



Farmington Observer

VOLUME 104 NUMBER 78

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1993 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 36 PAGES

FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Accident scene: Farmington and Freedom roads was the site of an auto accident last week. /2A

Talk to your kids: A course for parents who want to know how to talk to their children about alcohol is planned by Farmington Families in Action. /10A

COUNTY NEWS

Brooks and Ed Show: Our Oakland and Wayne County execs may be the media stars of the future as they get thumbs up from WDIV-TV for a weekly program. /5A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Getting it resale: In this age of recycling, local second-hand stores are gaining in popularity. /4A

OPINION

Growing up: Today's students learn not only from their teachers, but from their peers as well. That's columnist John Telford's Point of View. /9A

TASTE

Heritage desserts: With names like "duff" and "grunt," words our mothers wouldn't allow us to use at the table, these desserts are truly American. /1B

Recipe makeover: Healthy substitutions cut fat in delicious vegetable quiche. /1B

SPORTS



Baseball news: NFWB, South Farmington and American Legion teams were winners last week. /1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: Live & Let Live on local access Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

INDEX

Classifieds . . .	B-D	Obits!	10A
Auto	B,D	Opinion	9A
Employment . . .	C,D	Personal Scenes . .	8A
Index	5B	Police, fire calls . .	4B
Real Estate . . .	B,C	Sports	1C
Crossword	5B	Street Scene	8A
Entertainment .	7A-8	Taste	1B
Malls	4A		

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Police eye burglary link in slaying



BY BILL COUNTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Garden City man who often worked late at his Farmington Hills business might have been murdered because he stumbled onto a break-in. The body of Thomas Gilmore, 65, was discovered Thursday at about 8

a.m. concealed in bushes on the west side of the building at 28830 Eight Mile where he worked in his surveying business.

Farmington Hills Police have interviewed several possible suspects in the case. Mike Pinkleton, the building

owner, found the body. "An employee told me he was concerned because Tom hadn't come to work," Pinkleton said. "I've known Tom for 10 years. He was a brilliant man. He's the only guy I've ever known who had a photographic memory. But he worked a lot of late hours as most of us small businessmen do."

Police say Gilmore may have been working late Tuesday night at the time of a break-in at Sullivan Roofing, another business in the build-

See MURDER, 3A



Thomas Gilmore

Bus drivers shaken by killing

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

The murder of a businessman on Eight Mile in Farmington Hills has left bus drivers in the Clarenceville School District fearful and shaken.

The district's buses are housed next to the building where Thomas Gilmore, 65, of Garden City, operated his engineering and surveying business.

Gilmore's battered body was found early Thursday morning in bushes

CLARENCEVILLE

next to his business, at Eight Mile Road east of Middlebelt. The body was found next to the bus garage.

Clarenceville bus driver Gail Silvernail, who knew Gilmore and often spoke to him, told the Clarenceville Board of Education Thursday how fearful bus drivers have become in the wake of the killing and because of other threatening incidents which have happened to them recently at the garage.

"That could have been one of us found," Silvernail told trustees. "The drivers are worried. Our families look forward to us coming home at night."

The most fearsome part of their job, Silvernail said, is when they work in the bus garage after dark. The drivers often are in the garage after dark because sports and field trips often end late, she said.

The drivers spend about 15 minutes sweeping and cleaning the bus after each trip, she said.

Silvernail told of two recent experiences in which males approached the drivers after late-ending trips. In one instance, the man demanded money, she said.

"The driver went home, shaking. We reported it to the union president and filed a police report."

In the second incident, the driver was locking the gate when approached by two men.

The drivers, Silvernail said, want beefed-up security at the garage for late-ending trips. "The consensus is,

See DRIVERS, 2A



Planting her thanks

SHARON LEMIERU/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Outdoor classroom: Cathy Grinn, a Farmington Hills resident, plants donated flowers for an elderly Detroit woman as part of a project for a class at Oakland Community College.

Homeowner terrorized, robbed

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A new Farmington homeowner is getting over the shock of being tied up and robbed by two men at gunpoint.

The armed robbery occurred around 11:25 p.m. Wednesday on Slocum Street. The robbers also escaped with the victim's car, which was

abandoned a half-hour later, after a brief chase by Redford Township police. Some of the items stolen were also recovered.

No one was injured. Farmington police have no suspects.

"We usually don't see this type of crime in the area," said Michael Wiggins, Farmington's deputy public

safety director. "It's a major crime. (It was) very bold on their part to commit it the way they did."

The victim, a 25-year-old man, told police he was watching TV when he heard a noise coming from the porch. He went to investigate and two black

See HOMEOWNER, 3A

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Michael Wiggins
deputy public safety director

Founders Festival is twentysomething affair

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

One could say this year's Farmington Founders Festival is for the twentysomething crowd.

Not that the annual event July 11-18 is limited to any particular age group, mind you. This year's festival happens to coincide with the City of Farmington Hills' 20th birthday.

And like last year with Farmington's 125 anniversary, organizers have decided to go all out marking the occasion. Family Day in the Park kicks off the weeklong

extravaganza Sunday, July 11. There will be the annual walk through Heritage Park and pancake breakfast, which celebrate Farmington Hills' formation as a city.

The parade Saturday, July 17, will also feature floats commemorating the 20th anniversary theme.

"That's going to be a toughie," said Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce director Jody Soronen with a laugh. "That's not my worry, though. I'm not building a float."

In between, the 29th annual Founders Festival

is chock full of activities. The annual Kids Day in the Park will take place Tuesday, July 13 in Shiawassee Park, which includes games, rides and family fun. Also, the annual pet contest will be held at 1 p.m.

The Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant also celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

There will be a reunion dinner Tuesday, July 13, with former pageant winners attending. Then,

See FESTIVAL, 2A