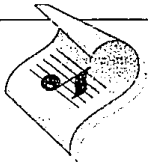


# Farmington Observer

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VOLUME 112 NUMBER 42 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48326 PAGES 8 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1998 SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



## Calling on CAROLERS

The Observer is interested in talking to people in our area who go out and serenade others with Christmas carols. We would also like to talk to people who have gone caroling in the past and have some memories to share.

**Contact person:**  
Beth Sundra Jachman  
**Call:** (734) 953-2122,  
**Fax:** (734) 591-7279 or  
**E-mail:**  
bjachman@oc.homecomm.net



Honor: Area veterans remember./B1



**Grid playoffs: Top-ranked Farmington Harrison meets Dearborn in a Class A regional championship game./D1**



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Up in flames

## One business gutted by flames, another damaged

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@oc.homecomm.net

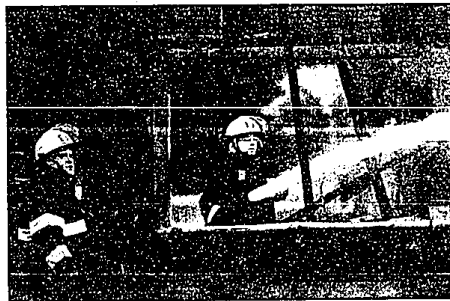
Wednesday's strong winds wreaked havoc on firefighters who struggled against the elements to contain an early morning fire that gutted one Farmington business and severely damaged a second.

In fact, the wind was blowing so hard that flames were shooting like a torch from the burning Grand River-Orchard Lake businesses across Violet Street, toward several homes, said Gary Goss, director of the Farmington Public Safety Department.

"It was unbelievable," Goss said, surveying the scene about 10 a.m. Wednesday. "You've heard of straight-line rain? These were straight-line flames."

The fire broke out about 4 a.m., apparently inside the Wash Hut Dry Cleaners/Coin Laundry, near the northeast corner of Grand River-Orchard Lake. Because of winds reg-

Please see FIRE, A12



Aftermath: Farmington firefighters (above) spray the smoldering rubble at the scene of Wednesday morning's fire. The fire destroyed the Wash Hut on Grand River near Orchard Lake (top photo).

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREXLER

## Teen stabbed

A Farmington High junior was in critical but stable condition after he was stabbed once in the chest for no reason, police said.

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@oc.homecomm.net

Saturday morning's stabbing of a 16-year-old Farmington Hills youth happened for no good reason and easily could have been prevented, said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

As of Tuesday, the teen, a junior at Farmington High School, remained hospitalized in critical but stable condition at Betsford Hospital. The victim was stabbed once in the chest at about 12:15 a.m. Saturday outside the Clark gas station, Farmington-Nine Mile roads, following an incident involving apparent name-calling and mistaken identity, according to police reports.

Please see STABBING, A6

## Rep elected as House floor leader

BY LARRY O'CONNOR AND  
TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITERS  
loconnor@oc.homecomm.net

State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski's underdog status turned into a trampoline once again.

The 29-year-old Farmington Hills Republican became the youngest floor leader of the state House after being elected by his GOP brethren on the first vote. Raczkowski is only in his second term as state representative. He will start his second term in 1999 as majority floor leader, No. 2 job in the House behind Speaker Chuck Perri-



Andrew Raczkowski

Please see LEADER, A10

## Wanted: Third judge

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
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The 47th District Court needs a third judge and officials are asking cities for a judge to take it happen.

Court Administrator David Walsh asked Farmington Hills City Council to back a resolution, asking the state Legislature to pass a pair of bills that would bring another judge to Farmington. Hills city council members unanimously supported the measure.

A similar presentation will be made to the Farmington City Council. Judges Fred Harris and Marla Parker handle criminal and civil cases. The court has help from magistrates, but needs at least one more justice to deal with the increasing caseload, they say.

The 47th District Court had 17,028 new cases per judge, which is considerably more than 12,551 statewide average. The average is 12,854 in southeast Michigan.

One reason for the docket surge is a change in jurisdiction for civil cases, Walsh said.

In January, district courts began hearing civil matters which cinema up to \$25,000. The previous limit was \$10,000.

The \$16,000 difference resulted in the 47th District Court having 3,200 new civil

Please see JUDGE, A6

## Harrison, Farmington march to top

BY DIANE HANSON  
SPECIAL WRITER

The Farmington Harrison and Farmington Falcon marching bands put on top-notch performances during the Michigan Competing Band Association (MCBA) State Championship Contest at the Pontiac Silverdome Nov. 7.

Harrison took third place in Flight III with a score of 84.1 and the Falcons took sixth place in Flight II with a score of 74.3.

Other area bands at the state championships included Redford Thurston, ninth in Flight III with a score of 65.65, and first place went to Mona Shores with an 89.85. In Flight II Novi

## BAND COMPETITION

took second place, 87.25 while first went to Reeths-Puffer, Muskegon, 91.0. In Flight I, Westland John Glenn took

eighth, 76.6 and Plymouth-Canton took first, 94.65.

"The students worked hard right up until the end," said a pleased Norman Logan, director of the 148-member Falcons. Their 11-minute performance of "Slaughter On 10th Avenue" was every-

Please see BANDS, A6

## Ball Cornucopia rates

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
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As men and women decked out in their evening finery danced, dined and bid on auction items, the charitable coffers for the Farmington Hills Community Foundation for Children, Youth and Families, grew Saturday night.

"Absolutely it was a success," said Joanne Smith, co-chairwoman of the Fourth Annual Cornucopia Ball at the William Costick Activities Center.

"We're going to clear close to \$100,000," Smith continued. Cathy Webb, Farmington Public Schools Board of Education president, also



Auction: Richard Daguanno, foundation chairman, and TV 50 anchor Harry Hairston auction the use of a private jet for a day donated by Todd Bates of Jet Express.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREXLER

co-chairs the event, but was unavailable for comment.

The event drew 173 community and business leaders who paid \$150 a plate and participated in both a silent and live auction -- all designed to raise money for the non-profit

foundation, which in turn contributes money for after-school and support program throughout the community.

"This is our annual fund raiser,

Please see CORNUCOPIA, A3

## Sever bids adieu to city

See related story, Page A11

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
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Typical of the irony that has marked his political career, Terry Sever left as Farmington Hills' youngest, yet most senior council member.

Sever, 48, officially stepped down after 13 years on council at Monday's meeting. The Farmington Hills resident and co-owner of T-L Printing starts



Terry Sever

his new position as 19th District Oakland County commissioner in January.

Sever wants to get a head start on the county job. He attended an orientation Monday.

Please see SEVER, A2



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