

# Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER  
**TODAY**

**Open shop:** Farmington Hills police and fire departments had their annual open house Sunday. /4A

**Where to vote:** Not entirely sure where to vote in Monday's Farmington Schools election? A precinct map and a guide should help you. /8A,9A

## COUNTY NEWS

**OCC graduation:** Praise for the programs and opportunities offered by Oakland Community College is rampant at Friday's lengthy ceremony at The Palace. /5A

**Like no other:** Photographer Jerry Zolynsky zooms in on our local participants in last week's Special Olympics. /12A

## OPINION

**School endorsements:** The Farmington Observer endorses two candidates in this Monday's school election. /16A

## SPORTS



**State champion:** Harrison High School senior Don Bryant won the Class A title in the 110-meter high hurdles Saturday. /1B

**District delay:** Poor weather forced postponement of the Southfield baseball district tournament, but the teams tried again Tuesday. /1B

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Big screen:** Rebecca DeMornay, a tough criminal defense lawyer, defends a snake-like, well-coiffed Don Johnson in "Guilty as Sin." /6B

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# Towns intersect on traffic jams



Let's talk, say officials from Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield. The subject? What to do about the amount of traffic running through both communities. Some public money available to address traffic problems provides an incentive to discuss the issue.

By PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills have a \$27-million incentive to look at a mutual problem — traffic. "It's a very preliminary step," said Geraldine "Jeddy" Hood, West Bloomfield supervisor. "But it's a step in the right direction."

Hood made her assessment prior to a meeting the West Bloomfield Township Board is scheduled to attend Wednesday with the Farmington Hills City Council in that city.

"The meeting is very preliminary," said Farmington Hills councilman Jon Grant. "I don't expect anything major to come out of it . . . except

maybe a joint discussion about mutual traffic problems."

Grant was aware of the irony in his comment. A joint discussion about mutual traffic problems would be something major . . . regardless of how preliminary.

Grant said joint discussions haven't been held more often for various reasons, including, possibly, a reluctance by individual municipalities to relinquish power, or the appearance of power.

"I suspect communities were concerned about protecting their turf, and there might have been an unwillingness to work together."

"But I think that's changing. I know it's changing in Farmington Hills."

The West Bloomfield supervisor isn't concerned about previous problems. She's too concerned with the future.

"Our agenda is very flexible," she said of Wednesday's meeting. "We want to talk about Orchard Lake Road, 14 Mile and Northwestern Highway and any related problems. I think both communities are ready to consider joint action."

See TRAFFIC, 6A

## 2 teens nabbed in store robbery

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Two Detroit teens are in custody and one still at large Wednesday after a foiled armed robbery of a Farmington Hills jewelry store.

Farmington Hills police responded to a 911 held up alarm at 10:25 a.m. at Emery's Creative Jewelry on Orchard Lake Road, near 14 Mile Road. Officers arrived as three black males were leaving the building.

All three fled in different directions when confronted at gun point. One dropped a .25 caliber automatic pistol in the parking lot nearby.

Two female employees were handcuffed together and had duct tape put over their mouths during the holdup. One was able to trip a silent alarm in an ensuing struggle.

The two employees were shaken up, but not injured. "We're happy nobody got hurt," said a man, who described himself as a manager at the store but wouldn't give his name.

One teen, a 15-year-old was captured on foot by officers David Glowacki and John Regorrah in front of The Gap near where the robbery took place.

A 16-year-old, who also lives in Detroit, was apprehended on Mulholland Street, in a neighborhood west of the jewelry store. Officer Mark Meredith spotted the teen 25 minutes after the robbery and chased the perpetrator in a patrol car through a back yard and later on foot.

An undetermined amount of cash and jewelry was recovered.

Sgt. Charles Nebus said the two teens are detained at Oakland County Children's Village in Pontiac. They are expected to be charged with armed robbery and felony firearms.

"We'll ask that they be tried as adults," Nebus said.

The one suspect who eluded police is described as a black male in his late teens approximately 6-8 in height and 160 pounds.



SHARON LEMBURK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At the scene: Farmington Hills police officers Eddie Fitzpatrick and Patrick Sidge examine evidence left behind after an armed robbery Wednesday at Emery's Creative Jewelers on Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile Road.

## Questions over attendance puzzles candidate

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Terry Fobbs, a Farmington school board candidate, believes that his daughters' school attendance records shouldn't be an issue in the June 14 school board race.

A school district official volunteered information Monday to the Farmington Observer that two of Fobbs' daughters were no longer enrolled in the Farmington Alternative Academy.

"They withdrew as of two weeks ago," Fobbs said Wednesday. Three

of Fobbs' daughters — Angelique, 18, Claudia, 17, and Sandra, 15 — are "out of town" and no longer attending the Farmington Alternative Academy and North Farmington High School respectively, according to Fobbs.

At the June 3 Democratic Club's candidate forum, Fobbs said that he had two daughters enrolled at the Farmington Alternative Academy, one at North Farmington High School and two at Wood Creek Elementary.

Fobbs two youngest daughters — Tamara, 11, and Natalie, 9, are currently enrolled at Wood Creek Ele-

mentary.

Monique, 21, another daughter, is employed.

"I've been trying to focus on the issues," Fobbs said. "Kids shouldn't be political pawns."

Assistant superintendent Bruce Barrett said the school employee probably wanted to set the record straight. There was no breach of district policy involved, he said.

Fobbs explained that the three daughters are visiting their grandmother in Olympia, Wash. That grandmother has cancer and his

daughters had not seen her for nine years, Fobbs said.

Fobbs four older daughters are from a previous marriage.

It's unclear whether they (the three) will return, he said.

"Whatever decisions my daughters make is their own," Fobbs said.

He questioned the relevance of the attendance issue.

"What happens with my family is my business," Fobbs said. "I don't want family decisions in the public forum. People have a right to privacy."

## Inventive kids

Many will attest children are quite creative (especially coming up with reasons their homework isn't turned in). Most would be hard-pressed to top Wooddale students John Symusialk and Jessica DiDonato, who are among 47 young inventors representing 10 Midwestern states in the Regional Invention Fair Saturday and Sunday at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

Symusialk, a second grader, came up with the invention "lace locks," while DiDonato, a third grader, is the creator of "fire rings." Both are students of Joanna Balambarathorn at Wooddale. They were named state winners in the annual Invent America contest, which is a national education competition that challenges youngsters to

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

find solutions to everyday problems.

### String 'em up

The Farmington Community Orchestra is seeking string players for its inaugural summer season. The group is open to students, teens, parents or seniors who would like a chance to keep their playing skills in shape this summer. The Farmington Community Orchestra season will run six weeks with rehearsals 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays in the Farmington High orchestra room. Repertoire will be selected from the works of Bach, Corelli, Tchaikovsky, Handel and Barber. For informa-

### Technical difficulties

Just a note, but Farmington Schools sent a mischievous apology to viewers for the 15-minute delay in the cablecast of the June 1 school board meeting, which was joined in progress on TV-10. MetroVision is working to correct the problem, according to a spokesperson at Farmington Schools. What did viewers miss? The Pledge of Allegiance, approval of the agenda, some announcements and the beginning of a presentation by Hillside Elementary.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.

tion, call Jeff Thomas at 474-1328.