

# Farmington Observer

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### OPINION

**Change: It isn't easy but should be a benefit for the Founders Festival. /A12**

### COMMUNITY LIFE

**Looking back: Vintage Farmington series looks back at a local brick factory that operated on the Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield boundary. /B1**

**Getting together: Local quilters assemble at the Farmington Hills senior center each Friday for sewing and fellowship. /B1**

### AT HOME

**Dining elegance: The Cranbrook Museum is displaying the school's dinnerware, designed by some of the famous architects, artists and craftsmen who've taught at the school. /D6**

### INDEX

- Obituaries A10
- Classified Index G5
- Real Estate G5
- Crossword G7
- Jobs H4
- Home & Service J2
- Automotive J5
- Opinion A12-13
- Sports C1
- Calendar C5
- Real Estate F1

## Neighbors mourn the closing of Crowley's



Nearby store owners expressed some concern about the closing of Crowley's because it serves as the anchor in the Kendallwood shopping center.

**'We're real disappointed to see that they are leaving. We're hoping to see something similar go in because that store was an anchor here. They brought a lot of people into this center.'**

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

Jeanne Trumpy  
—Hearts and Roses owner

Crowley's workers — some of whom have worked 30 years at the corner of 12 Mile and Farmington roads — are uncertain of their future employment. A window sign indicates the department store is closing.

Hallmark in the same center. "It's a nice neighborhood department store. A lot of people whip in there and then whip in here so they don't have to go into the malls."

"We're keeping our morals up," said a store manager. "We're keeping our spirits up, and we're still having fun with the customers."

Hearts and Roses Florist, which is next door to Crowley's, experienced spillover business from the department store. Constant sales kept customers flowing into the center, which kept the parking lot full, said Jeanne Trumpy, Hearts and Roses owner.

Though rumors persist of a possible 11th-hour buyer for some Crowley's stores, a liquidation sale has started. Crowley's parent company has filed for bankruptcy.

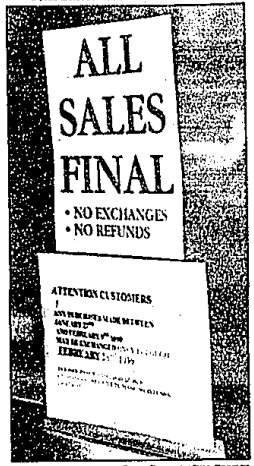
"We're real disappointed to see that they are leaving," Trumpy said. "We're hoping to see something similar go in because that store was an anchor here. They brought a lot of people into this center."

Items are marked 10-percent off or more. On Tuesday, the parking lot was full as shoppers snagged bargains.

Please see CROWLEY'S, A4

While customers reap short-term savings, neighbors wonder about long-term effects of the store's closing.

"I hate to see it go," said Jeanne Rice, owner of Jeanne's



Closing: Shoppers can have no doubt about sales with signs in the doorways at Crowley's.

## Paczki Sold out

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

At 6 a.m., Farmington Bakery opened its doors Tuesday. Two hours and 40 minutes later, 100 dozen paczki exited.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

Farmington Bakery sold out of the Fat Tuesday confection pronounced "poochn-kee."

**Two hours and 40 minutes later, 100 dozen paczki exited.**

"We started off kind of slow. When we opened, we only had two people waiting at the door," said Mary Lou Burns, mother of bakery owners Becky Burns and Jeff Pavlik. "And then ..."

Bathroom scales in Farmington and Farmington Hills let out of a collective moan. By then, many calorie-laden pastries were likely working their way down the gullets of pre-Lenten indulgers.

Farmington Bakery imports the paczki from Farmington Hills Doughnut Shop on Farmington Road and Eight Mile.

"We don't have a fryer," Becky Burns said. Paczki, a Polish Lenten tradition, are deep-fried, sugar-coated and jelly-filled. Germans also have a variation called a Berliner.

The pastries were traditionally a product of flour, sugar and shortening cleared from cupboards in preparation of Lent, which Christians mark with fasting and restraint before Easter.

Bakeries have capitalized on the tradition to boost sales during what

**All done: Becky Burns of the Farmington Bakery sold out of paczki by 8:40am. Tuesday. The last 12 of the 100 dozen went to Burns' aunt.**

Please see PACZKI, A5

## Road rage leads to charges

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

A Dayton, Ohio man, 30, is expected to be charged with leaving the scene of an accident that resulted in death in an I-275 road rage case in which a West Bloomfield man died.

The man, who has not been arraigned yet, was driving a blue Chevy pick-up truck when he jockeyed for lane position with a Mercury Sable while emerging from westbound I-696 onto southbound I-275 on Oct. 6.

Terence Salisbury, 51, then cut in front of the pickup, coming in contact with the truck's bumper. That caused Salisbury's Sable to careen across the median and onto northbound traffic where his car collided with a meat truck.

Salisbury was killed instantly. The blue pickup continued south but later returned to the Eight Mile exit where emergency crews blocked traffic.

Witnesses had to be re-interviewed, which led to charges being filed four months later. The man is expected to be arraigned between Feb. 22-24, authorities said.

"It was not as cut and dried because you have fault on both parts," said Michigan State Police Trooper Gregory Stevens. "Usually you say one person is definitely more at fault. But the degree of responsibility for this thing ... it's a shared responsibility."

Salisbury was the aggressor on the freeway, which is why the Dayton, Ohio man has not been charged with negligent homicide or manslaughter, Stevens said.

Instead, authorities are focusing on the pickup driver leaving the scene.

Please see RAGE, A4

## SWOCC raises the stakes

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

Cable subscribers want more channels, Internet access and new community access TV equipment.

Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission is making Farmington area provider Time Warner either say yes or no to those and other customer demands. SWOCC approved a formal request for renewal proposal Feb. 9, which goes before all three city councils for consideration.

At Monday's meeting, Farmington City Council unanimously passed the request for renewal proposal. Farmington Hills and Novi city councils will decide at their respective meetings Feb. 22.

From there, the document goes to Time Warner, which has 60 days to respond.

Cities have four months to either approve a renewal or preliminarily deny a new contract proposed by Time Warner. Meanwhile, SWOCC officials are not ruling out the possibility of an informal agreement being reached.

By formally requesting a renewal propos-

Please see SWOCC, A5

### Zap!



**Fund-raiser: Zappers line up for instructions before entering the game area at Zap Zone in the Uptown Plaza. For more photos and a story, please turn to Page A5.**

## New group hires professional to operate festival

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER  
jmaliszewski@oe.homecomm.net

For the first time in its history, the Farmington Founders Festival will be administered by an incorporated nonprofit organization that will hire Mike and Sandra Watts — of Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular fame — to operate the more than 30-year-old community event.

The incorporation of the nonprofit group and the hiring of Watts-Up Inc. represents a significant move for the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, which has long administered and been responsible for the annual midsummer festival.

"Nineteen ninety-nine will be a transitional year. The festival is not dying. It just needs a fresh approach," said Carleigh Flaherty, chamber president. "We're definitely committed to maintaining the festival's community spirit."

Please see FESTIVAL, A8

