

# Farmington Observer

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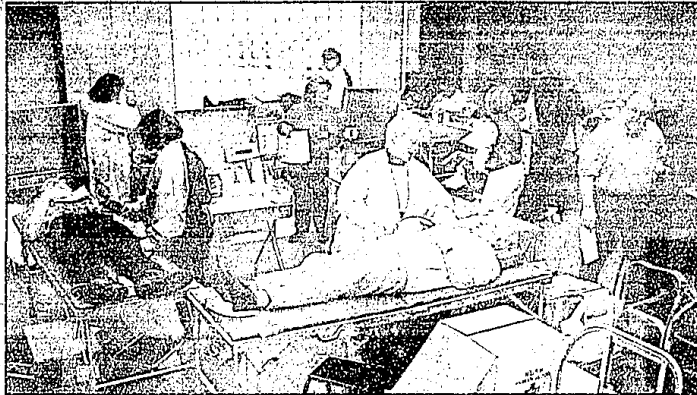
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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Giving life



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Donating: Dick Chave of Farmington Hills, who is an employee at the tool and die plant at the Ford River Rouge complex, gives blood at the Red Cross in Livonia. Head nurse Kathy Rogowski (left) checking the blood bag. Behind is Dick's wife, Kathy Chave, who also gave blood. For more information, please turn to Page A7.

## Offender list on Internet

Local police ask everyone to be cautious when they read the sex offender list on the Internet. The list isn't always accurate.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Police urge caution when perusing the sexual offenders list posted on the Internet.

Michigan State Police has the list - [www.msp.state.mi.us](http://www.msp.state.mi.us) - up and running at its site. Computer users type in the zip code and names and addresses of people convicted of criminal sexual conduct appear.

In the Farmington area's four postal codes, 35 names are listed. Two are females. The convictions range from first-degree CSC, which involves penetration and is a felony punishable by up to life in prison, to fourth degree CSC, which involves contact and is a misdemeanor.

"As long as the list is accurate and valid, parents in particular have a right to know who is living in their neighborhood and make their decisions accordingly," Gary Goss - Farmington Public Safety director

"As long as the list is accurate and valid, parents in particular have a right to know who is living in their neighborhood and make their decisions

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

MONDAY

Meet: The Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers at city hall, 31555 11 Mile. The meeting is open to the public.

TUESDAY

School talk: The Farmington school board will hold a winter retreat at the Farmington Training Center from 5:30-9 p.m. Assessment and evaluation will be discussed. Meanwhile, a parent information meeting about block scheduling is set for 7:30 p.m. at the Harrison High School auditorium.

THURSDAY

Agenda: The Farmington Hills Planning Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers in city hall, 31555 11 Mile.

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## Police shut down supplier

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Police say they have shut down a supplier who was funneling crack cocaine to a dealer in a Farmington Hills trailer park.

The three-day sweep conducted by South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium, which includes Farmington Hills and Novi police, resulted in four arrests and seizure of 80 grams of crack cocaine, 128 grams of cocaine powder, 10 grams heroin and cash.

On Feb. 1, SONIC officers searched a trailer in Farmington Mobile Manor where undercover officers made several

### CRACK COCAINE

crack cocaine buys.

Two nights later, police intercepted a man en route to another undercover drug buy on Shiawassee and Seven Mile, which led to a search of a north-west Detroit home where police found drugs and guns.

The drug operation was supplying southern Farmington Hills and northern Livonia, police said.

"The first phase of the case was to knock out the operation selling crack cocaine in our community," Assistant

Chief Chuck Nebus said. "The second phase of the case was to knock out the supplier."

Though Hills police come across people possessing the drug, "crack being sold in our community is rare," Nebus said.

At an arraignment in 47th District Court Thursday, Tommy Foote, 37, of Detroit was charged with one count of delivery of a controlled substance less than 50 grams. Judge Frederick Harris set bail at \$10,000.

Gary Hope, 42, of Farmington Hills was also charged with one count of

Please see CRACK, A6

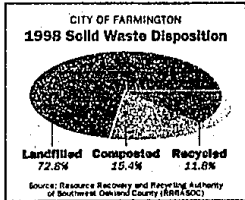
## Households increased recycling

BY TIM SMITH  
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The average Farmington household last year put more than 28 extra pounds of recyclables to the curb than in 1997, again reducing the amount of solid waste dispatched to landfills.

Michael Caspo, general manager of the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, RRASOC, last week reported to city council members that - through curbside recycling and yard composting - about 72.8 percent of solid waste generated in Farmington was sent to landfills in 1998, down from 74 percent in

Please see RECYCLE, A7



## World of block opening for high schools

Editor's note: In Thursday's Observer, we'll take a close look at Student Managed Academic Resource Time, a key component of block scheduling at Farmington High School.

BY TIM SMITH  
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Like a compass, Farmington High School is leading the way for North and Harrison as they move into the inevitable, more-challenging world of block scheduling.

The move - expected to be made official by the school board at its Feb. 23 meeting - comes despite a mixed bag of research and consternation and criticism of the block from some parents who are leery of their children potentially becoming educational experiments.

"I wonder about their motivation," said Cheryl Level, a parent at Harrison, where there has been the most controversy about switching from the

See related story, Page A3

Block scheduling is a relatively new way of organizing school time, with students attending fewer classes each day for longer periods. Farmington educators say the block promotes interactive, multi-subject learning.

traditional school days. "It's come and gone in some places. I'm just worried that it's the trendy thing to do, or that 'We want to look innovative.'"

Another Harrison parent, Barbara Cooper, noted that she actually likes the concept of adding a seventh class to the day - designed to increase class options. "That (adding a class) has never been the issue. I just don't know if this is the way to do it."

### Good start

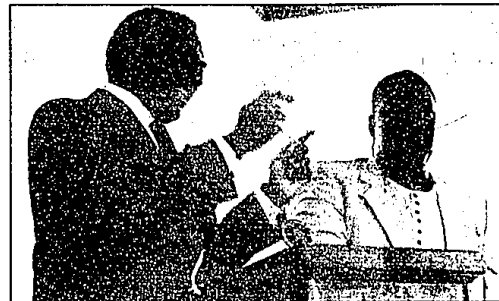
District and school administrators, however, insist they have looked long and hard at block scheduling, that it does more to challenge and prepare future graduates for college and jobs, and that

Please see BLOCK, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEEBLER

Walk in the park: In block scheduling, Farmington High students can walk down to the city park, do water samples and get results in one 85-minute class period, said principal John Barrett.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEEBLER

Legends: Former Tigers pitcher Earl Wilson and former player Gates Brown, known as "Gator," spoke to the Farmington Exchange Club

## 1968 Tiger legends recall their spotlight

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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When Farmington Exchange Club members asked Earl Wilson to speak, the former Detroit Tiger pitcher who once stared down the likes of Mickey Mantle from the mound got a little nervous.

"I thought you wanted me to give a speech," Wilson said before the gathering at Brass Pointe Wednesday. "So I said to Gates, 'Why don't you come down with me?'"

Brown, another '68 Tiger luminary affectionately known as "Gator," pro-

vided more than his customary pinch hit. At the podium, he and Wilson traded banter not too far removed from the dugout of 30 years ago.

Or as Tiger broadcaster Ernie Harwell would say, it was two for the price of one.

The pair fielded the questions typically tossed to players from a bygone era: Were they surprised that manager Mayo Smith started outfielder Mickey Stanley at shortstop? (Teammates second-guessed the manager's decision, which allowed Hall of Famer Al Kaline

Please see TIGERS, A6