



Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

School salaries: Top executives in the Farmington School District will receive three percent salary increases with a chance to earn more./2A

Beware of scam: Farmington police are warning of scam artists who prey on elderly residents./6A

COUNTY NEWS

Detroit divorce: What do Oakland County high-ups think about the proposed statistical break-up of the metro Detroit area?/5A

OPINION

Discontent: Ross Perot may have been the darling of voters due to their discontent with the establishment, at least that's the view of John Telford on today's Points of View page./10A

TASTE



Taste of Italy: In Italy, food is an art. It nourishes and binds two local Italian families who keep their culture alive by sharing favorite family recipes./1B

Wine column: Wine columnist Ray and Eleanor Heald toast innovative wines from Italy's Tuscany region./1B

SPORTS

Grid showdown: Harrison tried to keep its unbeaten football record intact Saturday while playing Livonia Franklin in a key division game./1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Speaker's Row" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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Bad drivers endanger students



The Farmington Board of Education has called for community action concerning problem drivers who endanger students waiting for buses. Drivers who speed, drive recklessly and fail to stop for buses picking up and dropping off students are far too common.

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Farmington school officials said that they alone don't shoulder all responsibility for bus stop problems, because of increasing traffic concerns in Farmington, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township.

Residents, parents, subdivision groups and other local governments need to get involved to help solve problems including speeding and reckless drivers and those who don't stop for school buses stopped to pick up or let off children, they said.

"I can see we need to work with the

cities more aggressively," said Superintendent Michael Flanagan. "The whole overall issue of driving safety in this community has gotten out of hand."

The aforementioned communities make up the Farmington school district.

Although the school board trustees agreed Tuesday to continue monitoring individual complaints about bus stops, they took no action to change policy which places most secondary bus stops on main roads.

A number of parents have petitioned the board to change its policy following

a fatal accident on Aug. 25 when about 25 students witnessed a fatal accident on 13 Mile in front of the Strathmore subdivision.

Those westside stops have since been moved, but school officials say they can't — and won't — be responsible for the driving habits of everyone traveling through the school district.

Board president Jack Inch said he was "appalled" at the way people drive through Farmington Hills, and added that drivers also seem confused about a

See DRIVERS, 2A

Picking produce



SHARON LEMISUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Colorful display: Kathy Reynolds of Farmington buys produce at a stand on Power Road, south of 11 Mile. The stand, run by longtime resident Irene Bradley, is operated on the honor system. For a story and another photograph, see page 6A.

Staff gets 1st crack at top job

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington City Council will search for a city manager inside the walls of city hall.

Postings went up last week advising employees that the council would be receiving internal resumes for the chief

CITY MANAGER

executive's position during the coming week, and the council has scheduled a noon meeting on Sept. 28 when it will talk with prospective candidates.

The hope is to have a new manager in place before current City Manager Robert Deadman retires on Jan. 4.

"I've always been in favor of a search within city hall first," said Mayor William Hartsock. "That looking inside includes everybody. We don't want to discourage anybody from applying."

The council made its decision at a special meeting Thursday morning. Councilwoman JoAnne McShane said she still considered an outside search important, but would not oppose searching within city hall and added that she would not let her opinion in-

See STAFF, 2A

Historic Kirby White house safe for now

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Despite angry words earlier this summer, First Presbyterian Church and Farmington Hills Historic District commissioners have struck a compromise to allow expansion of the church, while putting off immediate plans to move or demolish the adjacent historic Kirby White house.

"It seems at this meeting we are closer than we have been before. The antagonism is gone," said Jean Fox, a consultant for the Historic District Commission.

The commission and officials of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, have wrangled throughout the summer over the proposed expansion, which is in a designated historic district, and the fate of the 63-year-old Kirby White house.

When commissioners Wednesday night approved the church addition — required before the planning commission will review the plans — they also denied requests to move or demolish the Kirby White house, also known as the John Knox house.

The church uses the house for the

pastor's offices and Sunday school classes. The addition would accommodate those uses.

"If they (church officials) decide the time has come to move the house or demolish it, they have to come back to the commission," city attorney John Donohue said.

Originally a gift

When the church is expanded, the building will sit approximately 14 feet from the Kirby White house. Despite many church members' desire to maintain the house, "long term aims and the

mission of the church would require the Knox house to be moved," said church attorney Earl Oppenheimer.

Originally, church officials offered the historic structure, designed by famed architect Marcus Burrows, to the commission as a gift expecting it would be moved elsewhere.

Commissioners, however, unsuccessfully requested that land on which the house sits, be included in the gift.

"The church has been fairly up front saying that this house has to go," Do-

See HISTORIC, 3A

Police suspect bank ATM heist was 'inside job'

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER



William Dwyer, Farmington Hills police chief

Farmington Hills police believe the robbery of \$100,000 cash from Michigan National Bank automated teller on 10 Mile late Wednesday-early Thursday was an "inside job" and with the FBI will interview 40-

50 current and former employees.

"Whoever committed the breaking and entering and theft had access to the building," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said. "Entry was made through the main portion of the building."

The robbery in denominations of 10s and 20s, was discovered when armored car employees made a money drop at the main building, 38200 10 Mile, about

1:40 a.m., Thursday. When the armored car employees made their telephone check-in, they were told about an alarm that was reported just before midnight at the money machine.

The alarm was investigated and the building was found to be secure, said police Inspector Tom Godwin.

When they checked, the armored car employees found the building secure on the outside. When they entered the

building, however, they found money cassettes or trays on the floor. They checked the money machine vault and found it closed but unlocked. They also found the money cassettes had been removed from the machine, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Police have no particular suspect at this time but are waiting for a list of bank employees to interview, Godwin said.

Your vote counts!

A cable TV series focusing on voting — "My Vote Counts" — will be shown through November on MetroVision's Channel 12. The shows may be seen at 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 2 p.m. Thursdays and 7 p.m. some Fridays.

This month, Linda DePorter of the League of Women Voters gives advice on "How to Choose a Candidate." Host is Julieann Hovanessan.

In October, there will be a review of all ballot questions in the November general election. Richard Chrysler, a Congressional candidate from outside the Farmington area, will speak on term limitations, and Oakland County executive hopeful L. Brooks Patterson will discuss the Cut and Cap tax limitation proposal. Host will be Richard DeVries.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

November's show will deal with "Roles, Rules and Responsibilities of Elected Officials" with teamers Dick Stolle of Harrison High and William Brinker of North Farmington speaking. Shelley Paros will be the host.

Viewers who wish to share their opinions and reactions should call Dave Teitmeyer at 473-9581.

She was an intern
Hillary Weiser, a Farmington Hills native, has completed a six-week internship with U.S. Sen. Don-

ald Riegle, D-Michigan, in his Washington, D.C. office.

"My internship exceeded all my expectations," said Weiser, a 1990 graduate of North Farmington High School who is studying business and pre-law at Michigan State University. "I'm grateful I had the chance to come to Washington and experience the political process first hand."

During her internship, Weiser wrote many constituent letters, primarily on health care issues. She also enlisted co-signers for a letter to the Appropriations Committee requesting increased funding for child immunization programs.

"Hillary has been an outstanding intern," said Riegle. "Her hard work and dedication will be missed."

Weiser is the daughter of Fred and Cindy Weiser of Farmington Hills.