

Farmington Observer

Sunday
February 2, 1997

VOLUME 110 NUMBER 37

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 60 PAGES • <http://www.ooonline.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Dear Readers,
Good morning. Today is the beginning of a new era for the Farmington Observer — the debut of our Sunday edition that will take the place of your Monday newspaper.

Our mission, however, remains unchanged — to give readers community news and information unavailable anywhere else. You will find that all of the Monday sections and features are in today's newspaper. You will also find some new sections: *New Homes, Business & Finance, Real Estate, and Arts & Leisure*. Our classified recruitment advertising has been expanded into a section called *Employment*. And our Sports section has been renamed *Sports & Recreation*.

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading today's paper. Feedback from readers is valuable and welcome. You can call our reader comment line at (313) 953-2042, or me directly at (810) 901-2537. Or fax me at (810) 644-1314.

Thomas Byrd
Thomas Byrd, Publisher

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

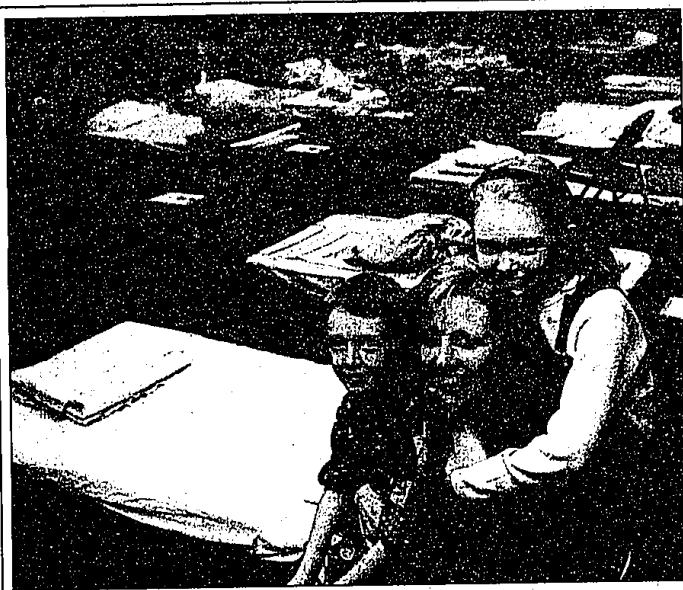
Suspect caught: Farmington Hills police believe a man charged in a business break-in may have hit 11 in all. /A2

SPECIAL SECTIONS

Love In Bloom: Have a wedding in your future? Look for tips and trends in the Observer's annual bridal supplement among today's inserts.

INDEX

Agendas	A4	Crossword	G4
Arts & Leisure	C	Malls	B3-4
Business & Finance	E	Movie Guide	C4
Classifieds	G-I	Obituaries	A4
Autos	I4	Police, fire calls	A4
Employment	G7	Sports & Recreation	C1
Service Guide	I4	Taste	B1
Real Estate	CG		



Helping the homeless: Ann Raftery, daughter Katie, 9 and son Kevin, 7, all volunteer their time at Our Lady of Sorrows, along with fellow parishioners and classmates.

Volunteers help 23 homeless 'cruise' at SOS shelter in town

For a week anyway, Farmington area church volunteers made sure the ship came in for people who are homeless.

Our Lady of Sorrows hosted 23 people Jan. 26-31 as part of the South Oakland Shelter, which provides temporary emergency lodging through a network of churches and synagogues.

Farmington area churches Antioch Lutheran, Nardin Park United Methodist, St. Alexander's and Trinity Episcopal participate. Adat Shalom Synagogue is starting this year.

Volunteers do it all for a week: Pick up "guests," provide meals, laundry and shelter, and drive them

'This program has gone a long way in shattering the stereotypes of people who are homeless.'

Lillian Melville
—executive director, SOS

to work in the morning. A physician also comes by to do check-ups.

"The shelter is all of the churches and synagogues who house people for seven nights," said Lillian Melville, executive director. "If it weren't for the churches and synagogues, there wouldn't be a shelter."

Volunteers at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church took their guests on a make-believe cruise.

Each night, the cuisine and trappings featured a different country.

When the group of 23 arrived Sunday, they were treated to a Super-Bowl party. On Monday, guests went to Poland and ate stuffed cabbage and other delicacies. Then it was onto Italy Tuesday with pasta and meatballs.

The cruise also "docked" in the Philippines, Mexico, Greece, Sicily and England during the seven-day stay.

A majority of guests were men, though in the past seven years, Our Lady of Sorrows has hosted women with small children. South Oakland Shelter has served children age 2 to adults age 87.

—The atmosphere is nice and it's
See HOMELESS, A7

Cell tower put on hold



By WILLIAM COULTAN
STAFF WRITER

Some Farmington Hills residents are feeling besieged by the cellular phone industry.

But last week, two city boards put the issue on hold.

One company, Air Touch Cellular, has a request to build an 80-foot cellular phone tower on the grounds of the Best Western Hotel at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake. It asked the city's zoning board of appeals for a Tuesday night meeting, but that issue was tabled.

Two days later, the city's planning commission hosted a study session; on a separate, proposed ordinance to set zoning requirements to limit where cellular towers or antennas could be placed. A public hearing on that proposal was scheduled for March 13.

Zoning board members tabled any decision on the Air Touch Cellular variance until next month because board members wanted to know if there is precedent for allowing a cellular tower in the expressway service zoning. There are towers in commercial and light industrial areas of the city.

Gail Haynes, president of the Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners, wrote a letter to the board asking that any decision on the variance be delayed until the new zoning ordinance was in place.

"We have several real concerns about the appropriate distance from churches," she said, adding that they should be no height or setback variance allowed that would produce "porcupine landscapes."

Jonathan Crane, an attorney representing Air Touch, said the variance request "was in the spirit of the proposed ordinance changes" and was less than the 100-foot maximum variance.

He showed architectural photos of the area showing the proposed "mist."
See TOWER, A8

Teen gets 10 days in jail for smoking

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

An 18-year-old Farmington Hills woman was sentenced to 10 days in Oakland County Jail Tuesday, and it all started with a smoking cigarette.

The teen, who was 17 at the time, was ticketed for being a minor in possession of tobacco by Farmington police July 24.

She was cited during a traffic stop on Farmington and Freedom roads after the 1993 Buick she was driving was clocked going 49 miles an hour in a 35-mph zone. She admitted smoking cigarettes when asked by the officer.

She pleaded guilty to the charge in 47th District Court and sentenced to three months probation, 18 hours of community service at a hospice, hospital or long-term care facility, and a \$50 fine.

It's illegal in Michigan for a minor to have or smoke tobacco in a public place. The misdemeanor is punishable by a maximum of 90 days in jail and a \$50 fine.

The teen found herself in front of Judge Marla Parker in November after the fine wasn't paid and community service never completed.

She pleaded guilty to violating her probation at the November hearing. But Parker delayed sentencing when it was revealed by her family that the girl is a heroin addict.

"She had been told when she was here in November we would adjourn sentencing," Parker said. "If she complied with everything, she wouldn't go to jail. If she didn't, her option was going to jail."

"I think the hope of the court and the family was that she'd be inspired to participate in treatment knowing that the alternative would be to go jail."

The young woman didn't appear remorseful during Tuesday's hearing, Parker said. At the hearing in November, she told the judge she'd rather go to jail.

"Given the choices, she has to realize there are consequences for violation of the law and violation of the court," Parker said.

Cable viewer survey killed CICO-TV

Small, vocal complainers ignored

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

See story on cable competitors, Page A5

CICO-TV's appeal stretches from a 2-year-old girl to a retired judge, but the Canadian educational channel can't find a home in the local cable line-up.

Time Warner dropped the station from its basic lineup in December. Company officials cite not enough room and a lack of viewership are cited as reasons why.

CICO-TV finished 42nd out of 45 most-watched cable channels — only ahead of municipal channels — in a customer survey conducted by Time Warner three months ago.

Of 5,646 who responded, 428 said they watched CICO frequently. But 900 said they seldom viewed CICO and 4,316 said they never turned to it at all.

"So the seldom and never accounted for 82 percent of the peo-

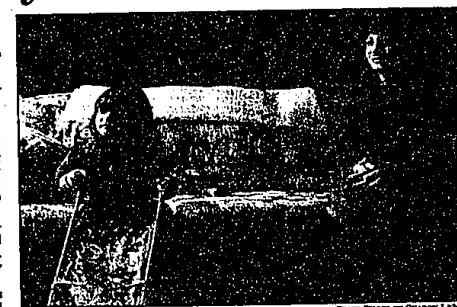
ple," General Manager Bob McCann said.

That has one Farmington Hills parent questioning the survey. Sue Curtis said she remembers filling out a survey, but she added, "If they didn't call it TVO (TV Ontario), I wouldn't have known it was CICO or Channel 21."

"I don't think it was representative of the viewing population," said Curtis, who has daughter Anna, 2.

"If it was, why is there this outcry over them dropping the channel?" The non-commercial station was one of the few her daughter, 2, could watch. Her daughter likes CICO's children fare such as "Polka Dot Shorts," "Book Mice," and "Crawl

See CABLE, A6



Missing: Sue Curtis' daughter Anna, 2, can't watch 'Polka Dot Shorts' and other shows now that Time Warner has dropped CICO-TV after a survey. Curtis says it was a mistake.

Treated like family

The marquee outside the Elias Brothers Big Ben restaurant on Farmington just north of 8 Mile says it all: "Larry likes his bagel grilled."

"Yes he does," explained owner George Darany, noting that it's grilled with butter.

The sign was posted to recognize a restaurant regular. "We do have a lot of regular customers. Some of them, like Larry, come in three times a day. We feel it's important to recognize our customers," Darany said. "It's like we're their family and we treat them like family."

Most restaurant-goers, Darany noted, take their bagels toasted.

"When Larry and his wife pull into the parking lot," he said, "We put his dent on the table; I grill his bagel on the grill, his wife's poached egg in the water and her one piece of toast in the

FARMINGTON FOCUS

tonster." Eat your heart out Norm Peterson.

Pat Boone, it isn't

The "Scholars of London," an internationally acclaimed a cappella vocal quartet from England, will perform 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10, at Farmington High School Auditorium.

Forget the modern sounds, the "500 Years of Song" program will feature music from the 16th through 20th centuries, including arrangements of British and American folk songs by the quartet's counter-tenor, Bobbie Devoton.

p.m. at which time select chamber choirs will perform a cappella choral music and will then be critiqued and given tips and pointers for further development.

Some of the choirs performing will be Walled Lake Western Chamber Choir, Walled Lake Central Chamber Choir, Northville High School Chamber Choir. The event will be attended by members of Farmington Community Chorus, Harrison High and Farmington High School Vocal Music students.

A dinner will be served after the clinic to those who have pre-registered by today, Monday, Feb. 3. Cost for the clinic, dinner and concert is \$15. Send checks made out to FHS Vocal Music to: Evelyn Schuette, Farmington High School Vocal Music, 32000 Shiawassee, Farmington 48336. Tickets for the concert only at \$10 and available at the door. For information, call 489-3461.