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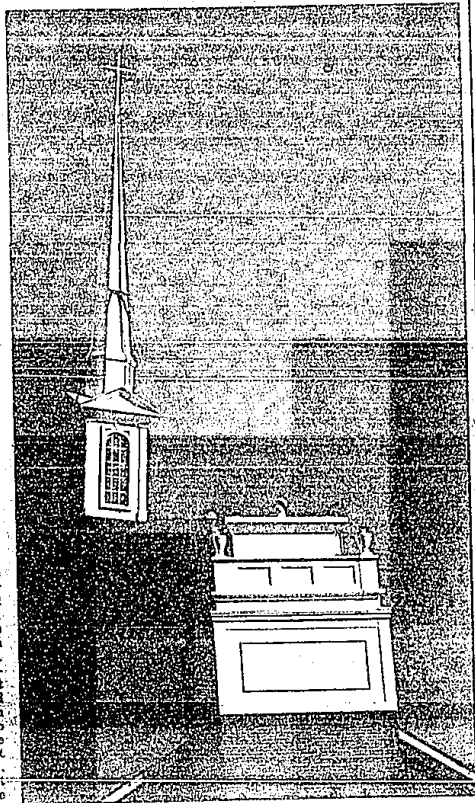
A-MAY-ZING MOM

Moms ... they're amazing people. Granted, they can't leap buildings in a single bound or stop a speeding train like Superman, but when it comes to juggling the demands of work, home and their children ... Well, they're just amazing. In recognition of their amazing status, the Observer Newspapers is looking for the most "A-May-Zing Mom," living in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton, Redford, Westland or Garden City. In 60 words or less, tell us why your Mom is so amazing. Be sure to include her name, address, telephone number and a photograph as well as your Mom's name, address and telephone number. The winner will be announced in the Sunday, May 9, edition of the Observer. She will receive a complete makeover at Gerald's Salon in Northville Township, a \$200 ensemble from Don-Loot in Northville and dinner for two (a \$50 value) at Fonte d'Amore Ristorante in Livonia. And all eligible "A-May-Zing Mom" nominees will be recognized in the May 9 edition.

Steeple raises church to newer heights

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
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In the past 22 years, Hope Lutheran Church, 3920 1/2 Mile, has changed its appearance a number of times. It happened again this past Wednesday. A new 99-foot steeple adorns the church, which was dedicated in November 1997. "We couldn't afford this steeple at that time," said Louise Monacelli, church office manager. "It looked kind of weird. It was like this stub at the top." Even neighbors - wondering why a steeple was missing - joked with congregants and the office staff. "It really became a joke," Monacelli said. But the church's 676 congregants were determined to have their steeple. And now they have. Oak Builders Inc. of Plymouth built the cupola. The spire portion is 70 feet from the ground and 40 feet from the bottom to the top of the 11-square-foot cross. Carl E. Gaiser Architects designed the project. When it came time to put the cupola and spire where it belonged, E&N Hoisting Service Inc. of Mount Clemens was there. "Our church started out as a ranch house on 12 acres," Monacelli said. "We have just



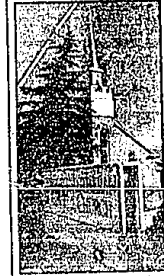
Up and away: The spire portion of the steeple is being raised ready by Mark Eavou and Steve Barquist of Oak Builders of Plymouth to put it in place.

Officer helps save woman

Her son kept calm because he said he knew the quality of the officer and the fire department staff who would help save her life.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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When the emergency call came over his radio, Farmington Hills police officer Matt Parsons didn't hesitate. He raced to the home on 11 Mile where a 74-year-old woman had passed out and stopped breathing shortly after 11 a.m. Thursday. At the time, Parsons didn't know the woman happened to be the mother of Sgt. Joe Rebb, the department's 911 supervisor. He volunteered to handle the emergency call. On Friday, Rebb was still saying thanks to Parsons for helping bring his mother back to life. She was on a respirator Friday afternoon at Providence Hospital. "I only found out it was his mother just before I jumped out of the car," said Parsons, who has been an officer for 21 1/2 years. "Regardless of the fact it was Joe Rebb's mother or not, I figured I have a job to do." When Parsons entered the home, Helen Rebb was unconscious and not breathing. He immediately performed CPR for two minutes when she started taking labored breaths. As Farmington Hills Fire Department paramedics arrived, she stopped breathing again. They relieved Parsons, who continued to help as they managed to stabilize the Farmington Public Schools custodian. Helen Rebb's heartbeat returned as she was about to be rushed to Botsford Hospital. She had successful bypass surgery in February and was about to start physical therapy Friday, her son said. When the call came in, Joe Rebb naturally worried about his mother. Yet he



Ready: Mark Eavou of Oak Builders Inc. of Plymouth place the spire portion of the steeple.

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Internet romancer could face drug charge

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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A Farmington Hills man involved in an Internet romance that led to the death of a 28-year-old French woman will likely be charged with marijuana possession, police learned Friday. Farmington Hills authorities thought the unidentified man could be charged under the state's assisted suicide law. In reviewing the case, Oakland County prosecutors are focusing on a small amount of marijuana found in the man's Fairmont Park Apartment during a search of his apartment. "We're certainly not disagreeing with the prosecutor's office. They certainly had to make that decision based on the law," said Chief Bill Dwyer, who added that he's disappointed. Police believe the man's actions contributed to Julie Yasa's emotional state, which led her to take her own life. Her body was found March 3 in a wooded area off Nine Mile Road across from the man's apartment. Yasa likely died from a combina-

Parking volunteers turn on the heat

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Those who park in fire lanes will feel the heat of handicap parking enforcement volunteers, not to mention the flickers of their pens writing tickets. Farmington Hills police have increased duties of the vigilant volun-

teers, who scan parking lots for handicap parking violators. Similarly those who park in fire lanes create hazards for people with disabilities and the able-bodied alike, Chief Bill Dwyer said. Fines are \$50. "There's always a concern about fire lane violations," Dwyer said. "Not only in terms of blocking emergency vehicles, but for the safety of pedestrians who dart out from between cars that are parked illegally."

"When they are in these shopping centers, we hope they will be able to decrease the number of these fire lane violations." Farmington Hills City Council members agreed to an ordinance amendment, but only after being assured the

From head of class to head of the whole school

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Sister Regina Doelker was head of her class at Mercy High School 33 years ago - now she is head of the school and has spent nearly half her life there. Sister Doelker graduated as valedictorian from Mercy in 1966 and is now principal of the all-female St. Joseph School in Farmington Hills. She has worked at the school for about 25 years as a teacher, department head and as principal. She recently received a secondary education department award from the

National Catholic Education Association in New Orleans, La. She was one of only three Michiganians honored with awards given in 11 different categories. The Farmington Public Schools Board of Education recognized Sister Doelker for her award at a recent school board meeting. "Certainly, I'm very honored to be here," Sister Regina Doelker said to the board. "When I think you're inclusive



Honored: Sister Regina Doelker was recognized by the National Catholic Education Association.

Hills officer travels in harmony to the Ukraine

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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The 15-year veteran and North Farmington High police liaison officer is part of a 25-member American law enforcement contingent going to the Ukraine. Fox left Friday from Metro Airport for Logan Airport in Boston where the group would catch a flight to Helsinki, Finland. The delegation returns May 1. As part of Project Harmony's International Law Enforcement program, U.S. officers will work with Ukrainian police on programs to combat domestic violence and petty theft to organized crime. Fox, who helped spearhead the Hills department's nationally recognized School Liaison program, is the only officer from Michigan. "This is a chance of a lifetime," said Fox, who has

