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# Farmington Observer

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## Dear readers:

On Thursday your hometown Observer will introduce three exciting new sections - Arts & Entertainment, At Home and Real Estate. Arts & Entertainment will combine the best of two sections - Let's Go and Creative Living - to bring Observer readers complete coverage of fine arts, music, theater, movies, travel, restaurants and special festivals.

At Home, packaged in a convenient tabloid, will offer expert advice on interior design, gardening, antique collecting, home remodeling and new electronics.

The new Real Estate section will provide a new editorial package for the most complete real estate advertising section in Metro Detroit. We're excited about the new sections and want to hear from you.

Look for the sections Thursday and call, fax or write us with your comments.

Susan Rasch,  
managing editor



IN THE PAPER  
**TODAY**

**What's going on?:** A real estate purchase by The Greenery Extended Care Facility has a few neighbors dialing 1-800-City Hall. /2A

**Union label:** The Farmington Education Association's political action committee backs Linda Enberg in the school board race. /3A

**A Rouge rescued:** Folks donned waders and gloves and pitched in to clean the Upper Rouge River Saturday. /6A

**Walled Lake hopefuls:** The eight candidates for the Walled Lake Board of Education are profiled in detail. /7A

## OPINION

**Our turn to be SMART:** Voters in Macomb and Wayne counties voted recently to save SMART, the suburban bus line. On Tuesday, Farmington-area electors will have their say at the polls. /6A

## TASTE

**Taste Buds:** Chef Larry Janes answers reader requests for recipes and cooking information. /1B

**Wine column:** Franciacorta is a sparkling wine you should know. /1B

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# Teens questioned in vandalism



By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police are narrowing in on two suspects in the destruction of a Hills home.

Police continue to question a 16-year-old Farmington Hills teen and a 16-year-old runaway from North

Carolina, both of whom attended Walled Lake schools.

Police are "confident" arrests will be made soon in the break-in and extensive vandalism of the north-west Farmington Hills home of an African-American couple. Damage is estimated at \$100,000.

Perpetrators spray-painted words that could be "white power" on a wall, leading police to suspect ethnic intimidation was involved at first. One suspect is said to be an African-American.

"It's turning out not to be a case of ethnic intimidation," Dwyer said.

A third person might be involved as well, Dwyer said. Arrests could be made as early as today, he said.

One suspect is already in custody at Children's Village in connection

with a break-in on 10 Mile and Middlebelt.

Motivation for the vandalism remains unclear. Speculation is the destruction may be related to a police complaint Bruce Jackson filed about gang graffiti near his home May 21.

One suspect admitted he was involved painting graffiti near the Lancaster Street home.

"If they haven't charged them,

See TEENS, 3A



SHARON LAMIER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vandalism victim: Luenetta Jackson surveys the wreckage in the bathroom of her Farmington Hills home. Vandals did an estimated \$100,000 damage to the home.

## Residents offer aid to couple

By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

The recent vandalism of a Farmington Hills home — at first thought to be racially motivated, but now called gang-related — has brought frustration and anger to the community.

But the incident has also served as an unifying force to right that wrong.

Luenetta and Bruce Jackson returned to their Lancaster Street house Tuesday morning from a weekend trip to Chicago and found the house had been ransacked, water-soaked and spray-painted.

Along with the massive damage, estimated at as much as \$100,000, were the spray-painted words "white power."

"We're disgusted," said Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer of the act.

That summed it up for many in the community who were embarrassed by the act. But the crime showed a good side of the community as well.

"We've had a lot of people calling in offering help," said Hills police Lt. Chuck Nelson.

Callers from other communities as well, including a man from Novi, called with offers of help and financial assistance to the African-American couple.

On the morning after the incident, members of The Christian Businessmen's Committee of Southfield met for breakfast, passed the hat and came up with \$250.

"Words cannot express how shocked, disgusted, saddened we felt upon hearing about the terrible tragedy that awaited when you came home less than 24 hours ago," a letter from the group to the Jacksons said.

Bruce Carr, a Farmington Hills resident and member of the group, said his group wanted to stand up for a Christianity that respects peo-

See RESIDENTS, 3A

## New East principal brings heart, art

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

According to those who know, Eugene Seaborn arrives at East Middle School with plenty of smarts, heart and art.

Seaborn, 44, an avid contemporary artist in his spare time, will take over for principal Bill Martin, who is retiring after 33 years. Seaborn will assume his duties in August.

Seaborn's 19-year career spans teaching and administrative positions in both Detroit and Rochester

districts, including the past two at Hugger Elementary in Rochester Hills.

"We're sad to see him go, definitely," said Hugger Elementary PTA president Mary Greenbaum. "He's not only child-oriented, he's parent-oriented as well."

"He always takes both child and parent in consideration, which is unique for an administrator."

Seaborn is a friendly face for many at the Rochester Hills school, Greenbaum said. In his two years there,

he's made the building more "user-friendly" for parents and students alike, she added.

"He's been a big promoter of self-esteem, having people be proud of their school," Greenbaum said.

Middle school students are a challenge, but Seaborn is used to it. From 1990-93, he served as assistant principal at Hart Middle School in Rochester Hills.

For students who were a bit of a

See EAST, 4A



Eugene Seaborn

## Incident prompts meeting

In response to the recent break-in of a Farmington Hills home, where vandals did an estimated \$100,000 damage to the home of an African-American couple, the Multicultural/Multiracial American Council of Farmington/Farmington Hills will hold a community meeting 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, in the Shannon Room of the Farmington Hills Activities Center on 11 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads.

The event will be open to the public and child care will be provided.

The purpose of the meeting is to reaffirm the council's mission to find ways to improve race relations and to make all residents feel comfortable in the community.

The vandalism first appeared to be a hate crime, although police now feel it was gang related.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

"We want to send the clear message that our community will not tolerate intolerance," said the Rev. Brewster Gera, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills and committee spokesman.

### Activities center planned

"I'm bored . . . there's nothing to do." Parents who are tired of hearing this from their children one week after school closes for the summer should take note.

Farmington Youth Assistance has prepared a Summer Activities Center at William Grace El-

ementary School on Shilohwood Road in Farmington Hills. The center will be open 2-8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, beginning June 14. Wednesdays will be reserved for field trips.

Farmington area youngsters 11-16 are welcome. A director and staff members are on hand to help with the activities. In addition to having a place to meet friends, participants can also use the school gym. Pingpong, pool and video games are also available.

Highlighting this year's activities are food nights, and an ice cream social and field trips to Four Bears Waterpark, a wave pool and the Detroit Science Center.

Membership to the center is \$10 for eight weeks. Field trips are \$5 each. No field trip is planned for

See FOCUS, 4A