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# Farmington Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Quite an honor:** Beverly Papai, director of the Farmington Community Library, is this year's Athena Award winner. /2A

**Fatal accident on Grand River:** One man is dead and another is in critical condition after a tow truck crashed into a recycling truck Friday morning. /3A

**Something's fishy:** Hey, where did all the goldfish go? They're missing from the pond at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. /4A

**Laying waste:** Round up those household hazardous wastes. A chance is coming to get rid of them in Farmington Hills. /10A

### MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Science and shopping:** The Discovery Expo at Summit Place Mall mixes shopping with science facts to make learning fun for everyone. /6A

**Behind The Label:** Meet Erwin Pearl and see why his jewelry designs have been popular for more than 35 years. /6A

### STREET SCENE

**Diverse:** "In your face" and "bluesy" aptly describe the band Urban Voodoo Juice. /8A

### TASTE

**Nutrition:** Women have special nutritional needs. Learn how to make healthy food choices. /1B

**Wine column:** Champagne Deutz produces high-quality champagne. /1B

### SPORTS

**Three's a charm:** Farmington Hills Mercy won the Catholic League girls golf tournament for the third-straight year. /1C

**Hello, Columbus:** Farmington Hills resident Dan Gibbons is looking forward to playing college football at Ohio State. /1C

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## Suit: Dentist negligent



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington dentist has been named in a civil suit filed by the estate of Jackie Ponke, who was hammered to death while she worked in his office Jan. 8.

Her estranged husband, Raymond Ponke, is charged with first-degree murder.

Raymond Ponke and Dr. Alan Bredin are defendants in the suit filed in Oakland County Circuit Court.

The suit contends Bredin was negligent in not protecting Jackie Ponke from her attacker on the day she was murdered, although the dentist said he took several precautions after she was threatened previously by her husband.

The suit asks for in excess of \$10,000 in damages. An attorney said his client is only looking out for the interests of the couple's 9-year-old daughter, Ashley.

"You know I sympathize with him

See LAWSUIT, 5A



Dr. Alan Bredin

## Getting comfy at the Cozy



SHANNY LEAHNE'S STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dressed for the part: Doris Lovill, owner of The Tea Cozy in downtown Farmington, hopes her period dress will emphasize the Victorian elegance of tea rooms.

## Tea room steps in British crowning touches

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Usually, a proprietor of a tea room would cringe when she heard anything smashing. But when it's a word uttered from an Anglobillo's lips, it's a sign of authenticity.

After much anticipation, Mrs. Doris Lovill's Tea Cozy on Grand River in downtown Farmington has finally arrived. Some clues?

Owner Doris Lovill said the six complimentary letters from custom-

ers were a starter. So, too, are the people lined up outside before her place opens.

But when a British couple dropped by and said her place was peachy, Lovill started to get warm fuzzies.

"The man said, 'You ought to have a five-pound note. My wife will bring you one,'" said Lovill, sounding like someone off Coronation Street. "Then he said, 'You ought to have some English magazines. My

wife will bring you some.'"

"Then he said, 'And you ought to have a picture of the queen.' His wife said, 'I don't have a picture of the queen.'"

Lovill now has a Bank of England five-pound note and British publications, thanks to the Novi couple.

Others have welcomed Lovill to downtown. Two people brought a plant as an opening-day gift.

Business for lunch (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) has been brisk since she

opened the Victorian-styled tea room two weeks ago.

She also serves high tea from 4-7 p.m., in keeping with British tradition. Food for high tea includes cucumber sandwiches, fresh scones, Devonshire cream and, of course, tea.

Cost is \$9 a person for high tea. Lunches range from \$6.95 to \$11.95. Customers are just as likely to ooo

See TEA, 2A

## Popular vote for mayor unpopular with some

BY BILL COUFANT  
STAFF WRITER

About once a year, the Farmington Hills City Council debates the prospect of having the voters elect a mayor or directly.

This year that idea may even get on the ballot. But judging by the reaction from those attending a recent council meeting, maybe it shouldn't.

Councilman Terry Sever, who served as mayor in 1989, said he was

### HILLS

emboldened to discuss the issue after Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said he would be willing to go along with the idea of placing the issue on the August or November ballot.

Vagnozzi made it clear that doesn't mean he would necessarily back a direct mayoral election.

Council members currently choose

the mayor and mayor pro tem.

"I bring it up now because there are now the five votes necessary to place the issue on the ballot," he said.

Sever, Vagnozzi, councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio and former mayors Jon Grant and Nancy Bates have said they would like such a proposal to go to the voters. Mayor Larry Lichtman, who called the idea "a regressive step," and Mayor pro tem Joanne Smith do not support the idea.

"It would be less honest and less efficient," Lichtman said.

Lichtman also said the public would not see the "fine distinction" of endorsing putting a proposal on the ballot but not necessarily endorsing the proposal.

Sever said he brought the idea up for discussion and not for action until another meeting.

See MAYOR, 3A

### The pick of the trash

Ann Petterson and Nancy Garcia are walking buddies. Every day, no matter the weather, they hike five miles through the subdivisions of Farmington Hills.

They're also trash-pickers. If it's trash day in a sub, they keep an eye out for usable stuff on the curb that's just waiting for the garbage truck. If they like it, they carry it off. Over the months, a lot of discarded items have ended up in the Petterson garage.

"We have a lot of neat things," Petterson said. "There's furniture and lamps and things for the garden. . . bird baths. You wouldn't believe what people throw out."

Now they've decided to recycle their treasures through a garage sale at 9 a.m. Thursday, May 19,

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

at Petterson's house, 28789 Peterburg, west of Drake between 12 Mile and 13 Mile roads.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society, Petterson said. Both women do volunteer work at the charity's Discovery Shop in downtown Farmington.

### Posting a winner

Julie Rosen of North Farmington High School is \$100 richer, thanks to her anti-substance abuse message and some talent in art.

Rosen was the grand-prize winner in the recent

Farmington Families In Action anti-drug and alcohol poster contest. Her prize, a \$100 savings bond, was donated by First of America Bank.

Her poster will be professionally printed for display in Farmington-area buildings.

Runners-up in the poster contest were Jason Yono, also of North Farmington, and Farmington High's Tom May. Each won a \$50 savings bond.

Gary Goss, director of Farmington's Public Safety Department, along with Nancy Kring, president of FFIA, and contest chairman Leon Weisz will present the savings bonds at 4:30 p.m. Monday, May 16, in the council chambers of Farmington City Hall.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48338, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.