

# Farmington Observer

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**Second looks:** The top two candidates for the superintendent of the Farmington Public Schools again were questioned by the board members and residents. /3A

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## OPINION

**Low grade:** A Farmington Hills parent doesn't think much of the school system's new grading program in the elementary schools. /8A

## COUNTY NEWS

**Money woes:** Though not faced with a deficit, there will be some horse trading going on this week among county commissioners as they prepare to pass a new budget on Thursday. /10A

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## Superintendent search hits road



The school superintendent search turns into the road show, as Farmington board members visit the districts of the two finalists, Berkley's C. Robert Maxfield and East China's Thomas Shorkey.

Related stories, 3A

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Public Schools' superintendent search goes on the road this week.

Board members will visit respective districts of finalists C. Robert Maxfield and Thomas Shorkey to determine who is going to be Farmington's next school chief.

Three trustees will tour Berkley School District Thursday, Dec. 9, where Maxfield has served as superintendent for four years. On Friday,

Dec. 10, they will check out East China School District where Shorkey is superintendent.

A decision on who will be the next superintendent to replace Michael Flanagan could come by Tuesday, Dec. 14.

District visits are the conclusion of a process that began in September when Flanagan announced he was leaving to serve as superintendent for Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

"We're going to talk to board members. We're going to talk to parents. We want to talk to teachers and cus-

tomians in the hall, whatever," said board president Cathleen Webb. "We want to talk to people who wouldn't be so obvious."

The formal district visits run 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Then trustees will break off on their own to talk to government and business leaders.

"We might walk into a barbershop and say, 'Tell us about your schools,'" Webb said.

After the visits, Webb said she believes the board will have a good overall picture of each finalist.

See SEARCH, 3A

## In your face at the workplace



TAMMIE GRAVES  
ILLUSTRATION BY TAMMIE GRAVES

## Businesses take stab at on-the-job violence

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

More and more businesses are seeing violence in the workplace not as the special province of post offices and party stores, but as a real threat to employees, customers and their very existence.

"You have to ask yourself, 'What will an act of aggression cost my company?'" said Tom Raymond, a Birmingham consultant on workplace violence who spoke to business leaders from Farmington Hills recently.

The answer can range right up to a human life. A recent National Institute of Occupational Safety and

Health study found that murder was the leading cause of death in the workplace in five states, including Michigan.

There are some very good reasons for the rise in workplace violence, say experts.

"There is a loss of economic optimism by American workers," said Ken Wolf, a clinical psychologist with wide experience in crisis response who has a Southfield consulting company. "In the U.S., competition is forcing companies to downsize, close plants and lay off employees. That causes a lot of resentment, a lot of anger and disillusionment."

The availability of weapons, the effects of drugs and alcohol, and a mobile society have also led to the loss of a sense of community and belonging, Wolf said.

"There are more single-parent families," he added.

Wolf and Raymond have long been exposed to the problem. Now they're finding a willing audience of business professionals who want to prevent workplace violence.

"You have to think of the post office as a retailer with 40,000 outlets, a lot of customer contact and pressure on employees," said Raymond, who has headed security at Stroh Brewery Company in Detroit and

Playboy headquarters in Chicago.

With incidents involving fast-food restaurants, gas stations and even health-care workers, fewer companies are smug about shooting deaths, Raymond said.

"I think this (violence in the workplace) is a trend of the '90s," said Dave Brower, director of security at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills and a former Detroit police officer for 28 years.

Although Botsford has not had a major violent incident, its new emergency wing incorporates state-of-the-art security equipment and

See VIOLENCE, 4A

## Nurse injects expertise into health-care role

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

For all her specialized training in gerontology, her administrative acumen and community involvement, Linda Mondoux is a nurse first.

Mondoux is the director of older adult services at Botsford General Hospital and was recently elected president of the Michigan Nurses Association.

The Farmington resident and mother of two takes seriously her responsibilities as an advocate for sen-

ior citizen health and welfare issues, and for her colleagues throughout the state. In fact, her serious bearing never betrays a fundamental tenet of her professional life as a clinical nurse:

"You don't have to decide what you want to be when you grow up," she said.

Research, education and administration are all specialties within her profession that Mondoux has tried and loved. But her involvement with older adults has made her both a val-

ued staff member and an asset to her community.

She has been involved with the Senior Adult Facility Committee, which has been instrumental in Farmington Hills' acquisition of the Mercy Center, and more recently has been on an advisory committee for the unmet needs of children and families in Farmington Hills.

"I had worked as a health care giver in a textile mill in North Carolina before coming here," she said. "I found that older workers had different phys-

ical problems. I was an advocate without the expertise."

After completing a master's degree in nursing at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mondoux set out to put that expertise together with her role as an advocate.

One thing she has learned about older adults is that despite some common medical and social needs, they are the sum of their own life's experiences — good and bad.

See NURSE, 4A

## Toys For Tots drive

The 190 branches of the Farmington Hills-based Michigan National Bank will be collection points for donations made to the Toys For Tots drive.

Toys For Tots is the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's annual Christmas campaign to collect and distribute toys to disadvantaged children across the nation.

Michigan National branches will collect toys through Friday, Dec. 17. Donors are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to any Michigan National branch to assist in this charitable cause.

In addition, Michigan National has been designated as the Toys For Tots bank. Those wishing to make a cash contribution may do so at the local branches.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

To locate a Michigan National branch, call 1-800-CALL-MNB.

### A sound of the season

A brass ensemble from the Farmington Area Philharmonic will perform at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River, just north of Eight Mile Road.

The group will play holiday favorites as well as selections from Bach to big band. Musicians are: Darin Kelly and John Davidson, trumpets; Wil-

liam Lane, trombone; Fritz Koenig, tuba; and conductor Karen Nixon Lane, French horn.

Cost is \$13 for chamber members and \$20 for non-members. For reservations or more information, call the chamber at 474-3440.

### Memory Lane

From the Dec. 10, 1953 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ Jack Cotton, a Farmington resident and Wayne State University football coach, spoke at the Cleareville Optimist Club football banquet in the high school auditorium.

■ Fire destroyed a barn at the residence of Jerry Carroll at 27480 Springsvalley, Farmington Township, Dec. 3.