

# Farmington Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Proud day for FHS: Farmington High's seniors donned caps and gowns for graduation day at the University of Michigan's Crisler Arena. /A3**

**The gavel falls: A judge has rapped the 'entrapment' of an addict by a Farmington Hills police officer. /A9**

**Off to China: A Farmington Hills boy will get a look at how people on the other side of the world live. /A8**

## TASTE

**Culinary classic: Spend the day learning about, and enjoying fine food and wine at the Culinary Classic, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus. /1B**

## SPECIAL SECTION

**Celebration: A special section in today's Observer marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of the U.S. automobile in America.**

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# Hills tries again: It's Hobbs



After being jilted the first time, the Farmington Hills City Council tried again to pick a new city manager. By a 4-3 vote, the council approved Dan Hobbs from Maryland.

BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Manager Designate Dan Hobbs has another war story to tell, this time it will be about the one he won by attrition. Hobbs, city manager of Greenbelt, Md., was selected on a 4-3 vote to become the city's next manager — with the provision that a contract could be reached. If Hobbs comes to

terms, the three city council members who had reservations agreed to change their votes to make it unanimous.

Hobbs had been city manager of Killeen, Texas, when it when went from boom town to ghost town in 1990-91 with the closing of a military base and the departure of troops for Operation Desert Storm.

That was his "war story." Now he has another.

Hills council members had interviewed three finalists June 9 for the job vacated in February by Bill Coatick. After splitting votes on Hobbs and Richfield, Minn. City Manager Jim Prosser, they agreed on Rich King, manager of Upper Arlington, Ohio.

King and his wife Kitty were at the Sunday session and tentatively agreed to move north. But after a family discussion back home, they were persuaded to stay in the Columbus suburb.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi was told of

the change Tuesday morning and called a special meeting for Wednesday evening to discuss the next move.

At Wednesday's session, there was no shortage of second guessing as to why King had declined the job after a lengthy search that involved interviewing four candidates over the weekend of June 8-9.

"Call it 'The Lost Weekend,'" said a frustrated Councilman Jon Grant.

Council members, City Attorney John Donohue, Assistant City Manager Steve Brock and Personnel

See HOBBS, A2

## Trading books for 'barrows



Moving mulch: Young workers (from left) Carrie Burkett, Erin Reese and Kelley Butler have traded their Troy High School books for wheelbarrows at Crowley's shopping mall in Farmington Hills. The three are wheeling mulch to a flowing planting location. They're part of a crew working for Kelley's grandfather, who owns the center at 12 Mile and Farmington Roads.

STAFF PHOTO BY BELLEEN LEMLEY

## Turner takes over for Lanigan at Lanigan

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

When the building is named after your predecessor, there is something more than a pair of size-12 wingtips to fill.

Marva Turner has been hired as new principal at recently renamed Al Lanigan Elementary. She takes over for Lanigan, who retired after more than 30 years at the Farmington Hills elementary school.

The longtime Detroit Public Schools educator calls it the "ultimate honor" to be asked to succeed such a highly-regarded figure.

"I feel it's a big challenge," said Turner, whose last day as principal at DeWitt Clinton Elementary in Detroit was Friday. "But I'm accustomed to big challenges."

Turner has been a building administrator for eight years, including the last three as principal at DeWitt Clinton. She started out as an elementary school teacher in 1985 and has taught in Cleveland and Pontiac schools before joining Detroit Public Schools in 1987.

She has a bachelor's degree in education from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree from Wayne State University.

"I think she's going to be great," Lanigan teacher Bev Miller said. "She comes with experience and she comes here having done things similar to the things we've done here."

Lanigan PTA president Anne Theisen was a parent representative on the interview committee. Some 107 people applied for the job. Theisen is confident they hired the right one.

"I like her a lot," Theisen said. "She seems to be a warm to the kids, which was a concern of mine with Mr. Lanigan leaving."

As for taking over for Lanigan, Theisen said, "She's not going to replace him. She has to be herself and people will have to take her as she is."

Other than having more resources, Turner said her goals will be the same in her new position.

"My philosophy is everyone — children, parents and the staff — must work together as a team," Turner said. "I don't believe in top-down management."

BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

What if they had a debate and no one came?

To the dismay of three Republican candidates running for the 37th District state House seat, that politician's anxiety dream was true for a

while.

The Farmington Area Jaycees sent out a flier for a "Meet the Candidates Night" that would feature the four GOP hopefuls who will try to succeed outgoing state Rep. Jan Dolan.

The forum is scheduled for Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the

Farmington Hills City Council chambers, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

Trouble was, three of the four candidates hadn't heard about it until last week. The public notice was sent out on June 5.

"That's the first I've heard of it," said Hills City Councilman Terry

Sever during a break at the June 10 city council meeting. "And I was state president (of the Jaycees)."

Linda Jollesour, also running for the 37th District spot, exchanged a blank look with her campaign manager Tom Chadwick when told of the

See DEBATE, A2

# Yes, Virginia, there will be a debate

## Democrat Dibert talks business

### HOUSE RACE

BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Steve Dibert knows that Michigan's good economic times are here now, but he thinks they may not last if Lansing doesn't change the way it does business.

Dibert, 29, wants to see the state both diversify economically and rebuild a crumbling infrastructure that will keep business here. The Democrat is running for the 37th

District House seat.

"Our infrastructure is falling apart," he said. "Meanwhile, not much has changed in Lansing."

Dibert, who will marry Danielle Hoard Saturday, came to the business world in an unusual way. While attending Oakland Community College and Oakland University,

where he earned a bachelor's in political science in 1992, the Farmington resident worked to restore and maintain houses.

"I started the business to put me through college," he said. "When I graduated, there weren't a lot of job offers."

Dibert decided to stick with his business, Interiors/Exteriors Ltd., and even cultivated the Japanese

See DIBERT, A2

### Any day lilies out there?

Gardeners take note: Day lilies, the official flower of the Farmington area, are needed for one of the area's official buildings — the Farmington Hills City Hall.

Anyone with surplus day lilies to contribute to the flower beds at City Hall should call Jeff Stewart at 553-7279. He'll make arrangements for pick-up.

### Off to jail with them!

Some Farmington-area community leaders will be going to jail Friday, June 21, in support of the American Heart Association.

This year's annual AHA fund-raiser will be held from 12 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the new Kallish Grill, 8465E W. 12 Mile Road, east of Drako

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

Road.

"Our goal is to raise \$20,000," said Bill Hartsock, Farmington city councilman and president of the local American Heart Association Board of Directors.

"This is our third year of doing this, and this year's event should put us over the \$60,000 mark in total money. We're expecting a great turnout."

Paul Masterka, another AHA board member who works at Huntington Banks, said there'll be a new twist this year.

"We're holding the event at the Rolish Grill to help promote some of their heart-healthy menu

items to show people that healthy food can still taste good. Additionally, this year's jail birds will get free blood pressure and cholesterol screening."

AHA statistics show that, in the Farmington area more than 43 percent of all deaths are due to heart disease and stroke.

Farmington-area residents who would like to learn more about this event, or the health programs of the AHA, should call 1-800-AHA-USA1.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address: packy@oconline.com.