

It's a Devil of a way to sing the blues, 4B



Swimming results, 1B

Hometown hero sandwiches, 1C



# Farmington Observer

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## FARMINGTON



### FOCUS

**S**UBURBAN Life sections for the Oakland County editions of the Observer & Eccentric will now be coordinated by editor Ethel Simmons, assisted by reporter Larry O'Connor.

**M**ARILYN DUGUID has witnessed the growth of the Farmington area — and the district court that serves it.

"When I started in 1966, there were 2 1/2 people working for the court," said the Farmington Hills resident.

As administrator, Duguid is in charge of non-judicial duties such as personnel, jury management and budgeting.

Duguid claims to be the first non-elected employee of the 47th District Court to retire.

Duguid was recognized recently with a plaque from the Southeast District Court Administrators Association.

**K**NOW ANY Farmington-area student volunteers who deserve recognition?

Residents of the area in grades 6-12 will be honored at the seventh annual FYA Recognition Breakfast April 30.

**M**EMORY LANE — From the Feb. 28, 1992 edition of the Farmington Observer.

Jeannette Herrea, operator of Jean's Beauty Shop on Grand River, appeared on the TV program "Lady of Charm Hour."

## 'I'm not a bigot,' Was testifies

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Despite a defense attorney's consistent questioning, Farmington Hills resident Joanne was vowed she never made racial slurs against a group of black men and women who assaulted and robbed her following the 1991 Freedom Festival fireworks.

"No, I never made any racial slurs. I'm not a bigot if that's what you are trying to make out," was told defense attorney Cornelius Pitts who is representing Cassandra

Rutherford, 17, who is accused of beating Was June 28.

Pitts didn't give up. "Were you feeling any racial animosity...?" Pitts asked. Was responded, "I'm more intelligent than that."

Detroit Recorder's Court Judge Vera Massey Jones stopped Pitts when he asked Was the race of two police officers she stopped as she walked back to the car and met up with the six black women who she said assaulted her.

"You weren't in any way racially motivated or incensed as a result of the incident?" asked Pitts, who was later warned by Massey Jones about his courtroom conduct.

Was DIDN'T escape Massey Jones' reprimands either. Tensions rose during Pitts' cross-examination of the Farmington Hills woman.

Massey Jones warned Was that unless she directly answered Pitts' questions she would be held in contempt of court.

"Your refusal to answer direct questions, your continuing to change questions around will have an effect on the jury," Massey Jones warned Was. "It seems strange you didn't

have that problem with direct examination (questions from the prosecutor)?"

Rutherford is charged with assault with intent to commit great bodily harm. The other five women have pleaded no contest to a variety of charges stemming from the fireworks incident.

Was testified that her eyes were open most of the time. She used her purse, which she said someone grabbed from her later, to shield her chest and stomach.

identify her assaulters as she was being beaten. "While I was being beaten I saw both twin girls (Cassandra and Cassandra Rutherford) beating me," Was told Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lisa Lindsey. "It was all the time I was being beaten (that) I saw all the people who were beating me."

Was testified that her eyes were open most of the time. She used her purse, which she said someone grabbed from her later, to shield her chest and stomach.

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Alexander Hamilton employees (from left) Michelle Jurma, Dianne Dube and Mike West look out of West's office shortly after a car driven by a 20-year-old West Bloomfield man landed

thursday after he accelerated through a gate and into a courtyard Thursday afternoon. The man was charged with reckless driving.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## Brake time

### Car rams gate, lurches into office courtyard

A car driven by a 20-year-old West Bloomfield man shook up the otherwise quiet premises of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America at 12 Mile and Farmington roads about lunchtime Thursday.

"He came through the gate, through the bench and stopped about five feet from the building," said Patrick Anderson, economist and vice president of government affairs for the insurance company.

According to witnesses interviewed by the Farmington Hills police, the 20-year-old driver accelerated from 12 Mile and New Market — across the street from the insurance company's campus — and ran through a metal gate and crossed an outdoor courtyard. The incident occurred at about 12:20 p.m.

"If the sun had been out, the courtyard would have been full (of people)," said Tom Duggan, assistant vice president of public relations.

ANDERSON AND others breathed a sigh of relief after the car came to a stop in the courtyard where employees often step out for a breath of fresh air or lunch in warmer weather. "I've been here five years and nothing like this has happened before," Anderson said.

The driver, who was not injured, appeared to be under the influence, police said. Police found a suspicious can of aerosol inside the car, said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the

Farmington Hills Police Department's traffic section.

The driver was charged with reckless driving, which carries a penalty of six points on a driving record, as well as a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail and \$500 fine. Under state law, police can confiscate the car after sentencing.

"Usually when someone wants to take a shot at us, they do it in the newspaper," said Anderson, a Republican anti-tax activist.

## Edison plan has Hills buzzing

By Tom Beer staff writer

Some Farmington Hills residents aren't exactly energized over Detroit Edison's plan to provide better electric service.

After last summer's power outages, Detroit Edison officials admitted that electric service in the northern suburbs could be improved. One way, the utility said, would be to connect two Farmington Hills electric substations with high voltage (120,000-volt, or 120 KV) lines on 80-foot wooden poles over a five-mile route through some prime suburban territory.

But residents and officials of the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College have said they don't think much of the plan, citing health and aesthetic concerns. The lines would start at Edison's Drexel Substation near 12 Mile and Drake roads and end at the Southfield Station near 11 Mile and Inkster roads, generally following the south side of Farmington Hills electric substations with high voltage (120,000-volt, or 120 KV) lines on 80-foot wooden poles over a five-mile route through some prime suburban territory.

The route would then swing south to 11 Mile and east to Inkster Road at the Southfield border.

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## Drain repair bills may deluge cities

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington and Farmington Hills face a large expense to repair the Caddell drain, after major storms swept the area last year and weakened the open drain system.

Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said the cost could reach upwards of \$500,000 for his city, Farmington Hills, Novi, the state, and the Oakland County Drain Commission which has jurisdiction over the drain. Completed in the 1980s, the drain is designed to solve flooding problems caused by major storms.

THE CADDELL system is one of the few large drains in Oakland County to be constructed using an open channel ditch, rather than an enclosed pipe, Deadman said. This extensive erosion from the 1991 storms was unexpected, and a maintenance fund for the drain only contains about \$12,000, he said.

erosion," Deadman added, and will likely cost much more than that. Of the repairs, Farmington would pay nearly 11.9 percent and Farmington Hills 60.5 percent. The remainder would be paid by Novi at 3.8 percent, Oakland County at 5.8 percent and the Michigan Department of Transportation at 18.2 percent.

"It could be a very large amount of money for the city of Farmington, maybe \$50,000 or \$60,000," Deadman said. "If correct, it must be done. In Farmington's case, we'll lose roads... and areas under our bridges."

Farmington Hills public services director Thomas Blasek said he is aware of the situation, and is awaiting word from the county as to what areas are damaged and how much it will cost.

"The fact that it's an open drain, makes it more prone to erosion problems," he said. "It's one of the prices you pay."

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## Pieces of history

Several area residents gathered last week at the home of Laura Myers to begin piecing together the Farmington Heritage Quilt, a community project being done as part of the celebration of Farmington's 125th Anniversary of incorporation as a village. In the above photo, Gale Wolman (left) holds material as Kathy Bricker pins. The quilt will be taken into the community starting March 1, so others can put in a stitch or two. For a story about the quilt, turn to Page 3A.

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