

# Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**Hoist the banner:** Farmington's Downtown Development Authority is having its first informational meeting June 14 — and it promises to be a banner occasion. /2A

**One happy Sunday:** North Farmington's seniors crossed the Crisler Arena stage to pick up their diplomas. /3A

**Two cents worth:** Farmington City Council has adopted a budget, but not before a resident gave his protest. /11A

**That's the spirit:** Once again the area's volunteer spirit came shining through as hundreds gathered to clean up the Rouge River in places like Farmington Hills. /13A

### OPINION

**Farmington keepers:** In the June 13 school election, the Farmington Observer backs . . . Check the editorial page. /18A

### SPORTS

**Regional preview:** It will be a doubleheader of sorts Saturday with the Harrison High softball and baseball teams in tournament play. /1B

**New coach:** Former Harrison basketball star Ken George has joined the ranks of high school varsity coaches. /1B

### ENTERTAINMENT

**Theater:** St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook shines in "City of Angels." /8B

### SUBURBAN LIFE

**New addition:** A Farmington Hills family wrote a happy ending to a story about a brother and sister who lived at St. Vincent-Sarah Fisher Home. /1C

**Art comes to life:** A guest columnist writes about an art program for teens and seniors which is sponsored by a local group. /1C

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## Albanian parents voice concerns

The Albanian issue was raised again at Tuesday's Farmington Board of Education meeting. The school system was criticized for not employing certified teachers who speak Albanian.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Two members of the Albanian community continue to challenge the Farmington Public Schools for not having a certified teacher who speaks their native language. Farmington Hills resident Doda

Lucaj and Detroit Pershing High teacher John Kelmendi say they represent parents of Albanian students in the district. They made their complaints at Tuesday's school board meeting.

They reiterated their call for the district to hire an Albanian-speaking teacher, particularly at the secondary

level. School officials have said money is an issue. Also, when they posted an opening for an bilingual elementary teacher in January, none of the applicants spoke Albanian.

Kelmendi said he doubted the sincerity of the district's efforts to provide equal education to limited English proficient students. He accused the schools of trying to hide those students rather than teach them.

"Instead of viewing these children as costly liabilities, when can we begin to see them as assets?" Kelmendi asked.

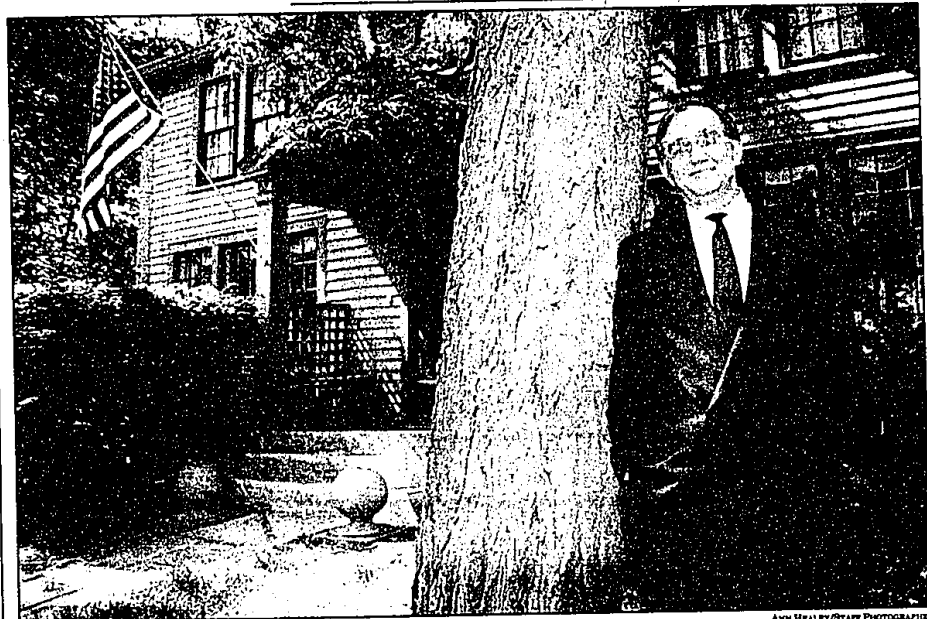
Superintendent C. Robert Maxfield disagreed.

"I would take exception . . . with the assertion that the district is interested in only hiding children who are not homogenized middle American students," Maxfield said. "Nothing could be farther from the case. We celebrate diversity in this community and we try not to hide it, and we're doing that every day and in many ways."

Farmington schools employ six paraprofessionals to work with Al-

See PARENTS, 4A

## Bed and breakfast in Farmington



ANON HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Proud owner:** David Fromme, owner with wife Char of the Locust Manor Bed and Breakfast, leans against a tree in the spacious yard.

## Mind their manor: Bed and breakfast served

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

The welcome mat is out at the Farmington area's first bed and breakfast establishment, Locust Manor Bed and Breakfast, at 24105 Locust Drive, awaits its first guests.

The Greek revival home, located in Farmington Hills Historic District 17, is named for the lowering black locust trees on the property.

It was once the home of Earle Grazer, a radio Lions Ranger, and of Orville Botaford.

New owners David and Char Fromme, recently moved from Southfield, have spent nearly \$100,000 renovating the house, which recently gained final approval for entry into the Farmington Hills historic district.

The Frommes bought the house

last year from Farmington public safety Officer Carl Swanderski, who wanted a maintenance-free residence in a subdivision filled with children so his then 5-year-old daughter would have playmates. One of several changes involved adding a bathroom to each bedroom to ensure guest privacy. The Frommes added a walk to the rear of the house and want to fill the flower

garden with perennials.

Back-door guests are best here. "When the guests arrive the first time, they will probably use the front door," Fromme said. "Then they will use the back door, because it's more convenient. It's a chance to meet people and have nice conversation."

See MANOR, 5A

## Voters too bored with local school board race?

Our endorsements, 18A

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Here are the facts on the June 13 Farmington school board election: Three candidates and two open seats. Adrenaline pumping yet? Didn't think so.

In terms of drama, this race has had about as much as a game of checkers in a monastery. Candidates R. Jack Inch, Kenneth Stein and

■ More than likely, the lack of intensity will be reflected in voter turnout, which is traditionally low for school board candidate elections. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Cathleen Webb have kept a steady campaign course.

All three are seeking a four-year term on the Farmington Board of Education.

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With nine candidates, only 5 percent of residents voted in last year's

### SCHOOL ELECTION

election. Retal Rothrock, director of Business Support Services for Farmington Public Schools, won't even dust off her crystal ball this time.

"I really don't know," Rothrock said. "As far as the school district race, I wouldn't anticipate a real heavy turnout. I don't know how se-

See ELECTION, 4A

## Prisoner shot after scuffle with officer

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills police officer shot and wounded a prisoner Wednesday after the man attacked the officer and tried to take his gun.

The prisoner, a Brighton man, was shot once in the leg. He was in stable condition at Botaford Hospital, according to Farmington Hills police Lt. Richard Murphy.

The officer, Detective Dave Loe, was transporting the prisoner from 47th District Court to the Farmington Hills police station on 11 Mile and Orchard Lake when at 4:15 p.m. the man grabbed the steering wheel, forcing the car into a ditch on

the west side of Power Road, near Rocky Crest, police said.

A struggle ensued as the man tried to grab Loe's gun and began choking him. Loe was also bitten on the arm during the assault.

The prisoner was handcuffed, Murphy said. It's not known, though, if the man was in the front seat at the time of the attack.

"We haven't been able to talk with the officer yet," Murphy said.

After the shooting, the prisoner fled into a nearby wooded area. Residents called police, who arrested the prisoner.

The man had been bound over for trial after a preliminary exam at circuit court on assault with the intent to rob while not being armed. The charges are believed to be in connection with the robbery of a gas station, Murphy said.

Loe was treated at Botaford Hospital Wednesday night. He was in fair condition, Murphy said.

"He (officer) had apparently been kicked in the chest, we feel maybe. He was getting a complete going over," Murphy said.

The prisoner was being treated for a gunshot wound to the leg. The bullet went "through and through," Murphy said.