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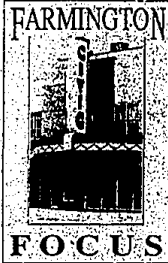
# Farmington Observer

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Farmington, Michigan

44 Pages



**IF YOU SEE** a Farmington Jaycee around town these days, he (or she) will probably have a big smile on his (or her) face.

The Farmington Jaycee chapter was honored recently as one of the top chapters in Michigan at the quarterly Michigan Jaycee assembly held at the Crowpe Plaza Holiday Inn in Grand Rapids.

The Farmington chapter was named best among those in similar size communities for the third quarter, November through January, according to president Matt Ratliff.

The local Jaycees, a leadership training program for men and women ages 21-39, involved their members in management and individual development and community programs, Ratliff said.

**THE WALK** America benefits for the March of Dimes isn't until Sunday, April 28, but it's not too early to get out the walking shoes and perhaps buy a new supply of foot powder.

And it certainly isn't too early to think about volunteering to help run the Farmington Walk, which starts and ends at Oakland Community College.

Walk America is held at 11 sites — including Farmington Hills — in southeast Michigan. Some 15,000 are expected to participate, including 1,500 in Farmington Hills.

The local walk will cover 15 miles (25 kilometers) in a loop around northern Farmington Hills. Starting and ending point will be H Building on the OCC campus. Walkers will follow Farmington Road, 12 Mile, Drake, 13 Mile, Orchard Lake.

Last year, Walk America raised \$1.2 million, almost \$130,000 coming from the Farmington portion, according to Patti Radak of the March of Dimes.

Volunteers are needed for this year's walk. If interested, call Radak at 423-3217. Walter Christenson is the logistics chairman for the Farmington walk.

**MIX IT UP** after hours... that's the advice of the Farmington/Farmington Hills and Novi chambers of commerce.

They're sponsoring an after hours mixer for business people 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Novi branch of Botsford Hospital, 39750 Grand River, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads.

Cost is \$5 for chamber members and \$7 for non-members. Call the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber at 474-3140.

**MEMORY LANE** — From the March 8, 1951 Farmington Enterprise:

- Jim Bates scored 12 points to help Farmington High beat Millford, 39-29, in the Class B district basketball final at Walled Lake High School. Clarenceville, meanwhile, lost to Dearborn St. Alphonsus in the finals of the Class C district at Bentley.
- Henry J. Pangel, thought to be the oldest resident in the Farmington area, died at his Pickett Street residence at age 94.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21895 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



In recognition of last week's peace initiative in the Middle East, Longacre Elementary held an assembly Friday to sing songs of peace, think patriotic thoughts and tie yellow ribbons on trees all over the school yard. Here, first grader Jamie Thompson (left) ties a yellow ribbon on a tree with the help of classmate Sawako Izume.

## Thoughts of home

### Kids continue musical tribute to troops

By Casey Hans  
staff writer



Despite last week's cease fire in the Persian Gulf, 25 eighth graders at East Middle School plan to continue their musical tribute to men and women serving overseas until they come home.

Before the war began in January, students in Candice Wallace's eighth grade choir class put together an audio tape of appropriate music, interspersed with student comments and feelings about the war.

"They have already mailed some 30 tapes overseas to soldiers with photographs of the class, as their special way of relating how much they care," Wallace said the tape is still appropri-

ate with the prospect of peace, because its theme is about coming home.

"They (the soldiers) are going to be there for a while," said Wallace. "It's not about fighting a war anyway. It's about coming home to friends and family."

**THE IDEA** for the tape snowballed after student Angie Holt suggested the class dedicate the song "Thoughts of Home" to those serving in the Persian Gulf during their school concert. "Everybody just kind of popped out with ideas," Wallace said. They included two other songs on the tape: "America the Beautiful" and "Unchained Melody."

Students jotted down their thoughts about the war and feelings about the songs, practiced talking into a microphone, then recorded them.

In addition to sending tapes to soldiers they know, students have received requests for copies of the tape from others in the East Middle School community who want to send copies to their loved ones.

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## 2 guilty of killing teacher

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Two Detroit men were found guilty Tuesday of a lesser degree of murder in the slaying of a Hills teacher.

Following a four-day trial, Judge Frank J. Kelly, Jr. sentenced the two men to 15 years in prison. Kelly said the two men, 21-year-old Andre Poax and 22-year-old Donald M. Baker, were found guilty of second-degree murder in the slaying of Andre Poax.

The 48-year-old teacher was shot in the back of the head by Poax and Baker on Feb. 11, 1990, as he walked through a parking lot of the Hills School.

He had taught math in the Farmington Public Schools for 25 years, most recently at the Hills School.

Poax and Baker were arrested on Feb. 12. Poax was charged with first-degree murder, while Baker was charged with second-degree murder.

"Nothing was taken from the house — nothing was taken but a life," Kelly said.

**BOTH POAX** and Baker were charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Hills teacher Andre Poax. Kelly said the two men were found guilty of second-degree murder in the slaying of Poax.

The slaying occurred in a parking lot of the Hills School on Feb. 11, 1990. Poax was walking through the parking lot when he was shot in the back of the head by Poax and Baker.

Poax was found lying on the ground, and Baker was found with a handgun in his hand. Poax was taken to a hospital, but he died of his wounds.

The Hills School community is mourning the loss of a beloved teacher. Kelly said the two men were found guilty of second-degree murder in the slaying of Poax.

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NOW in every Monday issue!

### Police seek to padlock gambling suspect's house

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

A Farmington Hills house owned by Jamal Abro who faces felony gambling charges may be padlocked as a public nuisance. Efforts also are afoot to seize the house under federal forfeiture laws.

"We want the house padlocked so this type of activity will not occur in the future. This is a nuisance to the community," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

Abro's attorney, Richard Lustig of Birmingham, would not return the Observer's telephone calls.

At the request of Farmington Hills police and the Oakland County Prosecutor, Oakland County Circuit Judge Barry Howard Wednesday issued an order restraining Abro, 42 and his wife "from conducting, maintaining, and permitting the continuance of the nuisance (for illegal gambling)."

The civil action against Abro "has no bearing" on the criminal charges against the Farmington Hills resident. "We are saving the house as proof for illegal purposes," that doesn't have to mean he (Abro) has been convicted of a crime, Judge Babb said.

You still have time to schedule an appointment to appeal your increase to the Farmington Hills Board of Review. The three-member board will meet 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, March 11, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, and 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 13. Appointments must be made by March 10.

### Hills tax notices arrive; review board set to meet

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

If you're going to get a property tax assessment increase and you're a Farmington Hills property owner, you should have gotten your notice over the weekend or today.

If they are concerned or you have questions whether your assessment changed, they can call the assessor's office, Farmington Hills assessor Dean Babb said.

The majority of residential property owners are expected to receive an assessment increase ranging from 3 to 8 percent. Residential assessments increased an average 5

percent this year. That's compared to an average 9 percent increase in 1990 and 10 percent in 1989.

Owners of vacant and acreage property this year can expect "significant increases. Land values for acreage have been ridiculously low," Babb said.

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### Capitol walk

Farmington-area parents Kathy Kelly, Betty Kelly and Debbie Luk-Asak finalized their school board resignation Wednesday by heading for the Lansing State Capitol, where they spent the day pleading their case to legislators and handing out copies of petitions which had been signed. For the story, please see page 5A.