

# Farmington Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Local advice:** A Farmington Hills resident is calling on the medical profession to take the lead in making physician-assisted suicide accessible to those who need it. /6A

**Opinions, please:** Farmington's Downtown Development Authority is surveying Observer readers to see what kind of businesses they'd like to see in town. /6A

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Right to the marrow:** A Farmington Hills woman faces a bone marrow transplant on the fifth anniversary of her husband undergoing the same procedure. /11A

**Dads 'n' delights:** A group of dads in a local subdivision has formed a group focusing on dads, daughters, desserts and delights. /11A

## OPINION

**Butt out, Joe:** If it's all the same to you, Mr. Congressman, we'd like to keep our Farmington-area politics nonpartisan. /8A

**Why Grant withdraw:** Hills Councilman Jon Grant tells why he withdrew from the race to become the city's first directly elected mayor. /9A

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**Let the music play:** Carillon recital series at Christ Church Cranbrook begins July 4. /1B

**Family fun:** There's lots to do June 30 to July 4 at Michigan TasteFest, featuring free concerts by legendary blues musicians. /1B

## SPORTS

**Softball stars:** Farmington Hills Mercy and Farmington Harrison are well represented on the 1995 All-Area softball team. /1C

**Diamond gem:** Harrison's Jake Lawson was among the state's best baseball players taking part in the annual prep all-star game at Tiger Stadium Monday. /1C

## AT HOME

**Going with the fold:** More people are waking up to the versatility and attractiveness of sofa beds, or sleeper sofas as they are known to day. /Section D

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Ed Johnson

## Memorial fight pays off



Ed Johnson, a Farmington Hills resident and a Vietnam War veteran, has gone to great lengths to see that his Canadian comrades in that conflict are properly honored in their country.

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

What has been a Farmington Hills man's monumental effort concludes Sunday in Windsor.

A dedication of a war memorial for Canadian Vietnam veterans will take place in Assumption Park near the Ambassador Bridge. A parade takes place at 2 p.m., with the ceremony at

4 p.m.

Farmington Hills' Ed Johnson — along with two other veterans, Ric Gidner and Chris Reynolds — spent four years, more than \$100,000 and a whole lot of emotional toil to have their Canadian comrades honored in their own country.

At least 113 Canadians died fighting for the United States in the Viet-

nam War. An estimated 40,000 Canadians — many of whom volunteered — served during the conflict.

"We knew we would do it," said Johnson, who served in the 8th Infantry Division from 1969-70. "It was just a matter of getting some more credit cards."

Plastic was the least of their problems.

A dedication planned for July 1994 was postponed. The Canadian government balked at providing federal land in Ottawa, saying it was neutral during the Vietnam War.

See MEMORIAL, 2A

## Seeds in, weeds out at Gill's gardens



TOM HAWLEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rows to hoe: Gill second-graders (from left) Jessica Covert, Waajid Muhammad, Denise Sakuta and Katie O'Conner check on the progress of their tomatoes.

## Sowing it up

### Gill students plot victory garden's success

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Through the clover of victory will grow educational nourishment.

Students at the Gill Year-Round School in Farmington Hills have planted a victory garden, similar to those cultivated during World War II. This is the 50th anniversary of victory in WWII.

Commemoration of the event planted the seed in some teachers' minds for a science project. Teacher Vickie Shaw had her husband, Greg, and son, Don, rototill six rows of soil.

Each grade had a row in which to plant one vegetable.

Corn, radishes, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans and lettuce will be

harvested in the fall. Gourds and pumpkins were also planted.

Efforts of their green thumbs will likely turn into a green salad garnished with plenty of veggies.

"Hopefully we'll have enough, and we'll enjoy what we get," Shaw said.

"I thought it was a great idea with this being a year-around school and us not being here only in August."

Each class takes turns weeding and watering the garden. Teaching staff will take over the chores during the school break in August.

Along with science, students are learning a few other things.

Many will write reports on the garden. Fifth-graders are bringing in

See GARDEN, 2A

## Wind blows lid off 'Apollo 13' premiere

By TOM BAER  
AND LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITERS

The area premiere of "Apollo 13" blew away a theater audience Wednesday, but it wasn't the kind of lift-off for which movie promoters had hoped.

At 6:00 p.m., a heavy thunderstorm and high winds tore off sections of the AMC Old Orchard 3 theater roof on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. About 200 patrons were inside at the time. No one was injured.

The premiere of "Apollo 13," about a near-disaster in space and starring Tom Hanks, was canceled. Some 500 people were scheduled to attend,

many on free passes.

The brief, violent storm descended on the busiest intersection in the community — Orchard Lake and 12 Mile — at the height of the evening rush hour.

Witnesses said the storm resembled the cyclone in the "Wizard of Oz." High winds ripped siding off the nearby Clarion Hotel on 12 Mile west of Orchard Lake.

A wooden swing and a tree were knocked over at Silverman's Restaurant next door. A restaurant trash can blew out into Orchard Lake Road traffic.

"It (the storm) lasted about five minutes," said Silverman's hostess Rachael Davis. "It felt

like the windows were blowing inward. It was raining that hard.

"Everyone thought a tornado was going to hit."

Clarion Hotel front desk clerk Jason Shain, a Farmington Hills resident, was on duty when the wind started to blow.

"It looked like a hurricane . . . a tropical storm-type wind," Shain said. "Some of our guests came into the hotel and said, 'Part of your building is gone.'"

Rosa MacDonald was working at the Shell service station on the northwest corner of Orchard Lake and 12 Mile. A sign from the Marathon

See WIND, 3A