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# Farmington Observer

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## Board urged to sit on boundary issue

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A decision on whether to change middle school boundaries and add space to some Farmington secondary schools may be postponed until after a special school millage election Feb. 5.

Meanwhile, middle school parents told the school board at a recent meeting that they did not want their

children moved to another school, and preferred the district expand buildings and use portable classrooms.

Others not able to attend the meeting sent letters and petitions with the same message.

"We're perfectly happy where we are," said one parent. "It's the teacher inside the portable and not the portable that makes a difference for our kids."

Both school board president Susan Rennels and superintendent Michael Flanagan said they preferred to wait to determine what resources, if any, the district would be able to use. And Flanagan warned that a loss on Feb. 5 could mean a change in the teacher assignments that the parents are fighting so hard to keep. It would also leave the district no money to expand any buildings, making boundary changes likely.

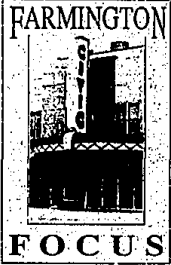
THE ELECTION will offer two proposals, allowing voters to decide whether to approve an additional 2.7 mills of operating tax to make up for state money recaptured last summer, and one additional mill for capital projects.

"I feel a decision should be put off until after the millage election," Rennels said. "The alternative of adding to Power . . . is not useful if we don't get the money to do it."

"That also gives us some time to digest your comments and the report."

Comments came in light of a final report on secondary boundaries, submitted to the school board on Dec. 18. The report offered four options for middle school boundaries — including one to keep them as they are — and made a recommendation to

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## Cable show explores area issues

Local talent hones skills in new show

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Are Oprah and Phil daily companions? Do you have breakfast with John and Marilyn each weekday?

If you subscribe to cable television, add one more to your talk show circuit.

Farmington-area residents and co-hosts Patrick Harris and Stacy Winteringham are busy taping various segments of their show "P.S. — Let's Talk About It" a local, all volunteer production taped at Metrovision studios in the Hills.

Segments about the homeless and marital infidelity which feature local talk show hosts John Kelly and Marilyn Turner, journalist Janice Brunson, 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris (Patrick's father) and others are already on tape and have been shown several times.

Last week, interviews on parenting, dog training, and humorous hairstyling stories were taped for future cablecast.

Regional celebrities including reporter Vince Wade, columnist Mitch Albom, and Catholic Bishop Thomas Cumbleton are also being approached for interviews, Harris said.

BEGINNING IN January, the show will air Mondays at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on local cable access Channel 12. Residents of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi can tune in.

"It gives me experience — that's what I love," said Harris, a 1982 graduate of North Farmington



Talk show host and Farmington Hills resident Patrick Harris watches as Jim and Tracy Moore prepare their 5-month-old daughter

Marla for taping the local cable show "P.S. — Let's Talk About It." The Moores live in Saline; Jim grew up in Farmington.

High School and a senior communications major at Wayne State University. Ironically, Harris never became interested in television in high school. He started his college studies wanting to be an actor, but became disillusioned and switched to telecommunications.

A stint as a production intern at Kelly & Company, a live talk show which airs on Channel 7 each weekday morning, gave him the idea to start the show on cable. Winteringham, his co-host and a Farmington resident, is a college student studying environmental issues.

He plans to tape some 50 segments for the local show, and have the shows run at least through April. Harris said he hopes the experience will land him a job as a talk show producer.

"I watch every talk show, every day," he said. He pays attention to dress, mannerisms and how the hosts deal with their guests. His favorite shows are Oprah Winfrey,

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Patrick Harris discusses the production of his local cable talk show, which began airing this fall on Channel 12 in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

## 4 face trial in eatery holdup

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Four Detroit men charged in the Dec. 10 armed robbery of the Mountain Jack's restaurant in Farmington Hills waived their preliminary examination Friday in 47th District Court and were bound over for trial in circuit court.

At the hearing, Darlene Jefferson, fiancée of Charles A. Louis Sykes, one of the men charged, testified about the robbery plans she said she overheard in her apartment dining room Dec. 9.

"I just heard bits and pieces," Jefferson said. "I heard them say they were going to rob Mountain Jack's."

Kerenski Caldwell, 22, and Frank Mathis, 18, are each charged with two counts of armed robbery and two counts of felonious assault.

Robert W. J. 17, faces two counts of armed robbery, and two counts of felonious assault, and Sykes, 24, faces two counts of armed robbery and two counts of felonious assault.

District Judge Fred Harris granted motions by Genevieve Mazur, assistant prosecuting attorney, to dismiss four counts of possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony charged against Wood.

The judge granted another motion by Mazur to add the same four counts of firearm possession against Caldwell.

ACCORDING TO a court clerk, none of the men posted their bonds.

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## Cities sponsor holiday card recycling effort

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

As the holidays wind to a close, the day will come when you gather up your holiday cards and head toward the garbage can. Don't. Recycle them.

Your holiday cards can be recycled for the good of the environment and for the good of some children in need.

Farmington and Farmington Hills residents are asked to drop off the fronts only of their

holiday cards at various drop-off spots around the community.

The fronts will be mailed to St. Judes Ranch for Children, Boulder City, Nev.

"The kids will take the card front and put on a new backing. They will then sell the new cards for the ranch," said Karen Birkholz, city of Farmington Hills administrative assistant for special projects.

ST. JUDES is a non-sectarian, non-demon-

strated organization that helps abused, neglected and abandoned children. "These kids don't have anywhere else to go," Birkholz said.

The program dovetails into both Farmington and Farmington Hills' recycling efforts. "We're trying to build a recycling ethic in this community," Birkholz said. "This is a fun way to feel good about recycling."

Holiday cards may be dropped off beginning Dec. 27 through Jan. 20. Cards may be dropped off at Farmington or Farmington Hills city

halls, the downtown Farmington library and 12 Mile library branches and the Farmington Hills recycling center at the public works department on Halsted Road, south of 12 Mile.

A mail box will be provided at the center for the cards.

The program also is available to city employees.

Recycled holiday cards may be ordered by writing to St. Judes Ranch for Children, P.O. Box 985, Boulder City, Nev. 89065-0985.

## Observer's parent company celebrates 25th anniversary

See historic front page, Page 13A

With this issue, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers — which publishes the Farmington Observer — celebrates its 25th anniversary.

The company's modern era began Dec. 30, 1965, when Philip H. Power, a 27-year-old University of Michigan graduate, bought the Observer Newspapers, a six-paper chain primarily based in western Wayne County.

At the time, the chain included editions in Livonia, begun in 1940, Redford, added in 1955, Plymouth, begun in 1961 and Farmington, added one year later, as well as two new editions in Garden City and Westland.

From the start, the chain dedicated itself to commu-

nity journalism, as defined by Power in an early editorial.

"We will try to bring to these newspapers an informed and probing curiosity about everything of local interest, from sewage to high school football, from racial discrimination to good recycles, from local politics to neighborhood goings on," he wrote.

The chain also became dedicated to expansion. The Farmington Enterprise and Plymouth Mail were bought in 1966 and merged with Observer papers in those communities. A Southfield paper was begun in 1970. A Livonia headquarters building, including a new offset press, was completed in 1971.

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