

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Outta here: Susan Lightner announced Tuesday night that she would not seek re-election to the Farmington School Board. /3A

Cable concerns: MetroVision President Henry Harris came all the way from Atlanta to lobby for approval of a pending change of ownership. /5A

Afghans available: Now you can really get wrapped up in Farmington history, afghan-style. /8A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Righting writing: Members of a Farmington Hills group, the Ridgewriters, meet weekly to have words with each other. /9A

Hypnotic suggestions: Columnist Judy Kerr, a hypnoterapist, says hypnosis has gotten a bad name. /9A

OPINION

About time: The Farmington Observer supports Oakland Community College's millage request. The paper wonders, however, why officials let the college's facilities deteriorate so much before asking for funds. /14A

LET'S GO!

Irish fun: Make plans to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We'll fill you in on special events that are planned throughout Observerland. /1B

Theater: Local actors and actresses shine in Standing Room Only's production of Neil Simon's "Rumors." /1B

STREET SCENE

Good fortunes: Opening for Tom Petty is a long way from the pizza joint he worked in with Pearl Jam's Mike McCready, but a sure sign his star is on the rise for Pete Droge. /7B

SPORTS

District hoops: North Farmington and Harrison fought to earn a berth in the district championship game. /1C

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Farmington police get pay hike



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Safety officers will receive an immediate 8-percent raise — plus back pay from Jan. 1, 1994 — in an arbitration panel award. The three-year agreement calls for 4-percent annual increases for 1994

and 1995 and a 3.6-percent raise in 1996. Public safety officers have been working without a contract since December 1993. The Farmington Police Officers Association and the city went to arbitration for the first time after negotiations broke off. Arbitration hearings

took place in December and January. While awaiting an outcome, both sides met and managed to work out an agreement. Arbitrator Leo Rhyl approved it.

"It's a very livable contract for both sides," City Manager Frank Lauhoff said.

Officers contended they lagged behind — by at least 6 percent — in pay when compared with other public safety departments in Oakland County.

An 11.6-percent pay increase over three years puts Farmington officers

closer but not completely within that range, FPOA President James Madigan said. Maximum P80 salary will be \$43,335 in 1998.

"Again, we're trying to get into the ballpark with other public safety departments in Oakland County," Madigan said. "That's hard to do in one year."

The city used a different set of comparisons, citing pay for both public safety and police departments in cities of similar size. Public safety of-

See POLICE, 2A

Water, water everywhere



SHARON LEMMEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Break is fixed: Doug Kramer, a West Bloomfield resident and city of Farmington employee, waits for colleagues to shut off the water before finishing repairs on a water main on Grand River east of Farmington Road. The break caused several Grand River businesses to lose water for a time last Saturday and Monday.

Dwyer: 'Technology is key to efficiency'

By BUX BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Officers are the backbone of the police department, but technology makes those officers more efficient.

Those were some of Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer's views when he presented the police department's five-year plan to the city council March 4.

Maintaining the same level of police service is not possible without more officers, according to a recently released audit.

"We have fewer officers per thousand than we had in 1989," Dwyer said.

The possibility of putting a public safety millage before city voters was brought up in Dwyer's 61-page report.

"(Domestic violence cases) have gone up dramatically since the O.J. Simpson case. We arrest one person every other day for domestic violence."

Chief William Dwyer

However the city administration and council has just begun reviewing the five-year plans of all nine departments.

"It has always been my opinion that we will never be able to meet the ultimate needs of the police and fire department without additional funding," said City Manager William Costick.

City officials will make more deci-

sions about police funding by the end of May, Costick said.

Seven additional police officers are requested this year and are in the budget. Dwyer hopes to add 34 by the year 2000.

Dwyer said crime, calls for service and police activity all increased last year.

Farmington Hills ranked 13th in Oakland County for serious (Part 1)

crimes per thousand in 1994. Some 39.77 percent of Hills residents are affected by serious crime.

"Arrests are down," Dwyer said in a recent interview. "Do you know why our arrests are down? Because we don't have time to arrest anymore. All we are doing is running from one radio run to another."

Farmington Hills ranked 16th in number of officers per thousand for cities with more than 10,000 residents, Dwyer said. With a population of 80,048 in 1995, Farmington Hills has 101 officers (1.2 officers per 1,000 population). In 1989, the population was 72,442 and 95 police officers were employed (1.3 officers per 1,000 popu-

See CHIEF, 2A

CD-ROM enlivens students studies



The Information Age has changed the face of education. From time to time, the Observer will focus on how technology has impacted the Farmington Public Schools.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Encyclopedias are looking mighty lonely these days on the reference shelf at Flanders Elementary.

Children are still researching facts and figures. Except, instead of resorting to bound volumes, they pop open a compact disc only six inches in diameter.

Like most buildings in Farmington

Public Schools, what was once known as the school library is living up to its new name: Media Center. Titles are catalogued on computer, students use cards with bar codes to check out books.

When they have to do a report, they can turn to electronic reference material on CD-ROM.

Flanders Elementary has three computer reference stations. Compton's Encyclopedia, 1994 World Almanac and The Presidents (It Started With George) are some CD-ROM titles available at Flanders.

"Kids pick up on it quickly," said Flanders' media specialist Gary Huesenbecker. "They're really comfortable with it."

Instead of looking at gray copy and an illustration on a printed page, research jumps out from a computer screen.

Goopedia, an atlas software on CD-

ROM, includes full motion video, video clips and in-depth articles. Students can click a certain region and they're supplied with an array of colorful maps.

CD-ROM makes research easier. So does having titles on-line. Students don't have to go through the cumbersome task of riffling through a card catalog.

Instead, students enter a couple of keywords on the computer and conduct a Boolean search. A list of titles suddenly appears on screen. They can narrow the subject further using more keywords until they get the book they want. A call number tells the student where to find the bound volume on the shelf.

Kids in the second grade often find a book themselves, Huesenbecker said.

See TECHNO, 3A

No searches, no finds: Ben Christmas uncovers info on Gordie Howe.