



Farmington Observer

VOLUME 104 NUMBER 33

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1993 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 48 PAGES

FIFTY CENTS

© 1993 Suburban Communications Corporation

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Deadly fire: Tony Mendes, who died in a suspicious fire in his Farmington Hills home Jan. 9, is remembered by a friend./3A

COUNTY NEWS

Dressing down: County employees Friday paid into the "Jeans Jar" for an opportunity to dress in casual clothing — for a worthy cause./10A

OPINION

Clouds on the horizon: The old saying is that if you live in Michigan and don't like the weather, wait 10 minutes and it will change. That could be just what local forecasters are counting on. See Philip Sherman's point of view./8A

SPORTS

Young retirees: Jerry Young has retired after 27 years of coaching the Farmington High cross country and track teams./1C

TASTE



Chinese New Year: Rise and shine, celebrate the year of the rooster. If you slept past midnight New Year's Eve, here's your second chance to celebrate the party. Eat out, and join the party, or make some Chinese dishes at home./1B

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Viewpoint" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

INDEX

Classifieds B-D	Obituaries/4A
Crossword puzzle 7B	Personal Scene . . . 5B
Auto H-D	Police, fire calls . . . 2A
Index 7B	Sports 1C
Real estate B,C	Street Scene 4B
Employment C,D	Taste 1B
Malls 6A	

OUR PHONE NUMBERS

Newsroom: 477-5450
 Newsroom Fax: 477-9722
 Sports: 953-2141
 Reader Comment Line: 953-2042
 Classified Advertising: 591-0500
 Display Advertising: 591-2300
 Home Delivery: 591-0500
 Cable/TV Weekly: 478-5160

Parents rap handling of fights



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Some parents are criticizing the way student fights are handled in Farmington Public Schools. Complaints have surfaced since a highly-publicized incident at Farmington High Dec. 8 in which a student was hospitalized after being punched

by another student.

The injured boy's mother, Joanne LaFleur, has been outspoken in the school's handling of the incident and is expected to file a lawsuit.

"I was not upset with the child who did the deed, but how the school has dealt with it," said Carol Rott, who said her son sustained a broken nose

two years ago in an incident at Wood Creek Elementary School.

According to Rott, her son was punched by another pupil on the school's playground. Rott said she never received a phone call and didn't discover the extent of her son's injury until 48 hours later.

Settled out of court

Rott filed a lawsuit against the family of the child and the Farmington Education Board in Oakland County Circuit Court.

She said she settled out of court

with the family. The suit against the schools was dismissed due to governmental immunity, according to her attorney.

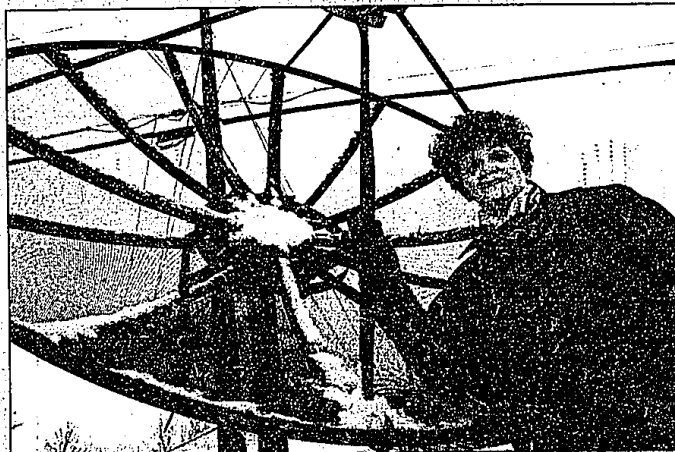
Rott maintains the principal saw the incident, separated the two and took them into the office. She lectured them and cleaned the blood from Rott's son.

Rott said she didn't notice the broken nose until she saw the discoloration around her son's eyes.

"She never called me," said Rott.

See FIGHTS, 5A

Dishing it up



Plenty of channels: Betty Pierfederici shows off the satellite dish in the yard of her home on Haynes Street in Farmington Hills.

Satellite is couch potato's dish

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Jerry Pierfederici, an admitted "couch potato," decided to make the most of his TV watching time by installing a satellite dish at his Haynes Street home in Farmington Hills three years ago.

He has no regrets. "I was talking to some friends at work who had one (dish), and so I decided to give it a try," said Pierfederici, who drives a truck for Master Automatic of Redford Township. "Cable was increasing (in cost) every six months or year." At the time he bought his new dish, Pierfederici was paying about \$68 a month for a variety of cable channels, including HBO, Cinemax, the Movie Channel and

Showtime. Now he pays about \$530 a year and gets many more channels, he said.

"Instead of just one HBO channel, you get four," he said. "That's the reason for the other movie channels as well."

Pierfederici's wife, Betty, said her daughter also has a satellite dish and suggested the idea.

"It's not for me," she said. "I don't have much time to watch TV. But he loves TV. There are just a lot more channels."

Jerry Pierfederici said he's heard a lot of complaints from friends about their cable service.

"Having a satellite dish gives you independence," he said. "You just have so many more choices."

Roger Taylor, owner of Nu Images, print shop in Farmington, has found another reason to add a satellite dish.

"I'm a real sports junkie," he said. "I've had one for two years and there are a lot of channels. The thing I like about it is that I can get sports channels from all over the country that are just like PASS. I can see just about any major sporting event that is televised anywhere."

Taylor and the Pierfedericis agree: owning a dish is worth the cost if you watch a lot of television. The initial cost is offset by lower rates and a much wider selection of channels. There are more than 200 channels available now and more planned.

See DISH, 7A

Parker inauguration draws crowd

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

District Judge Maria Parker said she really hadn't rehearsed her swearing-in ceremony, but she came through before a full house of family, friends, supporters and VIPs.

Parker, who defeated Jack McDonald for the seat of retiring 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer, handled the pressure of her rite of passage before more than 250 people — including 20 other judges — in the

Farmington Hills City Council chambers on a Wednesday afternoon when bad weather had forced schools and some businesses to close.

"I've seen other judges take the oath," said Parker, a 37-year-old Wayne State University Law School graduate. "Hopefully, I'll get it right."

That she did. Except for her emotional thank-

you and remembrances of her late father, Parker was in joyful control of a crowd that delighted in all the ceremonies of induction into judgeship as if it was at a school pep rally.

Parker, who practiced law and served as a magistrate before becoming judge, gave special thanks to her mother, Arlene, also an attorney. Maria Parker had recommended her mother to the bar.

See INAUGURATION, 3A



Maria Parker

FARMINGTON FOCUS

the chamber at 476-3246 for reservations as soon as possible.

Some wise investments

Rick Bloom, a well-known radio talk show host and investment counselor, will kick off the winter investment series at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the Farmington Hills Branch Library on 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

Bloom will speak on investing in no-load funds. A question-and-answer period will follow his talk. There is no charge, but participants are asked to call 553-0300 for reservations.

Memory Lane

From the Jan. 15, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

- Wayne Dryden scored 20 points to pace Farmington High's 64-34 prop basketball victory over Waterford.
- Roy Miller announced his resignation from the Farmington City Council. Robert Lindbert was appointed by council to serve the rest of Miller's term.
- The Farmington City Council voted to establish a planning commission.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21893 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Mixer with a twist

It's off with those business suits and wingtips and on with the tennis shorts and Reeboks. The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is asking, "105 NEM!"

The chamber's Saturday, Jan. 23, mixer will be a tennis outing from 6-10 p.m. at the Farmington Tennis Club, 22777 Farmington Road. Matches will be arranged for experienced players, and pros will be available to help those who have never held a racket.

A representative of the Spaulding sporting goods company will be on hand to check serves and provide door prizes. There will also be a buffet featuring chili as well as other food and wine from local businesses. Cost is \$25 per person and \$40 per couple. Call