

# Farmington Observer

VOLUME 110 NUMBER 29

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1997 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 32 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1997 Suburban Communications Corporation

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Scared careful:** The Iverson case has people being a bit more aware of where, when and how they park cars — and police support the extra protection. /A3

## COUNTY

**Lifer law:** A Birmingham attorney seeks the support of television star Tim Allen in changing the state's mandatory life imprisonment drug law. /A8

## MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Finer Jewellers:** The Schubot family marks 80 years selling exquisite bangles, baubles and beads. /A6.

**Job search:** Jeffrey Bruce shares tips on how to find the perfect hair stylist. /A6.

## TASTE

**Focus on Wine:** Lockwood is a 60,000-case brand that has built its reputation on one of the finest vineyards in California's Monterey County. /B1.

**Winter warm-up:** There's nothing old-fashioned about oatmeal. Mom wds right, a bowl of oatmeal is a nutritious way to start your day. /B1.

## ARTISTIC EVENTS

**Artistic events:** Check out some of the ongoing exhibits in area art galleries. /B3

## SPORTS

**College honors:** Ali Lord of Farmington Hills, a former North Farmington High School star, was named an All-American in women's soccer. /C1

**Season resumes:** Farmington's boys high school basketball teams returned to action Friday night following the holiday recess. /C1

## INDEX

Agendas	A3	Real Estate	B8
Artistic events	B3	Crossword	B8
Brides	A5	Malls	A8-7
Calendar	B5	Movie Guide	B4
Classifieds	B-D	Obituaries	A5
Autos	D6	Police, fire calls	A4
Employment	B8	Sports	C1
Service Guide	D8	Taste	B1
Pets	D8		

## Kroger appeals to Hills zoning board

A developer and the City of Farmington Hills could be in court no matter what the city's zoning board of appeals decides about a proposed Kroger store on Nine Mile and Haggerty.

The Midland Group, a company in St. Louis, Mo. that handles Kroger properties in this area, sought to have a piece of property rezoned to build a 125,000-square-foot shopping center. The city council turned down the project because of the impact of traffic on the area and the inconsistency of the zoning.

Several area residents also spoke out against the change.

"Under a new state law, they must go before the ZBA and exhaust all other avenues before they can sue us," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi. "There was strong opposition to this in the neighborhood."

The city can also take action in circuit court over a rezoning.

Norman Hyman, the attorney representing the Midland Group, could not be reached for comment.

The zoning board will hear the request at its meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER

**Sorting it out:** Threee Vuljai, right, explains her side of the story to Officer Stacey Swanderski as John Long, center, who was in the other car, holds his registration and license after their two cars were in an accident.

## 'Back on the beat'

Neighbors get to know cops behind the badge

By WILLIAM COYANT  
STAFF WRITER

Let's just say that Officer Stacey Swanderski is one of many in Farmington Hills who is taking a chapter from the past in order to involve the community in law enforcement.

It's called community policing.

To many people, the image of the "cop on the beat" is the one we grew up with, but now only see in films like "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." But whether on foot, bicycle or in a police cruiser, Farmington Hills officers are trying to know their districts and make sure the residents know them.

"I really like working in this area," said Swanderski, 26, as she drove through heavier-than-usual snowfall on the day after Christmas. "I grew up in (Farmington), near here and I know a lot of the people."

For Swanderski, whose father is a veteran Farmington Public Safety officer, driving through the city's southern "C" District that includes Old Town, the problems are familiar, but so are the people who she regularly visits.

"It's great knowing that Stacey is around," says Bob Matheson, who lives with his wife, Darline, and their five daughters in a trailer park off Radcliffe north of Eight Mile.

The girls, beginning with Jillian, 2, through Jennifer, 10, sticker about the trailer at their favorite police officer says a visit. The kids haven't come down yet from Christmas, where apparently Santa thought they were nice. They all got hugs and tell her they latest news.

And every other Sunday, Swanderski joins Bob and Darline in a bowling league.

"She came here on an incident involving one of our daughters," says Darline. "And she has kept coming to see us. It's such a relief to have her around."

Swanderski, who competes in body building competitions (she won the Miss Michigan contest in 1995), takes the ribbing about her muscles in stride and admits that it's nice to stop off for a real meal on her beat rather than eat fast food.



**Like family:** Officer Swanderski plays with younger members of the Matheson family, from left, Brian, a 12-year-old cousin, Jennifer, 10, Julia, 3, and Jillian, 2.

Although she is permitted an hour of community policing activity each shift that would take her away from her regular duties, Swanderski said she rarely calls herself off regular duty runs.

It's snowing and Swanderski is called to a traffic accident on Eight Mile where two cars have collided in the slippery conditions.

Once in the lot of the Kotila building, Swanderski introduces herself to motorists John Long and Torze Vuljai, who have collided.

She is able to talk to both and release the woman from the scene and get a tow truck for Long's Honda, which has extensive front-end damage.

Swanderski then patrols some areas where some vandals have left their mark.

While driving north on Middlebelt, Swanderski turns into the Charterhouse Nursing Home to visit a friend, Esther Gussin, 71.

See BEAT, A2

## Board to set bond Jan. 7



By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Schools Trustee Cathy Webb told her colleagues not to

leave Saturday's workshop without being able to unequivocally support taking a \$110-million bond issue proposal to voters.

"We cannot leave this room until we all feel that in our hearts," Webb said during the workshop at Farmington Training Center.

Six of the seven trustees were ready to roll. One wasn't.

Trustee Dave York expressed doubts, namely that the renovations the bond would pay for are not enough to bring the district's three high schools up to 21st century standards.

After more discussion and a few concerned looks at the clock, York thanked everybody for attending and called for an adjournment. He'll enthusiastically support going to the voters with the bond issue, he said.

"We're a team," York said afterward.

See BOND, A2

## Officials won't miss Headlee

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

As Farmington Board of Education members try to size up any potential opposition to its \$110 million bond request, they can look west and sigh in relief.

Richard Headlee doesn't live here anymore. He resides in Utah now.

When he called Farmington Hills home, his opinion weighed heavy on such matters. The state's most recognized tax reformer was highly outspoken in his opposition when the district sought voter approval on a \$27.25 million bond issue in 1988

to build Hillside Elementary and millage increases request in 1991. Those failed, though voters did approve a scaled-down \$7.3 million bond to build Hillside in 1989.

Headlee's influence worked both

See HEADLEE, A2

## Her challenge beads into artsy business

By JENNIFER PLACINTO  
STAFF WRITER

It may not be your average downtown Farmington business with a naked, tattooed, female mannequin covered in Christmas lights on display in the picture window.

"When I got her, I wasn't selling clothing so I didn't put any clothes on her," Bead Bohemia store owner Leslie Oglesby explained. "Needless to say, she looked a little naked."

So, Oglesby added the string of lights and after the holidays, plans to cover the mannequin in beads.

The 1991 graduate of Farmington High School worked at Yin Yang Beads for about six months before the owner decided to close the business of 2-1/2 years and Oglesby started a business of her own at the same location.

"I wanted a challenge and I got

See BEADS A5



Beaming: Leslie Oglesby's view of downtown Farmington comes through strands of beads on her store window.

## Pre-existing issues

State Rep. Andrew Raczekowski is getting off to a fresh start Wednesday, but maybe a little too fresh.

"Everything has been cleaned out of Jan's (Rep. Dolan) office, so I don't have any paperwork for pre-existing issues," he said.

Raczekowski, who succeeded Dolan as the 37th District representative, said if there are residents in the district who had started paperwork or were working on an issue with Dolan, he would like them to call him so that he can pick up where she left off.

Raczekowski has the same number Dolan used in Lansing, (517) 373-1793. He can also be reached at (810) 476-3525 and plans to have an 800 number by the end of this month.

"I hope the people will call, especially if they have already been working on something with Jan," he said.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### Public schools... Public pride

A team of educators, parents, students and business people will gather from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Oakland Schools Office in Waterford, Room 317, to help plan the role of Farmington Public Schools and other county districts in an upcoming show of support and pride in public schools.

Called "Public Schools... Public Pride," the event offers winners to Summit Place Mall in Waterford a chance to see what public schools have to offer — from musical performances to artwork. It will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2.

Anyone interested in helping to show their

support of public education is invited to join the meeting Jan. 8. For more details, call Barb DeMarco at 810-363-2578.

### Business forecast for '97

Check the economic forecast for Oakland County in 1997 at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce's breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 10, at Botsford General Hospital's Community Room.

Jeffrey Kaczmarek, director of community and economic development for Oakland County, will discuss economic trends, growth and a forecast. Cost is \$5 for chamber members and includes breakfast. Reservations are required. Parking is limited, but off site parking is available at Vladimir's on Grand River, with a shuttle bus delivering visitors right to the door.

Fax your registration to the chamber at 474-9235 or call 474-3440.