

# Farmington Observer

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## City: Residency rules needed



The city of Farmington is concerned about how proposed legislation limiting residency requirements would affect the ability of firefighters to respond quickly.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A bill that would eliminate residency requirements for police and fire employees has Farmington city offi-

cials checking their address book in order to write their state legislators.

Recently elected state Sen. Dave Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, introduced the legislation that would curb

residency requirements.

A similar bill is in the House. Both are expected to be discussed on the floor when the Legislature reconvenes in 1995.

Farmington council members feel the city's public safety department should be exempt if such a bill becomes law.

At Monday's meeting, the council agreed to send a letter to Honigman and state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farm-

ington Hills, stating as much.

Farmington requires its public safety officers — who do perform both police and fire duties — to live within a six-mile radius of the city limit. It allows the department to respond quickly to fires, Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss said.

"From our standpoint, the real strength in our firefighting ability is

See RESIDENCY, 2A

### A note to our readers:

Beginning today, the Community Calendar, a listing of upcoming local events, moves from Section A to Section C behind local sports. Also, in Section C is the Religion Calendar and an advertising directory of area churches and services.

Leading off Section C is the popular Observer sports section complete with game coverage, features, prep schedules and stats on your favorite prep teams along with selected coverage of Schoolcraft College, Madonna University and Oakland County Community College.

Susan Rodish  
managing editor

### IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**Holiday ho-ho-down:** Santa landed in downtown Farmington Saturday morning for the city's annual "Holiday Happenings" event. /3A

**Gem gathering:** A Farmington Hills jeweler is having a grand reopening weekend to help a cancer support group. /4A

### COMMUNITY LIFE

**It takes two:** Parents of twins join a Farmington club where moms and dads can talk about the double pleasure of multiple births. /13A

**Columnist:** Mary Ann Wade shows how perseverance has helped her conquer one fear at a time. /13A

### OPINION

**To the Max:** We share some thoughts on Farmington Public Schools Superintendent C. Robert Maxfield's first year at the helm. /20A

### LET'S GO!

**Music:** Nothing is more in keeping with the spirit of the holidays than old-fashioned caroling. /1B

**Light shows:** Dazzling displays light up the winter sky. /1B

### SPORTS

**Hoop tipoff:** A new season in high school boys basketball got under way Tuesday night. /1C

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### Fists of fury



ANN HEELEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Handy advice:** Josh Haron, 8, of South Lyon receives some defensive tutelage from Certain Victory Martial Arts instructor Roger Combs, who is also a partner in the school in the South Orchard Plaza in Farmington Hills

## Self-defense lesson: Take chop at karate school

BY BUE BUICK  
STAFF WRITER

Train, be safe and get a good workout.

That's the goal of Certain Victory Martial Arts Inc., which recently opened at 23287 Orchard Lake Road in the South Orchard Plaza in Farmington.

The grand opening has an interesting story.

Last month, previous tenant James Myers evicted his students by mailing out notices that the doors were closing.

Four senior students headed together and reopened those doors.

Cal and Debra Weaver, Chris Osterlander, and Roger Combs all trained and studied together at the unarmored Michigan Blackbelt Academy, open for eight years.

"We were taught to never give up, so we didn't," said Debra Weaver. "What we had was much more than a karate school. It was a place to work out and learn self-defense, but it was also a social organization. Many friendships and relationships grew out of it."

"We were like a family. This was our response to the closing of the old school. We wanted to keep the fami-

ly together."

The Weavers met when Debra brought her son to classes several years ago. She is now hoping to earn her black belt.

This new school is offering hands-on training in various self-defense methods to both children and adults.

See KARATE, 5A

## 21-year-old man arraigned in Farmington robberies

BY BUE BUICK  
STAFF WRITER

Wallace Schmidt, 21, of Lincoln Park was arraigned Tuesday in 47th District Court in connection with two Farmington armed robberies.

Judge Fred Harris entered a not-

guilty plea on behalf of the defendant. Harris set a \$25,000 bond for charges in connection with the Nov. 27 armed robbery at Wabing Wall Gifts and a \$15,000 bond for the unarmored robbery Nov. 29 at Flower Express.

If convicted in the armed robbery, Schmidt could face life with parole. The unarmed robbery carries a 15-year jail term.

The use of a chemical spray in the Flower Express robbery is considered a two-year misdemeanor.

Schmidt faces a preliminary exam before Harris at 8 a.m. Dec. 19 in 47th District Court for both Farmington robberies.

He continues to be housed in Oak-

See ARRAIGNED, 4A

### Diversity workshop

A three-hour workshop, "Many Faces — One Community" will take place 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Farmington Training/Conference Center. Jackie Moses-Burks of Oakland Schools and Michael Yocum, a social studies education consultant, will lead the session that will identify elements that make a healthy, diverse community.

The workshop is part of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multicultural Community Council's ongoing "The Characteristics of a Healthy, Diverse Community" series. The Farmington Training Center is at 23000 Thomas, one block north of Grand River, between Warner and School streets. People interested attending the workshop should call Judy at 473-9604.

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

#### Sweet note

The Farmington Area Philharmonic will present "The Nutcracker and Other Sweeties" 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Farmington Hills Activities Center, 23600 11 Mile, near Middlebelt. The event will include traditional holiday songs, a sing-a-long and narrations of stories by Dickens and Hoffmann. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for children 12 and younger. Admission includes refreshments. For information, call 473-3075.

### Euchre euphoria

It took an overtime round, but Pam and Mitch Finkel captured first place in the Farmington Hills Recreation Division's November Euchre match at Heritage Park Visitor Center. They defeated the team of Claudia and Mark Sperechu. Both teams accumulated a total of 88 points during 13 rounds. A total of 13 teams took part.

The winning pair picked up gift certificates from Brass Point Restaurant and Page's Food and Spirits.

The next euchre match takes place Friday, Dec. 9. Teams can register by calling 473-9570.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48335, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.