

# Farmington Observer

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## TODAY

### OPINION

**Lauded:** It's fitting that a Farmington Hills police officer is commended for halting the pursuit of a suspected auto thief./A14

**Vote:** We endorse Proposal A for a cleaner Michigan./A14

### COMMUNITY LIFE

**Down the river:** The Make A Difference Foundation-sponsored kayak expedition along 1,600 miles of the Zambezi River in east Africa completed its mission - to bring attention to land mine victims and offer help to amputees. The foundation is led by Farmington businessman Dave Williams./B1

### SPORTS

**Hawks flying high:** Senior Ricky Bryant had a big game Saturday to lead Farmington Harrison to a 35-13 victory in its football showdown with Walled Lake Western./C1

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## Eagle has new leader

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Arnie Rubin has one task he wants to take care of when he starts as Eagle Elementary's new principal: Phone his predecessor.

"My first call is going to be to (former principal) Susan Johnson, whom I've heard such wonderful things about," said Rubin, whose hiring was approved by the Farmington Board of Education by a unanimous vote Tuesday. He starts Oct. 19.

Johnson left after 10 years to take a position in the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District. Retired Gill Elementary principal Mike Duff has been filling in on an interim basis.

Rubin, 60, has been principal of Grayson Elementary in the



Arnie Rubin, new principal

Please see PRINCIPAL, A11



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

**Rage:** A 51-year-old West Bloomfield man was killed on northbound I-275 south of 10 Mile Tuesday morning. A southbound pick-up truck and Mercury Sable battled for the same lane. The vehicles clipped each other, the driver of the Mercury, who was killed, lost control and crossed the median, striking a truck.

## Road rage leads to death on I-275

A battle over lanes on southbound I-275 led to the death of a 51-year-old West Bloomfield man. The other driver later turned himself in. The West Bloomfield man lost control of his Mercury Sable, crossed the median and hit a truck.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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A battle over a lane of freeway led to the death of a 51-year-old West Bloomfield man on I-275 near 10

Mile in Farmington Hills. Around 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, a black Mercury Sable LS traveling south on I-275 crossed the median and then was hit by a Chicago Beef Co. truck, killing the driver of the Sable. The driver of the Sable is identified as Terence Salisbury of West Bloomfield.

The driver of the beef truck suffered minor injuries and was taken to Botsford Hospital, Michigan State Police said.

Witnesses told police the Sable and a blue pickup truck had changed lanes repeatedly on southbound I-275. The pick-up then clipped the Sable, causing the driver to lose control and cross the grassy median near the M-6/Grand River entrance.

"Evidently, they got into a cussing match jockeying for some type of lane position," said Michigan State Police Trooper Gregory Stevens.

"(Witnesses) said the two vehicles came in contact with another. His (the pick-up driver's) statement was they had 'stabilized their positions' when contact was made. What you call 'stabilizing your position' I don't know."

The driver of an older model blue  
Please see DEATH, A10

## Homecoming First king takes throne

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
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North Farmington High School made history this weekend with the selection of not only a queen of the homecoming, but a king.

"This is the first time we've done this. Next year we'll probably have princes," said Todd Hecker, student adviser. "Everyone I talked to said this was the nicest homecoming. But the kids did all the work."

Homecoming festivities began Friday with a pep assembly, during which the homecoming court was introduced. The king and queen - Jay Melvin and Katie Harris - were crowned during halftime at the football game against Plymouth Salem Saturday.

"This year's theme was 'Out of this World,' which gave way

to some creative ways of defining outer space and space exploration. We had a lot of aliens and space rockets," Hecker said.

At the homecoming dance Friday night, walls were covered in black paper to give the kids the ambience of outer space. "They (the kids) just did a fabulous job of getting across the theme and decorating for the dance," Hecker said.

The next day, homecoming festivities continued with the traditional parade beginning at Forest Elementary and onto Farmington Road into the North Farmington driveway. The parade included floats - each class made one - and music by the marching band.

"Any group can have a float in the parade," Hecker said.

Please see HOMECOMING, A10



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

**Crowned:** North Farmington High School Homecoming king and queen Jason Melvin and Katie Harris.

## Money woes plague county candidate

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Farmington Hills Councilman and county commission hopeful Terry Sever admitted he's having business-related financial difficulty, but it's not affecting his campaign.

Sever, a Republican, is seeking the 10th District Oakland County Commission seat in the Nov. 3 election. The district includes southern Farmington Hills and all of Farmington.

Sever owns T.L. Printing in Farmington, which remains open for business. He is refinancing his family's Farmington Hills home, he said. "I'm going through some reorganization in terms of refinancing and things," said Sever, a 14-year council

veteran. "I've got sufficient assets; it's just that my cash flow hit rock bottom." According to city records, Sever has failed to pay his summer residential property taxes due Aug. 31. He owes a base amount of \$2,450.30 and a penalty to date of \$122.51. He also has not paid personal property taxes on his T.L. Printing Co. in Farmington. He owes \$385.86 and \$15 penalty.

The main reason, he said, for his money woes is a business venture gone awry.

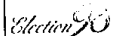
Sever invested \$25,000-\$30,000 in an invention called the "Butter's Bucket," which he agreed to market through a television shopping network. He expected to sell 10,000 to 20,000 of the baseball training aid and generate \$500,000.

However, the patent and marketing plan has not materialized, Sever said. He is considering a lawsuit against the shopping network.

As a result, he's not spending his own money for the county commissioner's race, only funds received through campaign contributions.

"I'm making do," he said. Sever soundly defeated former Farmington Hills Councilman Ben Marks in the August GOP primary.

Farmington resident and Democrat Debbie Goldberg is Sever's opponent in the Nov. 3 election. According to city records, she has paid her property taxes.



## Still no expenses from Moffitt

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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He finishes first in elections, but Oakland County Commission David Moffitt is one of the last when it comes to filing campaign finance reports. Moffitt, who is running for re-election in the 18th District, hadn't filed his post-primary report for the Aug. 4 runoff as of Friday. The deadline was Sept. 3, an Oakland County Elections Division clerk said.

Candidates are fined \$25 per business day for late reports up to a maximum of penalty \$500 after Oct. 2. Moffitt has been tardy when filing finance reports in the past.

In August 1994, Moffitt paid \$400 in fines for failure to file a timely pre-primary report and was hit with the then maximum penalty of \$300 in 1984, his first campaign for his mother Lillian's seat on the commission.

"I think it indicates a pattern," said Lynn Gosund, Moffitt's Democratic opponent in the Nov. 3 election.

Moffitt reportedly spent \$12,000 - most of it his own money - to fend off Farmington Hills businesswoman Linda Jolicœur in the Aug. 4 GOP primary. Jolicœur filed her campaign finance reports on time.

Moffitt is not alone among county commissioners. Holbert Maxey, who represents the 6th District,

Please see MOFFITT, A10

