

# Farmington Observer

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## THIS WEEK AHEAD

### MONDAY

**Open:** The Farmington City Council will meet at 8 p.m. in city hall, 23600 Liberty.

### TUESDAY

**Meeting:** The Farmington Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis Schulman Administration Building, 32500 Shiawassee. The agenda includes the Farmington Association of Schools Administrators tentative agreement and the Adult Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals Compensation Package, as well as curriculum and textbook recommendations.

### WEDNESDAY

**How does your garden grow?** Master gardener Peggy Malnati will answer questions at the monthly Gardener's Support Group at 7 p.m. at Border's Books & Music in Farmington Hills.

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## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### Roadblock

Things could get pretty chaotic Monday in the blocks surrounding Farmington City Hall. First of all, State Street will be closed 4-9:30 p.m. for the weekly "Cruise the Grand" classic car cruise, in the parking lot behind event co-sponsors Page's Food & Spirits and the Pasta Stop.

Secondly is the big move for the Farmington Public Safety Department, all morning and afternoon. Director Gary Goss hopes the work gets done before the car cruise, when a radio station disc jockey will be on hand to pump up both the volume and - possibly - event attendance.

Only cruise-going folks will be able to turn off of Farmington Road down State during that period. Local traffic will be diverted down Alta Loma or Liberty streets, Goss said.

### DDA meets

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority will have a public informational meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25 in Farmington City Council chambers. The meeting is to inform the public on the need for renewing the Principal Shopping District special assessment plan. The DDA board says it's committed to promoting marketing and maintaining the central business district. For more information, call Judy Downey, DDA executive director, (248) 473-7276.

## Police investigate suspicious death

Farmington Hills police are investigating the death of a man, 42, who was found dead in his van at the Flamingo Trailer Court Wednesday. Police also are investigating the death of a woman at Muirwood Apartments.

See related story, Page A2

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

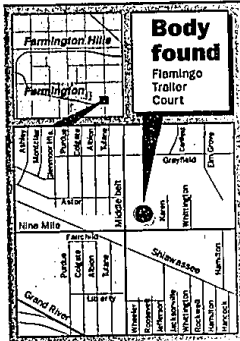
Farmington Hills police are investigating the suspicious death of a man, believed to be 42, who was found dead in his van Wednesday afternoon in the parking lot of the Flamingo Trailer Court, 22600 Middlebelt Road.

"We are being cautious with it. We are treating it as a suspicious death. There were no signs of violent death," said Farmington Hills Police Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus.

The man has not yet been identified. His clothed body, which was found semi-reclined on the middle cargo seat near the cargo door of his 1986 Chevy Astro van, was badly decomposed. It was difficult for neighbors to see into the van because of tinted windows. The van was apparently parked there for a number of days, Nebus said.

An autopsy was performed Thursday morning by the Oakland County Medical Examiner but a cause of death was still not determined, pending toxicology results, Nebus said.

"At this time, we are not ruling out

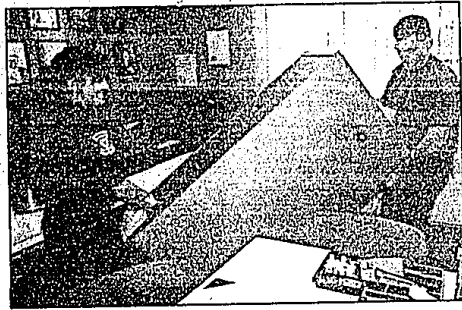


**'At this time, we are not ruling out homicide, it could be a natural death. It could be a suicide.'**

Bill Dwyer  
—Police chief

homicide. It could be a natural death. It could be a suicide," said Police Chief William Dwyer. "We found no weapon." The man is a resident of the trailer court. The van in which his body was

Please see DEATH, A2



On the move: Detectives Christine Schutz and Scott Herrmann wrestle a file cabinet into a small conference room that will serve as their office for the next six months.

## Public Safety makes the move

Moving day is tomorrow for the Farmington Public Safety Department.

With the impending \$700,000 renovation and reorganization of antiquated police and fire facilities at the south end of city hall, the department is being temporarily uprooted and shifted one-half mile down the road to the Department of Public Services building on Nine Mile near Farmington Road.

Most of the department, from

Director Gary Goss right on down the chain of command, will be affected. Although the bulk of the move is tomorrow, the fire barn started being emptied Wednesday.

"We've got a lot of work in front of us," said Goss, recently giving a closer look at why the 1960s-era facility needs to be rejuvenated. "But city services will continue uninterrupted."

Please see MOVE, A2

## 'Private Ryan'

### Movie prompts memories for war veterans



Violent vibes: The opening bloodiness of "Saving Private Ryan" was too much for "Uncle Jack" Curd, a World War II veteran. He watched the first portion and left. But he thinks he may eventually go back and see the entire film.

It's been more than 50 years since Jack Curd served in the United States Navy during World War II.

But it only took only 20 or 30 minutes of viewing the intense, blood-and-guts opening sequence of Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" for Curd to remember. And to get up and leave the theater.

"Maybe I knew too much about D-Day, maybe I wasn't in the

right emotional mind," said Curd, 76, a Farmington resident who served 1941-45. "It's like your brain is unlocking things that were locked for years."

Curd was attending the movie with his grandson Sean Baligian and wife Kristin at Laurel Park in Livonia when he decided enough was enough.

"Kristin and I were crying," Curd said. "Tears were running down our cheeks. I looked

Please see WAR, A6



Reminder: For Bill Hofess, a World War II veteran, "a movie like that is a constant reminder... to the youth growing up, to anybody."

## Exam for 3 men charged in Denny's robbery postponed

When one of three defendants charged in the Aug. 3 armed robbery of Denny's Restaurant in Farmington Hills needed last-minute counsel in order for Friday morning's scheduled preliminary examination to begin in 47th District Court, attorney Michael McCarthy was available.

But almost as soon as McCarthy was appointed to

represent defendant Vernon Jemael Adams, the examination was postponed until 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21. Adams, 20, of Southfield; Darrell Holland Carter, 20, of Lathrup Village; and Kedar Abdullur York, 21, of Detroit were arraigned Aug. 4 on three counts each of armed robbery, which carry potential penalties of up to life imprisonment.

Please see ROBBERY, A3



When can we meet? Judge Marla Parker tries to come up with a date for the preliminary exam that will work for both the court and the four attorneys, defense attorneys Michael McCarthy, Gerald Evelyn, Assistant Prosecutor Elizabeth Chisholm, and defense attorney Otis Culpeper.

