand name or serial number. If not, the pills can be sent for testing.

Participation in the program will not bring

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AND THE WINNER is... the Christmas tree with the Operation Desert Shield theme.

With an eye for originality and an ear for the news of the day, the judges of the Metro Bank Christmas tree contest picked the entry by the employees at the downtown Farmington branch.

In keeping with the Desert Shield theme, the tree was trimmed with military trinkets, armed services insignia and the names of local servicemen and women who are part of the U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf.

The garland is sandpaper to represent the desert sand they're in," said Lynn Keeler, assistant branch manager who helped plan the tree.

Two large American flags crisscross the tree's top, and smaller flags are placed elsewhere on the branches.

Metro Bank teller Gail Jackson has a son, Tom, stationed in Saudi Arabia. The names of other friends, relatives and bank customers on desert duty adorn the branches.

The employees learned their tree won at the company's holiday party at the bank's main office at Grand River and Halsted.

"We were ecstatic," said Keeler, who has friends and relatives in Saudi Arabia.

The winners took the plaque back to the trailer that serves as a home while their new office is being constructed. The award will remain on the wall of the downtown branch for a year. The tree will be on display there for the rest of the year.

NOBODY CAN say that the Christmas spirit has bypassed Sandra Terry and some other bus drivers for the Farmington School District.

For the first time this year, the school employees drove senior citizens from the Farmington Nursing Home around the community Wednesday so they could see the Christmas lights. The drivers volunteered their time and the district provided two buses.

"We hope to be able to do it every year for all the nursing homes," Terry said.

MEMORY LANE: From the Dec. 28, 1950, Farmington Enterprise.

E.F. Ballou, Farmington Township dog warden, warned that late winter and spring are the worst time for rabies. Ballou told the township board that he was unable to cope with all the stray dogs in the area.

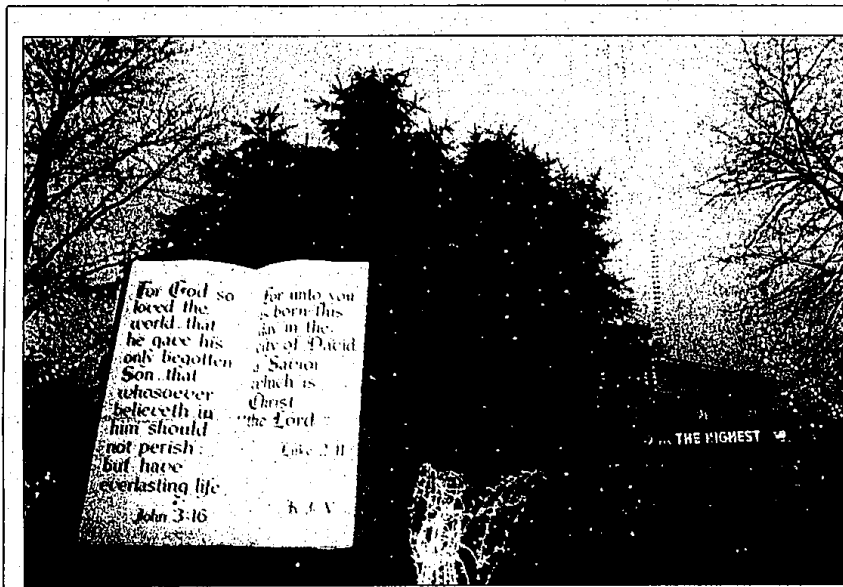
Nate Mihay was elected president of the Farmington Kiwanis for 1981. Carl Whiston was elected first vice president.

About 300 youngsters met Santa Claus in Town Hall Park during his annual visit to Farmington. The Farmington police carried Santa and his sleigh through town on his way to the park.

Max Hulett, Farmington attorney and justice of the peace, was elected president of the local Exchange Club.

Short Item: "Mrs. George Malby of Shadydale Avenue is up and around again following her recent illness."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 2188 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



Some 48,000 lights and a number of religious symbols grace the display often draws bumper-to-bumper traffic through the division.

SHARON LEMUEUX/staff photographer

## Lighting the season

### Their halls are decked with message of Christmas

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Just as the Wise Men were drawn to a manger in Bethlehem to see the Christ child, something told the stranger to knock on the front door at the Farmington Hills home.

She was drawn to the home of the Shemie family on Heathcrest Crescent, lighted each year in the Christmas tradition and graced with a variety of religious sayings to remind passersby what the season is all about: the birth of Jesus Christ.

"She had some heavy burdens. She just needed somebody to talk to," said Bev Shemie, who was

there to offer the woman help during the Christmas season last year. "She said she really felt better."

It's just one of the many stories the family of six tells about the 20 years of their holiday display, which now includes 48,000 lights surrounding the house and yard just north of Nine Mile and west of Drake.

OTHER STORIES include people knocking on the door if the lights aren't on, strangers calling or sending cards to thank the family for its effort, and a string of bumper-to-bumper cars that sometimes come through the neighborhood this time of year.

"People don't know me, but they know my house. It's really gotten to be a landmark," she added.

For the first time, nothing new was added to the display this year, but no one noticed a difference. They received an award for the "Longest-standing Christmas Tradition" from the Detroit Exterior Christmas Ornamentation Committee and recognition from others.

They also didn't decorate the interior of the house — which in years past had more than a dozen trees and other decorations — because

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## Area friends defend Harwell

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The crescendo of support for Ernie Harwell — the 30-year voice of the Detroit Tigers who was ordered silenced after the 1991 season — continues to swell since the announcement was made last Wednesday.

Included are friends from the Farmington area, where the 72-year-old Harwell lives and attends the Farmington Hills Baptist Church. He has been a member since 1987.

There, he is known as a young Christian with a kind heart.

Over the weekend, the familiar, gravelly voice narrated a Christmas cantata at the church.

"First of all, he's a Christian — a born-again Christian," said Carolyn Avery of Livonia, church secretary, friend and fan. "He's not the kind of person to let bitterness override him."

"Maybe this is the Lord's time to tell him to slow down a little. Maybe the Lord has bigger things in mind."



Harwell

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## Hills lifts freeze on IRO projects

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills' 16-month-old moratorium on industrial-research-office (IRO) development has been lifted.

The city council's unanimous decision Monday — without discussion — to lift the moratorium came on the heels of their recent approval of changes in the uses of toxic-hazardous materials in the city's IRO and light-industrial districts.

The changes in the zoning ordinance were based on conclusions of a toxic-hazardous materials report prepared earlier in the year by a city council-appointed study committee.

Lifting the moratorium will be a step toward resolving the long-standing and controversial IRO, councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said.

The city council imposed the moratorium in September 1989 after

**Lifting the moratorium will be a step toward resolving the long-standing and controversial IRO, councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said.**

residents opposed developer Melvin Kaptan's request to rezone his 14.5 acres in the Drake-Grand River area from office service (OS-1) to the controversial IRO. Residents have been concerned about toxic threats from businesses allowed in IRO districts.

THOUGH NO one commented about the moratorium, Hillside Estates resident Pearl Burgdorf complained to the city council that she believes Kaptan is badgering residents about the proposed rezoning on his acreage immediately south of the

condominiums. "Is this how we do business in Farmington Hills?" Burgdorf asked. "Are we to be badgered because we live there?"

Council members told Burgdorf that there is nothing wrong with a developer lobbying for support.

Kaptan denied Burgdorf's charges. "I have not harassed anyone. Personally, I've handled myself in a first-class way."

Kaptan's rezoning request also was scheduled for enactment Monday. Because of short notice, Kaptan re-

quested postponement until Jan. 14. The city council introduced the rezoning July 1989. It was never enacted under residents' protest. The moratorium followed in September.

Kaptan sued the city June 1990 in an eight-count complaint in which he called the moratorium "arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable, recklessly indifferent and discriminatory."

City attorney John Donohue said Kaptan's suit is still pending.

IF KAPTAN'S rezoning request had not been postponed Monday, action would have come before the city council had an opportunity to have a public hearing on residents' request to eliminate all types of residential uses — not just single-family — from being next to IRO districts.

Following a public hearing Dec. 12, the planning commission recommended denial of the request from

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JOY.  
PEACE.  
LOVE.  
FRIENDSHIP.



To all this holiday season