

# Farmington Observer

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## Tentative teachers' pact reached



The Farmington Public Schools and teachers' union have reached a tentative four-year contract. FEA members will vote on the pact beginning today. Meanwhile, a pact with the district's bus drivers hit a snag.

BY TIM SMITH  
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Collaborative bargaining led the way for a tentative contract agreement between Farmington Public Schools

and its teachers, an accord described as "historic" by one leading administrator. The approximately 850 members of the Farmington Education Association will hold meetings beginning Thursday to vote on the four-year contract —

which if ratified would become the longest ever in the district.

"We're relieved, but we haven't gotten the chance to look at (the full contract)," Renee Lossia-Acho, a teacher at Farmington High School, said Monday. Lossia-Acho said the tentative contract "did take a little longer this time ... but I didn't see too many people real nervous about it. The staff was confident we'd come to a win-win agreement."

Provided Lossia-Acho and other

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union members approve it, the Farmington Board of Education would ratify the contract at its Tuesday, Nov. 3, meeting, said Susan Zurvalec, assistant superintendent for staff and community services and a member of the district's bargaining team.

"I would characterize this contract as a major step forward in our labor relations," Zurvalec said. "We used inter-

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### IN THE PAPER TODAY

Donating: A local Mobil gas station gets involved with the community./A9

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Elections: It's that time again. We offer up our opinions on a county commission race and two of the statewide ballot issues./A14

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## Kendallwood turns to signs

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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As the world turns, some motorists grumble about not being able to do the same in one Farmington Hills subdivision.

Between 7-9 a.m., drivers are no longer allowed to turn right from eastbound Tulipwood at Quail Hollow and Hawberry in Kendallwood subdivision. Left turns are also forbidden from northbound Hawberry and Quail Hollow onto westbound Tulipwood between 4-6 p.m.

The restrictions are designed to stop cut-through traffic and curb speeding in the neighborhood north of 12 Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads, Hills city officials said. Farmington Hills City Council members approved the safety measures Oct. 12.

Kendallwood residents — 103 who signed a petition — endorsed the plan as part of the city's Safe-T-3 program.

Left turns are also prohibited from eastbound 12 Mile onto Peppermill 4-6 p.m.

"We love those signs," said Lauren Underwood, who lives on Quail Hollow.

When the turn restrictions were tried, traffic through Kendallwood was cut in half, engineers said.

But is it a simple solution to a serious safety problem? Or, is it bureaucratic appeasement of a vocal few? The answer depends on where the residents live.

Colony Park and other resident are not happy with the turn restrictions. Several complained to the city by letters.

"First of all, we don't think it is necessary," said

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No way: A new no-left-turn sign was erected at the corner of West Tulipwood and Quail Hollow in the Kendallwood subdivision.

## Cities to hop into cab biz

BY TIM SMITH  
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The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills are getting into the cab business.

Both cities' administrators are working to get a new Dial-A-Ride type cab service up and running as of Jan. 1, when the current program administered by the city of Livonia expires.

Livonia now operates a transportation consortium, which encompasses several cities including Farmington and Farmington Hills. The program, featuring contracted Dial-A-Ride service with Northwest and ABC cab companies, is being discontinued as Livonia establishes a transportation service solely for its city.

Frank Laubhoff, Farmington city manager, sees the fledgling Farmington-Farmington Hills program as a way to improve service to residents of the two Oakland County cities.

"We're anticipating ... we'll establish our own Dial-A-Ride system here," Laubhoff said this week. "Our customers will see no decrease in service and, hopefully in the future, we'll be able to tailor our service more to the specific

Please see CAB, A7

## Homecoming is music to Farmington's ears

BY TIM SMITH  
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This year's Farmington High School homecoming was music to their ears.

"Farmington High School and Music" was the theme for the spirit week leading up to Saturday's parade, football game and evening dance, which principal John Barrett said were all enthusiastically attended.

Barrett termed the homecoming activities "a huge success."

The football Falcons didn't fare well. But excellent weather and a variety of fun activities teamed up for a real winner, he said.

"And we had a surprise visit, too, from 30 members of the Class of 1958," Barrett said. "They had their 40th reunion and came to the game. We gave them a tour of the building. It's a lot different now, of course."

Bleachers were standing room only for the afternoon football game. And, about 800 students came out for the evening dinner dance, held in the FHS gymnasium. Many were still

getting into the music at 11 p.m., when the dance was concluding.

"The floats were great, we had a wonderful turnout for both the parade and the football game," said Renee Lossia-Acho, FHS teacher and senior class advisor. "It was one of the best homecomings we've had ... They really showed their Falcon pride, which is fantastic."

The winning class float belonged to the senior class, with its "Studio 99" disco motif. Other class floats belonged to rock (juniors), country and western (sophomores) and rock 'n' roll oldies (freshmen).

Seniors Sue Wilson and Brad Baker, meanwhile, were crowned 1998 homecoming queen and king during festivities during halftime of the Falcons-Plymouth Salem game, won by the visitors 41-0.

Other members of the homecoming court — all seniors — were Jamie Jakacki, Heather Bruce, Kim Hickey, Becky Culver, Justin Celko, Matt Tempkin, Charlie Avery and

Please see MUSIC, A7



Crowned: Former queen Natalie Dawson hugs Sue Wilson, the new Farmington High School homecoming queen.

## Woman killed in deer crash

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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A Commerce Township woman, 46, died Saturday from injuries sustained in a bizarre accident in which a large deer went through a car's windshield on northbound I-275 in Farmington Hills Oct. 16.

Deborah Daras suffered a fractured skull and several broken facial bones after the 1997 Chevy Malibu she was a passenger in hit a six-point buck running south on the freeway around 7:15 p.m., Michigan State police said.

The deer struck the side quarter panel, vaulting the animal in the air and through the windshield. The deer continued to thrash and kick Daras while inside the car.

"I think that is what did all the damage," said Al Smith, Michigan State Police trooper. "It literally took her face off."

Daras was taken to Botsford Hospi-

Please see CRASH, A7

## Dibert says something's missing in state Capitol

BY TIM SMITH  
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Something's been missing in Lansing ever since Jan Dolan served as the state House representative for Farmington and Farmington Hills, according to Steve Dibert.

"She got along with everyone in this community," said Dibert, the Democratic challenger for the 37th House District seat. "She got along with Democrats, Republicans, independents ..."

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Steve Dibert

## Moffitt says there's more to do

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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David Moffitt's 14 years as a county commissioner include many accomplishments, but his to-do list needs a few more check marks.

Punctuated by a heavy sigh at times, he dutifully lists them: Taxes must stay low; county services need to be enhanced to meet the growth in population; and the roads and infrastructure have to be maintained.

The Farmington Hills attorney wants to continue his county role to see those through. The Republican is seeking another two-year term in the Nov. 3 election. Democrat Ryan Gesund is his opponent in the race for the 19th District seat, which represents northern Farmington Hills.

"I enjoy helping people," Moffitt said. "I'd like to continue to put my experience to work and help the people of

Please see MOFFITT, A11



David Moffitt



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