

Farmington Observer

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VOLUME 106 NUMBER 74

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Checking the pumps: Home-owners in a Farmington neighborhood will have to present their sump pumps for inspection. /3A

Some volunteer: A Farmington Hills woman was named Volunteer of the Year by the Oakland Literacy Council. /3A

Down to business: Sid Mittra's column, "More than Money," can be found on the Observer's Business & Finance page. /9A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS



Rediscovering Farmington: Entrepreneurs are taking a second look at downtown Farmington. New retail offerings are popping up all over. /6A

Father's Day finds: A roundup of the latest gadgets and gizmos for award-winning dads. /6A

TASTE

Father's Day: If your dad is a meat-and-potatoes kind of guy, he'll love David Kresky's steak recipe. /1B

Super Supper: After a day at the office, the Dubins of West Bloomfield come home to dinner prepared by their son, Art. /1B

SPORTS

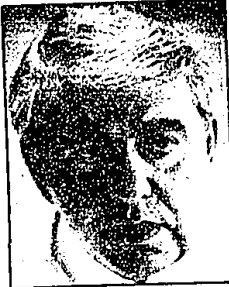
Tournament time: Harrison High was in contention for baseball and softball regional championships Saturday. /1C

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Bill Dwyer

Dwyer sees drug threat



A frustrated Farmington Hills police chief has bad news for anyone who thinks that society is winning the war on drugs. Anti-drug programs just aren't having much of an effect, he says.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The drug traffic in the area and in the nation has pushed law enforcement to the limit.

That's the view of Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer, a view that more and more police executives share.

"We have to rethink our drug policy of the last 25 years," Dwyer said. "We have not made any significant inroads into the use of drugs in this country, period."

And figures seem to support Dwyer's contention that there are more prisoners, jails, drug trafficking and crime related to drug trafficking

throughout the country. According to the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, use of marijuana, inhalants and LSD is up significantly among students in eighth, 10th and 12th grades.

And the marijuanas and other drugs they use are much stronger than those used in their parents' generation. And programs such as DARE, which is a drug education program given to fourth-graders, have had little effect in stemming the tide.

See DRUGS, 2A

Mercy! It rained on their big night



SEARCH LASKIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Commencement: Some Mercy graduates, like Tiffani Brozelton, lift their gowns as water from a sudden rainstorm runs through Baldwin Pavilion at Meadow Brook. See Page 10A.

Council stands up for couple

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

An African-American couple have seen both sides of Farmington Hills and southeast Michigan.

Bruce and Lucetta Jackson were among the 50 people who attended a special meeting sponsored by the

MULTICULTURAL

Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council Wednesday to support them after their house was vandalized and the words "white power" were spray painted on an inside wall.

"I want to thank the community at large for all of the support," said Bruce Jackson. "We've been getting cards and letters. Within a week, I found friends that I hadn't had before."

Many of those friends were members of the council who spoke, sang and applauded their support of the Jacksons, who were in Chicago over the Memorial Day weekend when their house was invaded. Farmington Hills police have made no arrests, but have evidence and suspects in the \$100,000 vandalism rampage.

Ann-Therese O'Sullivan, council chairwoman, praised those who came for coming to the special meeting.

"I thank you for choosing to come here," she said during Wednesday's meeting at the Farmington Hills Activities Center. "We're here tonight to offer support and to develop an action plan."

Neighbors, clergy and other residents attended and focused on ways to improve the racial and cultural climate in the city.

"I have a special motive for being here," said the Rev. Brewster Gere, a council member and speaker at the meeting. "I have two children who are not Euro-American. I've been sensitized by our children in a predominantly white culture."

Those attending were encouraged to return a letter endorsing the council's goals of improving race relations and "to improve a climate which promotes inclusivity in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area."

For Bruce Jackson, the council had begun to serve an important function.

See COUPLE, 3A

Director of schools bilingual program to retire

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Harpune Alameddine is a sentimental sort. Without much prompting, he opens up a photo album.

Alameddine proudly points to the multitude of faces, reciting names of teachers, administrators and students who are posed with him.

A large card signed by well-wishers sits behind him. A person walks into his office and hands him another al-

bum, this one compiled by Hillside Elementary pupils.

The past few weeks have been full of receptions and honors for the director of Farmington Public Schools' Bilingual Department, who is retiring after 26 years in the district.

"I put 26 good years into this district. I feel good about it," said Alameddine, 62, who has been director for 18 years. "The changes that

have taken place have been positive ones."

In terms of changes, he's not whining. The Farmington area has turned from a homogeneous area to one where 64 different languages are spoken in the schools.

The Bilingual Department serves 378 students in 17 different languages, including Arabic/Chaldean, Albanian, Japanese, Indian and Russian.

He and his staff have tried to meet all their needs. That's not easy.

Last year, a few Albanian-Americans criticized the district for not having an Albanian-speaking teacher. Six paraprofessionals were working with some of the 200-plus Albanian students.

The district eventually hired an Al-

See RETIRE, 2A

Downtown Farmer Jack shelves rumors of closing

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmer Jack in the Downtown Center is open for business, bagging yet another line of rumors the grocery store would soon close.

A labor dispute between the chain and the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876 fueled rumors that 13 of 83 area stores would be closed, including the Farmer Jack in the Downtown Center.

On Friday, Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. announced it reached a tentative agreement with the

union. A ratification vote was planned for Sunday.

As a result of the settlement, stores selected to be closed will stay open, according to the statement.

Last year, the store switched from an A&P to a Farmer Jack outlet, which prompted rumblings about it closing there. Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea owns both Farmer Jack and A&P.

A few people called Observer office Friday, saying the store was going to close July 2. A store manager declined comment except to say

there had been a change in plans. He referred calls to A&P's Montvale, N.J., office.

"I think we've heard this rumor every summer for the last 10 years," City Manager Frank Lauboff said.

"If it does happen, the landlord (Kimco Realty) is ready to replace it (with another food store)."

Several residents, including many seniors, use the store. Farmington City Council members were concerned during the last round of rumors, which — like Kivela — still-alive ones — persist.