

A man who can keep you in stitches, 6D



Volleyball results, 1C

Top cop, employee honored by Hills, 3A



Farmington Observer

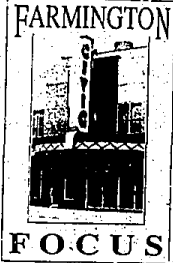
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Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Fifty Cents



ATTENTION Farmington folks... when the flakes fall, get out that shovel or start the snowblower.

The city of Farmington issued 22 violations for failure to clear sidewalks of snow on Jan. 7. The city has taken a tough stance the past few years on its snow policy, which requires residents and merchants to remove snow from sidewalks.

TUESDAY, Jan. 8, was a great day to be on the Farmington Board of Education.

It was a special "bosser day" for school trustees, and Superintendent Michael Flanagan gave each a framed certificate honoring the spirit of volunteerism shown by serving on the board — especially in light of the many hot issues that have come up the past few years.

"It's a learning experience," said Sue Rennels, board president. "Yes," added trustee Jack Inch, "like putting your hand on a hot burner."

MONDAY, Jan. 21, is the day Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is observed, and the Farmington-area post offices plan holiday schedules.

Farmington postmaster Kenneth B. Harris said there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery. Special delivery, Express Mail and Post Office box service will be provided.

Limited caller service will be available only for customers who regularly call for their mail, either the Farmington Post Office, 33200 Slocum, or the Farmington Hills Post Office, 32445 W. 12 Mile.

The service windows will be open 8-10 a.m. for those customers. No financial transactions will take place.

Mail will be picked up from all residential collection boxes. Normal mail service will resume Tuesday, Jan. 22.

OCTOBER IS Substance Abuse Month in the Farmington area, and this year Farmington Families In Action plans to focus on alcohol abuse.

FFIA is taking reservations for a free, four-day workshop for parents called "Talking With Your Kids About Alcohol" 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 18-21 at a site to be determined, possibly in Birmingham.

The training represents an investment of \$450 per person, according to a FFIA spokeswoman. To register or for more information, call FFIA at 851-8555.

MEMORY LANE — From the Jan. 18, 1951, Farmington Enterprise:

Farmington Police Chief Joseph DeWendt was investigating two break-ins in the city.

A new panel truck, a safe, a cigarette machine, television set and a new auto radio were taken from the Blakelee Chevrolet agency on Grand River in a nighttime break-in. The safe was recovered in Detroit. It had been pried open and the contents removed.

On the same night, The Falcons' Nest, a popular luncheon room near the high school, was broken into and about \$30 in small change was taken.

Headlee: Schools should bite bullet

By Casey Hane
staff writer

The author of the state's Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment said Friday he feels the Farmington district should bite the bullet on expenses and not ask for more money.

"I'm not antagonistic on this thing," said Richard Headlee, chairman of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. which is running ads opposing a millage increase for the Farmington Public Schools.

"I think it's just not time to raise taxes for this bunch. This is a world where people don't have any discretionary income. They think it's just business as usual."

"This is the classic arrogance of people who have been around too long."

Headlee was reacting to the debate which has heated up in recent weeks over a proposed \$2.7-million operating tax increase and another 1-mill in-

crease for capital projects proposed by the Farmington Board of Education. School officials say they need the first proposal to maintain current educational programs; the second proposal would pay for maintenance and renovations of buildings. Both millages would run 20 years.

A special school election is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Meanwhile, an economist for the Farmington Hills insurance company said the information used in the ads was the most up-to-date he was able to obtain.

The full-page advertisements are "as accurate as they can be" based on information he has received from the Farmington school district, said Patrick Anderson.

Audited financial statements are done for the district once each fiscal year; the last one was completed as of June 30, 1990. Those are the figures Anderson and Headlee used in the ad, which school officials have said is "unfair" because it

does not reflect financial changes which have occurred in the district since June.

BUT ANDERSON believes he is being fair. "If they can't share with us something more current, they can't expect us to make it up," Anderson said. "To call that (the ad) misleading and biased is just wrong. By the standards of political advertising, this is about as accurate as you can get."

Anderson was reacting to comments made at a recent board meeting by superintendent Michael Flanagan and subsequent news stories which ran in the Jan. 10 edition of the Observer.

The Alexander Hamilton ads, stated that, since 1986, the district's General Fund expenditures had increased by 78 percent and that property taxes had increased by 92 percent, but that the inflation index had only gone up 21 percent and student enrollments five percent. It also noted the



Richard Headlee hits proposal

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Peter Baldwin

Head-on collision

Two people were seriously injured in a head-on collision on Eight Mile, between Halsted and Gill roads, at 11:05 a.m. Friday. A third person involved in the accident was not injured, said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department traffic section said. "For some reason, the eastbound car crossed the center line and hit the westbound car," Cranston

said. The three involved in the collision were all wearing their seatbelts and alcohol was not involved. Two of the people were in a Pontiac, which was the westbound car, and one was in a Dodge Omni, the eastbound car, said Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin, who responded to the scene. The accident remains under investigation.

Kaftan verdict tonight

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Developer Mel Kaftan said he's confident that Hillside Estates Condominium residents don't want a two-story office building next to their homes.

That's the alternative Kaftan believes will result if he is not allowed to rezone 14.4 acres north of the condominiums from office to industrial-research-office.

After a 1½-year wait, Kaftan will hear the verdict from the Farmington Hills City Council at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, on his July 1989 request to rezone his vacant land, east of Drake, west of Grand River.

"It's been a long battle," Kaftan said. "I've been very disappointed, especially with my performance in the city, that this should drag out so long."

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Tank problems multiply for site owner

By Casey Hane
staff writer

What Tom DeWard thought was a bad dream last year has become his worst nightmare.

The Farmington resident was upset to discover three 1,000-gallon, presumably abandoned gas tanks on a piece of commercial property with a building in downtown Farmington, which he has owned as an investment since 1983. The parcel is at the former site of a gas station operated by Pure Oil.

Another three tanks — this time 400-gallon each — were recently discovered and DeWard said the problem may also be under his building and under nearby Grace Street.

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Bank heists began near church, cops say

By Brian Lyoight
staff writer

Among the strange details that surfaced after the arrest of Roy Alan Yanke was the FBI allegation that the first of 14 banks he is believed to have robbed is just 100 yards from his church.

Beverly Hills Det. Roger St. Jean recalled that while investigating the

Comerica holdup Sept. 13, 1989, police followed footprints from the bank to a wall beyond that lies the church. Yanke, 37, wasn't questioned at the time. He wasn't a suspect.

Yanke was arrested Wednesday afternoon, at the church, Covenant Alliance Church, on 13 Mile at Greenfield, where he had been pastor for eight years.

He surrendered without a struggle

after police called and asked him and a church secretary to walk outside the church to police cars. The secretary was not implicated.

In Farmington Hills, the banks robbed were the United Savings Bank April 17, 1990, and a branch of Standard-Federal Bank Sept. 13, 1990.

INVESTIGATORS said Yanke

confessed a few hours later at the Bloomfield Township Police Department to the 14 robberies (see related story).

Among them was the Wednesday holdup of a Manufacturer's Bank branch at Long Lake and Telegraph. A man answering Yanke's description was seen running from the bank to his car by witnesses and actually bumped into one passerby in the parking lot.

FBI officials copied down the license number after a bank manager yelled for help. Police traced the stolen car to

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Area Arab-Americans bristle at FBI probe, loyalty question

By Wayne Peel
and Pat Murphy
staff writers

Metro Detroit's Arab-Americans residents say they are caught between colliding worlds as war in the Persian Gulf appears imminent.

Their loyalty, they say, is strictly with the United States.

FBI questioning is a sore spot even with the most moderate Arab-Americans.

"To single out any one group is wrong," said Westland businessman Sid Shaheen. "We don't want to have happen to us what happened to Japanese-Americans."

a "media mix up."

"My feeling, though, is that's their policy — that Arab-Americans should be scrutinized," she said. "What they're doing is saying to people who already hate Arabs that it's safe to harm Arabs."

Detroit-area Jews also voiced concern about the FBI interviews.

"While we fully support the need to maintain domestic security, we are concerned that an open-ended government plan to interview leaders of the American Arabic community may have a negative impact on the greater community's perception of Arab-Americans," Paul D. Boriano, president of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, said in a statement.

At the very least, questioning of Arab-Americans has had a chilling effect on discussion of Middle Eastern events

"Many of our people don't want to talk (to the press)," said the Rev. George Shalhoub of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, Livonia.

"The feeling is that any statement could be misinterpreted. FBI officials failed to return our server & eccentric telephone calls asking for comment on the policy of questioning Arab-Americans about potential terrorist activities."

Hal Heltzerhoff, head of FBI operations in Michigan, told the Associated Press that intelligence-gathering activities weren't meant to harass Arab-Americans. At the same time, he urged Arab-Americans to report any instance of harassment or ethnic intimidation to the FBI.

The hearts of Arab-Americans are also with relatives and loved ones in the Middle East — including those

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