

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 107 NUMBER 21

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1995 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 166 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1995 Observer & Escobar's Newspapers, Inc.

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Student takeover: The Farmington Hills City Hall was full of high schoolers for the annual Student Government Day. /3A

Paint 'n' powder: You've been asked to appear on cable TV. Columnist Mary Linda Calderone tells how to look your best. /24A

OPINION

Lobbying needed: Arts funding in Michigan is in for a bad time in the foreseeable future. /10A

Letter rip: Farmington Observer readers share their opinions on a variety of topics. /10A

COMMUNITY LIFE

The big two-zero: Two decades have gone by since a special committee began honoring artistic talent in the Farmington area. A 20th anniversary celebration is planned next spring. /13A

Step by step: Guest columnist and Farmington resident Lorene Newsom tells how country dancers high step through life. /13A

SPORTS

Tipoff time: The boys high school basketball season got under way Tuesday with non-league games for the Farmington-area schools. /1C

Top gridders: The Observer sports staff presents its 1995 All-Area football team in today's editions. /4C

AT HOME

'Tis the season: Area residents make merry as they deck the halls with holiday decor. /Section D

LOTTERY

The Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$3.9 million. The Michigan Lottery numbers for Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1995 are:

- **DAILY 3:**
843
- **DAILY 4:**
1777
- **CASH 5: 7, 12, 13, 15, 27**
- **LOTTO: 10, 21, 25, 32, 36, 42**

INDEX

A&E 1B	Pets 10G
At Home D	Real estate 2F
Business 4AA	Rentals 5F
Classifieds F-G	Movies 8B
Crossword 3F	Obituaries 9A
Announcements 8G	Opinions 10-11A
Antics 11H	Police fire 6A, 6A
Employment 3F	Sports 1C
Home, Service guide 9G	Street scenes 10B

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 313-477-5400
 Newsroom Fax: 313-477-4722
 Sports: 313-953-2141
 Reader Comment Line: 313-953-8842
 Classified Advertising: 313-951-9900
 Display Advertising: 313-951-2200
 Home Delivery: 313-951-4718
 Cable/TV Weekly: 313-953-2182

Post office addresses new store



The U.S. Postal Service has put its stamp of approval on a new post office in the Downtown Center. And it may be canceling the present facility on Slocum Street.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington's post office might be filing a change of address card soon. The United States Postal Service is will open what is being termed a "future" store in the Downtown Center. The outlet will occupy 4,000 square feet in the main portion of the center, which used to house Shoe Town.

The opening of a smaller retail operation could mean the closing of the Slocum Street facility. Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff said he met with postal officials from Chicago a week ago.

"They do plan to vacate that building in one to two years," Lauhoff said. "It's too small. They really want to build in Farmington, but there is

nothing available." Postal officials were reluctant to confirm any move because the lease has not been signed yet.

"We're still negotiating," said Bob Borne, a U.S. Postal facilities service manager. "It's a little bit premature."

As for the Slocum Street outlet, Borne said, "We want to do something else with that to move the carriers out of there. We don't have a plan for that as yet."

Space and security concerns have been a problem at the Slocum Street outlet. The facility handles mail for 48335 and 48336 postal codes, as well

as overflow mail from Farmington Hills.

Postal officials reportedly were looking for 7-7½ acres or the equivalent/250,000 square feet to ease crowding at both the Slocum and 12 Mile Road facilities.

The two Farmington-area post offices handle 2,000 feet of mail a day between them and have more than 100 routes.

Also, the current building is situated in a residential area. Customers have to park in the back and walk to the side entrance. For customers, the

See POST OFFICE, 2A

Christmas wish lists presented by youngsters



Santa comes to town: The Christmas list of 6-year-old Christopher Carr of Farmington Hills has a public safety theme: police car and motorcycle, fire truck and ambulance. For a story and more photos about Santa's arrival, see page 15A.

Familiar face; Lipa new teen organizer

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Todd Lipa says he's never planned anything in his life.

That doesn't mean that he takes commitment lightly. The Farmington High School graduate was named Farmington Hills' first director of the new Decentralized Youth Program.

"It wasn't a job I was looking for," said Lipa, 37, during an interview at



Talking it over: Sixth-grader Anshuman Bansal talks with Todd Lipa, new supervisor for Youth Center programs.

Vandalism suspect to be tried as juvenile

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills teen will be tried in juvenile court — rather than adult court — on charges that he caused \$300,000 worth of damage to a home in an upscale subdivision in the northeast corner of the city.

The boy, 15, is accused of spray painting the walls, turning on faucets, making water damage, damage to walls, furniture, clothing and other items prior to Memorial Day weekend.

The words "white power" appeared to be spray painted on one upstairs wall in the home of Lucretia and Bruce Jackson, who are African-American. But Hills police dismissed the idea of the home invasion being racially motivated and arrested two juveniles.

One of them, a white male, confessed to painting gang graffiti outside the house on Lancaster street. The other, an African-American living in the neighborhood, was arrested as the lone suspect in the home invasion.

Judge Joan Young ruled Monday in Oakland Probate Court that the boy would stand trial as a juvenile on Jan. 5, 1996.

"I think the concern was that a great deal of his (defendant's) behavior was caused by medical and mental problems," said the teen's attorney, Cornelius Pitts. "This is not to concede his guilt at all except to recognize that he does have problems."

Pitts said the juvenile justice system is better

See SUSPECT, 4A