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# Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

**TODAY**

**Cancer fighter:** The owner of the Farmington Hills-based Computware Corp. has donated \$15 million to the Michigan Cancer Foundation in honor of his late wife. /2A

**Dark of the morning:** At an hour when most people are still asleep, striking newspaper workers are playing out a drama in a corner of Farmington Hills. /5A

**Corridor care:** A new sign at the entry into Farmington Hills on Grand River is the first project in a major improvement for the Grand River corridor. /9A

TASTE



**Blueberries:** It's almost impossible not to love a blueberry. They're attractive, tasty, and good for you. /1B

**Taste Buds:** Cool salads take bite out of dog days of summer. /1B

BUSINESS

**Business decisions:** The Business Milestones column lists some Farmington-area people and firms involved in recent activity. /6B

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Selling fashion:** New to the marketplace, Jeff Axt of B'ZAR Collections shares his retail dreams. /10B

SPORTS

**Tourney warm-up:** The South Farmington Barons beat the Bloomfield Bulls 7-0 Thursday en route to post-season play. /1C

**LOTTERY**

The Michigan lottery numbers for Saturday, July 22, are:

Daily 3:

620

Daily 4:

9582

Lotto:

24, 29, 3, 14, 12, 5

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## Tip leads to marijuana plants



An anonymous tip concerning drug activity led police to a house on pleasant, tree-lined Alta Loma Street in Farmington. More than 300 marijuana plants were taken from the basement.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

More than 300 marijuana plants — with a potential street value of \$325,000 — were confiscated from the basement of a Farmington residence during a drug raid Friday.

Oakland County's Narcotic Enforcement Team and the Farmington Public Safety Department conducted the search at a house on Alta Loma Street, west of Casa. No one was home during the search, police said.

Farmington police will present the case to the Oakland County prosecutor for a warrant for the homeowner.

Growing an illegal drug is a felony. If convicted, the crime carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

"This guy had an oxygen tank feeding into the water that was feeding into the plants," Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss said. "This was quite a set up."

Police found 320 marijuana plants in various stages of development in three rooms. Aside from oxygenated water, other horticultural items such as fertilizer, sun lamps and timers were discovered.

The plants, which were taken by Oakland County NET, will be examined in a laboratory and entered into evidence.

"It's one of the larger grow operations I've come across," Oakland County NET sergeant Wesley Belts said.

The raid culminated a three-week investigation. Police received an anonymous tip about the operation, and collected enough evidence to execute a search warrant.



Leading a hand: Farmington Hills Deputy Police Chief Pete Balakuta holds the hand of Al Patterson, a Hills police officer, who was injured in an auto accident at Farmington and Freedom roads Thursday afternoon.

## Officer injured in crash

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills police officer was injured after a patrol car in which he was a passenger was involved in an accident at Freedom and Farmington roads Thursday afternoon.

Hills officer Al Patterson suffered three broken ribs and a fractured index finger in the crash. He was treated at Botzford Hospital and released.

Patterson was sitting on the passenger side when the police car headed east on Freedom was broadsided by a 1993 Chevy Lumina traveling north on Farmington Road, according to police reports.

The driver of the police car, officer Paul Nicholas, was less seriously injured, suffering bruises and facial cuts, police said.

The accident snarled rush-hour traffic on Farmington Road for nearly an hour.

The squad car was stopped at the light when officers received a report of a person fleeing a crime scene on Orchard Lake Road. Officers activated emergency lights and waited for traffic to clear.

The police car proceeded "cautiously" through the intersection when struck, Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss said. Officers sounded an air horn, but it's not known yet if the siren was on.

Farmington police may charge the driver of the Chevy Lumina, 43, for

See CRASH, 10A

Bill Dwyer  
Hills police chief

See MALLS, 10A

## Harrison jazz band in Europe: 'Sentimental Journey'

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Crowds cheered, children danced and people sang when Americans marched victorious through Europe.

They're still doing the same 60 years later.

The 18-member Harrison High Jazz Band wowed them in London, Paris, and Heidelberg during a trip July 5-17.

Harrison was one of several jazz bands and choral groups selected from each state to represent the United States in the World War II commemoration celebration.

"I don't know if they appreciate it more or they have more time. They were really responsive," said bass player Sandy Estes.

The band played seminal big band era numbers like "Sentimental Journey" and "In the Mood" to appreciative European audiences, which have a romantic affinity for jazz.

Performances struck a sentimental note, especially in France. What were supposed to be one-hour sets often stretched into an hour-and-a-half music feasts complete with encores.

In one show, the band played for more than 1,000 people in Paris' Luxembourg Gardens.

After completing one performance, an audience member came backstage and asked the band to return to play a jazz number not on the set list. The band obliged.

See BAND, 6A

### Doggone! Dog found!

When Ron Ulmer's terrier Chihuahua "Tinky" went AWOL Saturday, his Farmington Hills neighbors didn't stand pat.

Many people on Whittington Street and nearby helped search for the missing three-pound pooch. They went door-to-door, distributed 800 fliers and combed the streets.

Telley was spotted by a motorist walking in the middle of Nine Mile Road Sunday, east of Beach Road. The driver returned the dog and received a \$100 reward, Ulmer said.

What was really rewarding for the owner was the way his neighbors — many of whom he didn't know — banded together to help. He wanted to say thanks.

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

"To me it was so overwhelming to see such a response for such a small dog," he said.

#### Cottage owners take note

The Observer is looking for a few good cottages.

The newspaper's At Home section wants to know about your summer place. Whether it's a simple cabin in the woods, a luxurious lodge on Lake Michigan, a stylish condo in Boyne City, or a beachfront on Lake Huron, we'd like you to share it with our readers.

We want to know something about your haven

from suburbia. What attracted you to a particular area, what some of your special decorating ideas are, what you enjoy doing during the summer. Send us a color photo or two, interior or exterior (with the negative) along with your name, community and phone number. We'll select a representative sample for a story in a late August At Home.

Send photo and information to Mary Klemka, At Home Editor, The Observer & Economic News-papers, 505 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

#### Gov. Engler appoints

Milton Moss of Farmington Hills is one of eight state residents appointed by Gov. John Engler to the Board of Boiler Rules. The board is responsible for prescribing uni-

See FOCUS, 9A