

# Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER  
**TODAY**

**Pay more — see more:** That's the message to Time Warner cable TV subscribers in the Farmington area concerning a rate increase. /A4

**Merlan's Friends:** Furthering the cause of assisted suicide was not the issue at a recent meeting at a Farmington Hills church, just how best to accomplish it. /A4

**Family legacy:** It was a real family affair when a new Farmington attorney took the oath. /A5

## TASTE

**Hanukkah:** Meet some individuals who prepare traditional holiday dishes like potato pancakes with less oil, not flavor. /B1

**Cookies:** Make a few dozen of your specialty cookies to exchange with friends, and don't forget to bring the recipe. /B1

## A NOTE TO OUR READERS:

Due to production problems, many readers may have received their papers later than usual on Thursday, Nov. 24; we regret any inconvenience this may have caused you. Mary Scott, Circulation Manager

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# City's story is going on TV



Everything you always wanted to know about the city of Farmington soon will be available on cable Channel 15 on the Time Warner system.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Don't touch that dial: City of Farmington is going prime time with its own cable TV channel. Farmington's cable Channel 15 debuts Dec. 1. The city previously shared its municipal programming with the city of Farmington Hills on Channel 8 on the Time Warner cable

system.

A dozen of video programs have been completed, City Manager Frank Lauhoff said. Programming will be interspersed with character-generated messages.

"We're going to have a lot of material on there," Lauhoff said. "The idea is to keep it alive and keep people interested, instead of having

people just read character-generated messages."

Municipal channels typically rank at the bottom with viewers, slightly above test patterns and sign-off signals. Viewership is around 1 percent, Lauhoff said.

"We'd like to see that at 10 or 20 percent," Lauhoff added.

A cable channel is Farmington's latest technological venture. The city's web page debuted on the Internet this year and officials are transferring data on site plans, plot lines and utilities that can be easily accessed by computer as part of a Global Imaging System.

A cable channel is most user-friendly medium for residents, though.

They can get information on upcoming city council and commission meetings as well as road construction updates.

At a city council-traffic and safety board meeting Monday, someone suggested Public Safety Director Gary Gosa provide a cable TV update on the planned widening of Grand River at Shiawassee and installation of a computerized signal system at the Grand River and

See CABLE, A2

## Hills names top firefighter



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMLEY

Close at hand: Steve Hume, Farmington Hills' Firefighter of the Year, looks over firefighting gear he always keeps handy in the trunk of his car.

# Hume: Quiet professionalism pays off

BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Steve Hume is often described as a quiet professional, but his few words have a lot of impact.

Hume, 41, was named as the Farmington Hills Firefighter of the year. He was honored at the department's annual banquet on Nov. 1.

"He is a quiet, unassuming professional," said Chief Rich Marinucci. "But it's more than that. He has a passion for fire safety that makes him successful. He believes in what he's doing. He won't accept just a passing grade."

Hume has won many awards in his 21 years of fire service for the department. The Farmington High School graduate began as a paid-

on-call volunteer in 1975 and joined as a career firefighter in 1977. He became fire marshal in September of 1985.

Hume has pushed fire protection as well as thorough investigations of fires.

"If we can install protection into a facility, we would rather do that than have a serious incident," Hume said. "We advocate fully

sprinkled (commercial) buildings."

The Madonna University graduate in fire science also has a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University in public administration.

"Steve performs at such a high level that we sometimes take for granted his expertise in the fire

See HUME, A3

# Hollie's attorney: Remember Jewell

BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Dearborn police and the FBI made a big mistake in charging a Farmington Hills man in the killing of a fellow armored van guard, the man's attorney said.

"Does the name Richard Jewell ring a bell?" asked attorney Michael Sharpe, who is representing Perry Daniel Hollie, 23.

Jewell was an FBI suspect in a fatal bombing at the Atlanta Olympics this summer, but was later dropped as a suspect.

Hollie has been charged with first-degree murder in the Nov. 13 armed robbery that resulted in the death of Matthew Girardin, 29, of Garden City.

Hollie's cousin, Commit Rowson III of Detroit, had also been a suspect, but was killed Nov. 20 when he was surrounded in a Warren motel room by federal agents and police after an exchange of gunfire.

A large sum of money that police believe could be part or all of the \$1.2 million stolen in the robbery was found in Commit's room, police said.

Dearborn Police Chief Ronald F. Deziel said police have requested that the case be transferred to the federal courts.

Hollie is in the Wayne County Jail without bond after standing mute at his arraignment. He faces a preliminary examination Wednesday morning in 19th District Court in Dearborn before Judge William Hultgren.

"Under Michigan law, first degree murder is a life sentence. Under the federal system, it is a capital offense," Deziel said.

United States Attorney Saul A. Green has agreed to take jurisdiction.

But Sharpe said the change has more to do with a favorable jury.

"The kind of jury you would get in the entire eastern (federal) district of Michigan is much different than what you'd get in Wayne County," Sharpe said.

The Detroit attorney said his client was distraught over the death of his cousin, as well as being in jail for

See MURDER, A2

# Bush: Tomboy to top citizen

BY TOM DAER  
STAFF WRITER

Mary Bush, the Farmington-area's Citizen of the Year for 1996, has made yet another deposit in her "good memories" bank account.

Bush, a lifelong Farmington-area resident, drew on her memories of growing up in the community for her acceptance speech Wednesday evening at the Relish restaurant in Farmington Hills.

Her remembrances described a

community going from rural to suburban — as well as a woman growing from tomboy to top citizen.

"I can remember . . . walking my dad's trap lines with him," said Bush, now an avid deer hunter who returned from the northern Michigan woods just in time for her banquet. "Now I look where those trap lines were and see: Country Club Corporate Park, Copper Creek, Ramble-

wood.

"And after we would trap those muskrats, we could skin them

and dry the pelts downstairs in our house. That's probably why gutting a deer isn't really that bad."

Bush also had fond memories of sledding at the northeast corner of 13 Mile and Haggerty roads. "Now there are apartments and single-family homes there," she said.

She also recalled when Halsted Road collapsed south of 11 Mile. "I believe it was because of the dirt they were excavating."

See BUSH, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMLEY

All smiles: Citizen of the Year Mary Bush looks pleased.

## 'Ability Is Ageless'

Aron Peterman, a 69-year-old Farmington Hills resident, appears to be a good example of someone whose energy and ability have not been diminished by time.

After retiring from Ford Motor Company, Peterman joined Madonna University in Livonia and developed the school's computer lab.

From a small room with 20 early models, the facility grew to a seven-lab complex with 94 computers that network to 300 campus-wide terminals, giving students and staff access to increased resources.

For his efforts, Peterman was one of 11 Detroit-area residents honored recently at the seventh-annual Ability Is Ageless luncheon. They received "Most ABLE" awards named after the sponsoring Operation ABLE.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

a non-profit training and employment organization program committed to meeting human resources needs of "mid-career" individuals.

Each honoree was at least 60 years of age and was nominated by his/her employer in recognition of the value mature workers bring to a business.

### Free food available

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency will distribute free food to "income-eligible" people 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Dec. 3, at

St. Alexander's Catholic Church, 27835 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills.

Eligible persons who are not registered for the food program may do so at the site by showing Social Security cards for all household members, verification of family income and photo ID.

For more eligibility requirements or additional information, call Trudy Long in OLHSA's Community and Family Services Department at 248-810-859-6180 or 1-800-482-9250.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9222; or dropped off at the newspaper office. Internet e-mail address: packy@mail.oconline.com.