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FIFTY CENTS

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Muirwood battles rash of thefts



Some residents of a large Farmington Hills apartment complex are upset about theft problems. Police and the apartment's management are working to change security measures.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police and the management at the giant Muirwood apartment complex north of Grand River and west of Drake are trying to stop a rash of thefts and calm fears of residents.

Several apartments in the 1,272-unit complex have been hit since July

19, said Hills detective Pat Camini. A letter was sent to tenants about the problem, and an effort has been made to prevent problems by changing security procedures and locks.

"We have it under control now," said Dick Williams, manager of the complex. "We're working with the Farmington Hills police."

Officer Jeff Anderson of the Hills

crime prevention section said Muirwood, like many apartment complexes, can be an attractive target if there is not a good system to keep track of keys.

"They had been a little lax about keys," Anderson said. "But they are taking steps to change that."

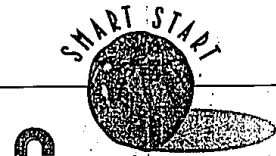
Unfortunately for some residents, the horses are already out of the barn. "I found out that I was on a list of apartments to have new locks," said one woman, who asked not to be identified. "A week before I was to get my new lock, my jewelry was stolen."

Anderson said Williams has been

cooperative with police and receptive to their ideas on how to change security at the apartments. A Neighborhood Watch program, a videocameras system at the gate, and other measures are being considered, along with new locks.

"There are 88 buildings there," Anderson said. "They are going to a good system. But it will take a lot of different changes, and it's not going to happen overnight. There is no silver bullet that is going to solve their problem."

See **MUIRWOOD, 2A**



Call our back-to-school line to hear when school bells ring in your local district. You will get the information you need for that important first day back.

For school districts in Oakland County, call **901-4723**

For school districts in Wayne County, call **953-2036**

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

They're on board: Farmington's Public Safety Department has four new reserve officers. /2A

Want to serve? Several vacancies exist on city of Farmington boards and commissions. /3A

COUNTY NEWS

Ruffling feathers: L. Brooks Patterson's budget director is stepping on a few toes, according to some county commissioners, including one who calls Robert Dad-dow of Rochester "the David Stockman of Oakland County." /5A

TASTE



Summer slowdown: Families in an area subdivision celebrate the end of summer at an annual picnic. /1B

SPORTS

Hoop previews: Farmington and North Farmington are ready to start a new season in girls basketball Tuesday. /1C

Golf season: City schools kicked off the boys golf season last week with the annual Farmington Invitational. /1C

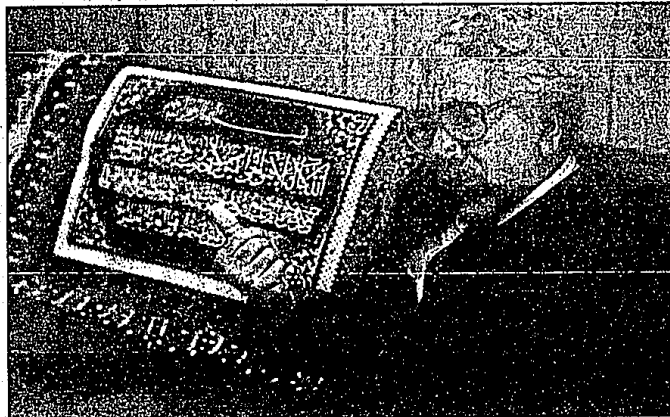
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Helping Arab Americans



Favorite message: The Rev. Imam Muhammad Karoub shows off a rug that has a verse from the Koran.

Unity, not differences, drive Imam

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER



Help: Nagi Alasari, with son Ramzi, gets help with translation.



Diversity

The Farmington Hills resident speaks Arabic over the phone to a man from Yemen who needs help bringing a relative into the country, then, helps a man from Saudi Arabia who is trying to become a U.S. citizen. In addition to working at a small mosque adjoining his office, Karoub performs a variety of religious duties for Muslims throughout

the area. A copy of the Koran, the holy work of Islam, hangs behind his desk as he explains about the misconceptions many Americans have about Islam and its followers, especially those from the Middle East.

"My father (Imam Hussein Karoub) founded the first Islamic mosque in the U.S.," he said. "That was the purpose of learning Arabic, to learn the Koran," he said. "But it has also helped me to work with people and help them. I learned it at home beginning when I was 9 or 10. It has served me well."

See **IMAM, 2A**

Amber glows again in pageant

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Amber Arbuckle said, "Why not?" The judges couldn't think of one reason why not either. So they picked the 1992 Miss Farmington as the 1993 Miss Michigan International in a pageant Aug. 22 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. Arbuckle goes on to compete in the

worldwide pageant in Mazatlan, Mexico, in February.

"I had so much fun as Miss Farmington, going out and meeting people," said Arbuckle, 22, who turned over her Miss Farmington crown to Julie Dugan in July. "Now I get to do it around the state."

Miss Michigan International is not affiliated with The Miss America Or-

ganization or Miss Michigan or Miss Farmington.

Arbuckle competed in the Miss America Organization's state pageant in June, but did not win. Her hopes weren't high going into this one. The Farmington High School graduate entered at the last minute.

See **AMBER, 2A**



Amber Arbuckle

See **SCHOOL, 3A**

3 new principals on the job

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

First day of school: New pair of shoes, new pencil and . . . new principal.

When children step into Wooddale and Forest elementary schools Tuesday, there will be a different headmaster to greet them.

Tuesday is the first day of classes in the Farmington Public School District.

SCHOOL

And like the kids, Wooddale's Laesenia Jones and Forest's Kayleen Hill will feel the pangs of first-day jitters and anticipation.

The principal pair join Harrison's Rande Horn as the new kids on the administrative block in the Farmington Public School District this year.

The new elementary principals rave about their respective staffs and parents, but they start their jobs in a time of uncertainty.

School funding for next year has been cut, and there's no concrete plans to replace it.

The dire financial conditions are not enough to knock their rose-colored glasses askew, though.

"(State cuts) doesn't affect my optimism," said Jones, succeeding Dave Coffin, who retired at the end of the school year. "I believe there is a solution to every problem. That doesn't mean I'm going to proceed without caution."

Said Hill, who replaces Walt Jablonski, who also retired, "There's always going to be uncertainty. The one certainty is we're here to give the kids the best education possible."

They have a grasp on other issues facing elementary educators: children's safety, parental involvement, and the tug between innovative curriculum and teaching the basics.

Their credentials reflect knowledge in all those areas.

Jones was a teacher at Wooddale for three years prior to being appointed principal. She previously worked

Independence Green outing

Former Detroit Pistons Vinnie Johnson and WLTJ-FM's Ted Anthony were on hand for the Inaugural Independence Green \$10,000 Golf Outing Aug. 23 at the Farmington Hills apartment complex and adjacent golf course. The outing was part of a fund-raiser to benefit Special Olympics. Donations are still being accepted. Call Pam or Judy at 471-4344 if interested. The amount raised was unknown as of Friday.

Toward effective Parenting

Improving relations between parents and teenagers will be the focus of a series of discussions on 10 consecutive Thursday nights beginning Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Ten Mile School in Farmington. The program is sponsored by Farmington Youth

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Assistance. Discussions will be based on Systematic Training for Effective Parenting of Teens (STEP/Teen), a widely-used parent education program.

To register or for more information, call Farmington Youth Assistance at 489-3434.

Memory Lane

From the Aug. 27, 1953, edition of the Farmington Observer. An editorial: "Additional police protection in Farmington Township is becoming an ever-increasing necessity. Growth in population, in-

creases in total property value and emphasis on more strict law enforcement demands additional policeman."

That's just peachy!

Fresh peaches — 5,000 pounds of them — were trucked into Farmington Hills Friday. When they left, they were in sealed cans with the Desert label and on their way to help feed the needy.

The peaches, which came from an orchard near Romeo, were processed and canned at a facility on Enterprise Court that is owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The fruit will be distributed to the needy through the Food Bank of Oakland County. (A story and photos on the church cannery appeared on Page 13A of the July 15 Farmington Observer.)