

Disciplining the kids:  
50 ways that work, 1C



Gymnastic  
update, 1B

Carrington Place rent  
squabble is settled, 6A

# Farmington Observer

Volume 103 Number 31 Thursday, January 16, 1992 Farmington, Michigan 64 Pages Fifty Cents



**W**INTER IS STILL very much with us, but it's never too early to think spring. If you're planning a spring-season bridal show, fashion show or garden event, the Observer would like to hear from you. The newspaper will consider announcing your program in a special bridal, fashion and garden sections this spring. Calendars in the sections will cover March, April, May and June. Mail announcements to: Special Sections Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Include the name of the event, event sponsor, type of event, time and location, admission charge and a daytime phone number that can be published. Deadline for submissions is March 1.

**H**EAR YE! Hear ye! The Southwestern Oakland Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at the Novi Community Center, 45175 10 Mile Road. The public is invited to attend. Guest speaker will be Marvin Meltzer, vice chair of the 18th Congressional District for the Democratic Party, who will speak on the selection process for delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

**S**HOW-AND-TELL time isn't just for grade-school kids anymore. The Farmington Historical Society uses that format at some of its meetings. Such a meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the Farmington Branch Library in downtown Farmington. The unexpected is told about local families and Farmington history. Antiques are often exhibited and their historical significance is explained. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

**S**PEAKING OF the Farmington-area historical societies, they're banding together to plan a two-day tour of historic houses in September as part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Farmington. All the sites on the tour are historically significant, said Ruth Mochelmann, who is in charge of the event. "We have quite a few Farmington Hills buildings lined up," she said, "but we're still looking for some in Farmington. As you can imagine, it's quite a commitment by the homeowner."

**M**EMORY LANE — From the Jan. 20, 1992 edition of the Farmington Enterprise: Carole Anne Minor, member of the Detroit Civic Players' staff, was to sing several songs during intermission of "Little Women," the Players' presentation at the Farmington High School gymnasium. Farmington police were investigating break-ins at two businesses, the Farmington Dairy and Conroy's Market.

**Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48331, or dropped off at the newspaper office.**

## Winter's force shows no mercy

### Residents need day to dig out

By Joanne Maliszewski and Casey Hans, staff writers

Mother Nature blanketed Farmington and the surrounding areas with a heavy snow early Tuesday, snarling traffic, prompting some to stay home from work, and giving area students a day off from school.

"I felt just like a kid again. This is great," said Linda Andridge, a Farmington resident who was having breakfast at Dimplri's restaurant in downtown Farmington with Bob Schwartz.

She got a call from her office in Novi telling her not to come into work because of the blizzard. Schwartz, a Northville mechanic, said he had to call and beg for the day off.

The couple walked, following tire tracks from their nearby house to the downtown restaurant, where owner Angelis Anastasiou was serving to an unusually sparse crowd. He had to help three customers get their cars out of his lot Tuesday morning. Dimplri's waitress Judy Metcalfe said it took her 40 minutes to travel seven miles to work in her 1976 Oldsmobile.

**T**HROUGHOUT southeastern Michigan, portions of freeways were closed as were Metropolitan and City airports as a reported 9-12 inches of the wet stuff was dumped on the area in the first major snowstorm of the year.

National newscasters were describing the weather as a "snow thunderstorm" with its high winds, pelting snow and booming thunder.

People like Lorie Hunter of Farmington Hills found themselves stuck on roads throughout the area. She was heading to work and got about a quarter of a mile from home when she ran into a



Ron Jedwab takes a break from plowing snow at the Target store to help Farmington Hills resident Lorie Hunter who was stuck in a snowbank at M-102 and Grand River.

snowbank at M-102 and Grand River.

Major or severe accidents were reported Tuesday morning as some tried to slide their way to work. "There are more people stuck than having accidents. The problem we're having

is that many of our roads are not traversable," said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department traffic section. In Farmington, police reported nine calls for road emergencies during the first 3 1/2 hours of the day shift, plus numerous calls for

false alarms because of the high winds. A full public safety shift was kept busy as were public services employees who were trying to keep drifting snow across the roadways plowed.

clared in Farmington in the morning, where residents were asked to remove all cars from the streets by 8 p.m. Tuesday so the city public works crews could move the heavy load as quickly as possible.

A SNOW EMERGENCY was de-

Please turn to Page 3

## Reaching out

### Schools need goal-setting help

By Casey Hans, staff writer

Farmington school officials are reaching out to the community in a variety of ways to get feedback about the future of the district.

They've formed 12 community "focus groups," are hosting three town hall meetings on specific educational topics throughout the year, and are planning surveys which are expected to help develop goals and form an action plan for the district.

Assistant to the superintendent, Pamela O'Malley, said the process is much more thorough than anything the district has done before.

"If you want people to be part of it, and we do, we need to give people more opportunity to say some-

thing," she said. "We need to shut up and listen to them."

The plan is to have goals for the district's seven key department areas: curriculum and staff development, student services, community relations, employee relations, special education, finance and evaluation.

Goals for each area should be in place by June, O'Malley said, and an action plan for the entire district developed from there.

**T**HE END result is expected to be a better link between departments and more long-range planning which will eventually work to help students.

Please turn to Page 2

## Fire kills Hills man; arson is suspected

By Joanne Maliszewski, staff writer

A 35-year-old Farmington Hills man died Wednesday afternoon in an apartment fire — the first fatal fire in Farmington Hills in many years — that police and fire officials believe was intentionally set.

"This is very unusual for us," said Farmington Hills deputy fire Chief Peter Baldwin. "It's the first fatal fire in years."

Mark Gerard Masalin was pronounced dead at Botoford Gen-

eral Hospital after he was discovered in the bedroom of his one-bedroom apartment at Maple Ridge Apartments, 23076 Middlebelt, said detective Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

The Oakland County medical examiner is expected to conduct an autopsy sometime today. It's believed Masalin died from chemicals, gases and smoke resulting from the fire that had extinguished itself before firefighters arrived at about 12:45 p.m.

Please turn to Page 2

## Council: electronic fence no excuse for pet owners

By Joanne Maliszewski, staff writer

Electronic or invisible fences aren't an excuse for dog owners to ignore their responsibility to confine and control their pets.

That's the advice of the Farmington Hills City Council and city attorney John Donohue. "The ordinance is written so that it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep the dog under control," Donohue said. But Woodcreek subdivision resident Sylvia Nelson isn't too sure

that's what's happening in her neighborhood. Nelson was giving her fox terrier his regularly scheduled walk about a week ago when two Alredales jumped out of nowhere.

"I saw two really big forms in the street. I thought they were foxes," Nelson said.

Foxes they weren't. The Alredales belong to one of her neighbors who confines the dogs with the popular electronic or invisible fences. "Before I knew it, the Alredales had my dog on the ground. My dog was yelping in pain."

Nelson herself fared somewhat better thanks to a heavy winter coat that the Alredales were unable to nip through.

**T**HAT WAS only one of several tales Nelson told the city council Monday about the problems she's encountered with neighbors' dogs and the electronic fences that are supposed to confine pets to their own turf.

"When it works properly, it works very well," Nelson said of the invisible fences.

Please turn to Page 2

## what's inside

Agendas	16A
Building Schem.	Sec. G
Business	8B
Classifieds	Secs. D-G
Index	7D
Auto	Sec. F, G
Real estate	Secs. D, E, F
Employment	Sec. F
Creative living	1D
Crossword puzzle	2E
Entertainment	6-7C
Obituaries	10A
Opinion	14A
Police, fire calls	13A
CLASSIFIEDS	.591-0900
CIRCULATION	.591-0500
NEWS LINE	.477-5450
SPORTS LINE	.953-2139

You can bank on this bargain!

**\$2.99 a line**

for your three-line private party classified ad now thru Jan. 30.

**Observer & Eccentric**  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING  
591-0900