

# Farmington Observer

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## A note to our readers:

So that there's no delay in publishing birth, engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements, we've expanded our coverage of these important family milestones to twice a week.

Beginning today, you'll find such announcements on Mondays as well as Thursdays. Today's installment is on Page 7A.

For specifics on how to submit an announcement, please call our announcement hotline at (810) 801-4730. Our Suburban Life editor, Ethel Simmons, oversees publication of these announcements. You can call her at (810) 801-2276 or fax her information at (810) 644-1314.

If you're eager to announce your family milestones, so are we.

I'd love to know your impressions of this expanded coverage in the weeks ahead. Write me at The Eclectic Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or fax me a note at (810) 644-1100. I welcome reader feedback!

Robert Simon  
Managing Editor

## Some want to recall signatures



By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

It is ultimately up to the group circulating petitions whether it allows signatures to be taken off.

The group Voters' Voice has been circulating recall petitions against six Farmington Hills council members, but some residents who signed now say that they were either misled or

did not understand what they were signing.

At the Nov. 14 City Council meeting, City Clerk Kathy Dorman said they could call the city or come in and sign a form to remove their signature from the petitions.

But Dorman added that after talking with state election officials, it would be better for those interested in

taking their signatures off the petitions to call Voters' Voice directly at 477-6673.

"The problem is that the law is not clear about whether they (Voters' Voice) have to take the signatures off," Dorman said.

Dorman said although the city is sending on requests to take signatures off the petitions, it is preferable for people to come in and sign rather than phone in. Otherwise, she said, people could simply call in and have someone else's name taken off the ballot.

Chris Thomas, director of elections for the State of Michigan, said signatures could be taken off petitions be-

fore they were filed with the county, but not after.

"I don't know why any group wouldn't take off the signature of someone who did not want it on a petition," he said. "But the law hasn't really addressed that issue. There is no black-letter law."

Thomas said laws regarding petitions are definite about taking the signatures off before they are turned in, but are not clear as to whether the group circulating petitions is required to pull off a signature if someone requests it.

"We get a few complaints from time to time."

See RECALL, 2A

IN THE PAPER

# TODAY

**Note the Vote:** Some Farmington Hills council folks were pleasantly surprised by which the margin the directly elected mayor proposal passed. /3A

**Picket time:** Nurses from New York and local union leaders joined in a protest at Mercy Health Services in Farmington Hills Wednesday. /3A

**Road map:** Farmington has its road improvement millage. The city is mapping out what streets will be repaired first during phase one of the program. /4A

**Car crash:** A Detroit woman, 19, was in stable condition after a three-car accident in Farmington Hills Tuesday. /4A

**Cop calls:** Farmington and Farmington Hills police were kept busy the past few days. /4A

TASTE

**Festival of Lights:** Preparing for Hanukkah is a male tradition in the Katzenstein Family of Beverly Hills. /1B

**Thanksgiving:** Chef Larry Janes offers step-by-step instructions for cooking your first turkey. /1B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Down On Main Street:** Meet Minerva Chaiken who's been selling clothing to women and children in downtown Plymouth for more than four decades. /3B

**Holiday budgets:** Get through the season without going broke with tips from a local financial planner. /3B

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HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

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**Getting booked:** Farmington Hills police Officer Jeff Anderson reads to children at Forest Elementary. Anderson is part of a popular school liaison officer program, which increases police presence in Farmington schools.

## Police, students lock up learning

By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

The police have gotten an education by going back to school.

The Police School Liaison Program, started in the Farmington Hills schools in 1990, has been almost too much of a success. In fact Farmington Hills police Officer Duane Fox was so busy that two officers from the Hills now serve as liaisons.

Farmington public safety Officer Christine Guinan continues to serve in a part-time capacity as a school liaison officer as well.

"We had some problems at North (Farmington High School) in 1988-89," said Don Cowan, former North principal and current executive director of kindergarten through 12th grade education. "There were conflicts with minority students. We wanted to avoid those kinds of problems and celebrate diversity."

Since then, the program has been a success, both for the schools and for the police.

"We knew it was the road we'd want two officers (from Farmington Hills)," said Hialeah Lt. Dick Murphy. "But we wanted to see how it would go first."

You could say better than expected, as Officers Guinan and Fox as well as new liaison Officers Jim Baker and Jeff Anderson give even more of a police presence in the schools.

"Parents want to know that their kids are in a safe learning environment," said Baker, a seven-year police veteran who is the liaison officer at Harrison High and its feeder schools. "That's all they want."

Anderson, who worked in a department drug education program for fifth-graders (T.H.I.N.K.), similar to the D.A.R.E. program for fourth-graders) before becoming a liaison at North, said he likes working one-

See POLICE, 2A

## Schools, unions await judge's policy on insurance

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Both sides in a health-care insurance dispute involving the Farmington Public Schools and three employees unions, are still awaiting a decision from Oakland County Circuit Court Judge David Breck.

Last year, the school district tried to switch third-party administrators

for its union employees. Unions representing teachers, custodial workers and paraprofessionals fought the move.

The matter went to arbitration nearly a year ago. No reason was given for the holdup.

A person in Breck's office said there hasn't been a disposition yet and it has been "taken under advisement."

Complicating matters is the fact the current contract runs out this summer.

"(It's) simply the uncertainty of not knowing what the decision would be," Farmington Education Association spokeswoman Zan Alley. "We're anxiously awaiting the decision."

The dispute stems from a mistake in a price quote by the Michigan Education Special Services Association,

which was approved as the carrier during the last contract negotiations.

MESSA later admitted the mistake and agreed to absorb the difference for the first year. However, the school district would be liable for the remaining \$3.2 million.

Instead, the district switched to the less-expensive Michigan Employee

See POLICY, 2A

### Resale note

Farmington Public Schools Music Education Department will conduct its annual used instrument sale 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in the East Middle School Cafeteria, 25000 Middlebelt. The sale is open to anyone wanting to sell or buy band and orchestra musical instruments, metronomes, music stands and other items.

Those bringing items to sell are asked to donate \$2 an item to cover space and advertising. For information, call 498-3412.

### Color splash

Farmington artist Given Tomkow will be the featured speaker and will demonstrate the painting of a watercolor landscape at the Palette and Brush Club meeting 1 p.m. Tuesday,

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

Nov. 22. Tomkow's work can be seen in the Loelanus area as well as many area galleries. Her talents were also featured on the cover of "Splash 3," a book of watercolor works.

The meeting is in Room 223, in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, 2600 Evergreen.

### Music beat

The Farmington Musicals brings its "With a Song in My Heart" series to St. John Lutheran Church, 53225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, for a performance at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7. The program will be "Joy to the

World," a traditional Christmas performance. The show is open to public. Donations are accepted.

### Memory Lane

From the Nov. 25, 1954 edition of the Farmington Enterprise.

The combined population of the city of Farmington and the township increased 29 percent during a four-year period, according to the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Commission.

The city went from 2,325 residents in April 1950 to 3,000 in July 1954. The township population rose from 11,224 to 14,600 during the same time.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.