

Farmington Observer

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11 prospects vie for open seat



Longtime councilman Terry Sever's departure has left open a seat and 11 residents are taking an interest in filling the vacancy. Interviews are to be conducted in public at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7.

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

Three Richards want to fill Terry Sever's Farmington Hills City Council seat. They're in line with eight others, including a former mayor, a few commissioners and business people.

City council will conduct interviews with the 11 prospects 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at a special meeting. After the interviews, council members will vote to appoint the person to fill Sever's unexpired term.

Sever resigned after winning the 19th District Oakland County Commis-

sion race. His term concludes Nov. 2, 1999.

Candidates had to file letters of interest by 5 p.m. Monday in the city manager's office.

"Sometimes there is apathy in these things, but that's not the case in our city," said City Manager Steve Brock about the overwhelming interest in the seat.

Those who submitted letters are:
■ Barry Brickner, an attorney and member of the planning commission;
■ Carl Christoph, an attorney and member of the Commission on Aging;

■ Richard Corey, certified medical/dental management consultant and member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

■ Dennis Fitzgerald, financial consultant and member of the Parks and Recreation Commission;

■ Andrew Haliw II, an attorney who is active in the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce;

■ Linda Jolicouer, owner of Target Equipment Leasing in Farmington Hills, ran unsuccessfully for GOP nomi-

Please see COUNCIL, A4

Letters to Santa

Attention, girls and boys! Christmas is almost here and you know what that means. Santa Claus is up at the North Pole waiting for letters and double checking his list to find who's been naughty or nice.

The Farmington Observer is asking children to send us their letters to Santa Claus, along with their school picture. The deadline is Dec. 11. The letters and photos will be printed in the Dec. 24th issue, having forwarded the letters to Santa in plenty of time. Children of all ages are encouraged to send their letters to:

Letters to Santa
Farmington Observer
33411 Grand River
Farmington, MI 48335

OPINION

Adieu: We make a bet that the Farmington community will miss outgoing YMCA director Kevin Bush. /A14

COMMUNITY LIFE

Welcome: Gale Research has a new home in Farmington Hills and it's filled with a treasure trove of art, from antiques to sculptures and tapestries. /B1

INDEX

- Opinion A14
- Obituaries A16
- Crossword B2
- Classified Index G4
- Autos J1
- Home & Service H12
- Jobs H6
- Rentals H3
- Community Life B1
- Sports C1
- Entertainment E1
- Real Estate F1

Blind AMBITION

STORY BY TIM SMITH
PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

All set: Center Jared Stofflett snaps the ball at the line of scrimmage.

Hey bud! Will Hathaway gives Jared Stofflett a friendly head butt following a play.

Please see BLIND, A7



Blind AMBITION

STORY BY
TIM SMITH
PHOTOS BY
BILL BRESLER



Hey bud! Will Hathaway gives Jared Stofflett a friendly head butt following a play.

To someone who didn't know any better, there was nothing particularly special going on between two Farmington district middle school football teams on a recent Thursday afternoon.

There was Dunekel Middle School center Jared Stofflett snapping the football to his quarterback, then putting his arms up to assume a traditional blocking mode.

Dunekel and Warner players collided, the whistle blew and the next play ensued.

But a closer look did show something special taking place, and it involved Jared, a 12-year-old seventh grader. Teammates guided him to and from the huddle to the line of scrimmage, or on or off the field. Subtle taps by the quarter-



Considering: Jared Stofflett during a moment at the game at O.E. Dunekel Middle School.

Family affair: Uncle, nephew nabbed

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

Farmington Hills police say a drug store armed robbery was all in the family, but the bandits ended up saying

"uncle" to authorities. Police arrested the uncle and nephew, ages 34 and 29, after a robbery at Rite Aid pharmacy on 12 Mile and Farmington Road Sunday night. One man is expected to be charged

with unarmed robbery, police said. The other one is being released pending further investigation. Hills police didn't have a motive for the robbery but Chief Bill Dwyer took an educated guess.

"Ninety percent of these armed robberies in the metro area are committed by people who are addicted to drugs," Dwyer said. The chief touted his department's

Please see ROBBERY, A5

Botsford loses a friend

Botsford General Hospital lost a respected colleague and beloved friend Sunday following a short illness.

Linda S. Mlynarek, 44, president of Botsford Continuing Care Corp. and administrator of Botsford Continuing Health Center in Farmington Hills will be remembered for "her passionate commitment to quality, ethical care for older adults," and the leadership and dedication that made her legendary among her Botsford colleagues and those involved with services to the aging.

A Redford resident, she is survived by her husband Larry and two children, Brian and Deanna. Geri Lillie, an acquaintance, said she was deeply saddened to learn of Mlynarek's death.

"We've lost a saint," said Lillie. "She did a lot of work behind the scenes that no one knew about. That's the way she was."

Mlynarek began her career in long-term care as a nurse assistant at Farmington Nursing Home (now Botsford Continuing Health Center) in 1972. She held a variety of positions at the 170-bed facility before becoming its administrator in 1987. During her tenure, the facility evolved from a nursing home to a full-service retirement community offering multiple housing options and health services.

Please see FRIEND, A4

A window of opportunity for playscape

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oe.homecomm.net

It takes one downtown Farmington fixture to promote a future one, or at least, that's what Bruce Lilley is trying to do.

Lilley, with help from his father, Milton Lilley, Monday assembled a colorful window display at the Korner Barber Shop to promote fund-raising efforts for the proposed Shawsnee Park Playscape.

"I can't think of a better corner in Farmington" to do such a display, said Lilley, a Farmington parent of two small children and one of many residents and businesses already jumping on the playscape bandwagon. "The Korner Barber (Shop) has been here since I was old enough to get a haircut."

If one wants to check out the playscape-touting display, however, he or she must be quick: It actually comes down on Saturday, so that holiday exhibits can take over the showcase spotlight for the rest of December.

Short stint or not, Lilley is confident six days is long enough to inform many people about the significance of the ongoing community "park within a park" concept, which could begin to take shape next spring.

And Korner Barber Shop co-owner Dan Klawender apparently has assured project supporters that there will be additional showcase time available, perhaps in February.



Preparing: Bruce Lilley, who is working for the playscape, sets up a display at The Korner Barber Shop.

High demand

Believe it or not, people are clamoring for the display case space, which Klawender and co-owner Bob Marshick try to limit to community groups or worthy causes. For example, two recent displays included "Sober October" and one about organ donations.

"It (the displays) just lets everyone know what's going on," Klawender said. "We have three different Boy Scout troops and I don't think they get enough attention. Girl Scout troops, too."

Klawender, who, along with Marshick and sinner-acted Andy Hanes bought the old-style clip shop more than 25 years ago, said the corner display case brings tremendous visibility to whatever group or cause is being shown in the window. It also doesn't hinder his business and provides a conversation piece, he added.

"When people go to the show (the nearby Farmington

Please see PLAYSCAPE, A5

Hills woman killed in rollover

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

Though fiercely independent, a 71-year-old Farmington Hills woman who died from fatal injuries sustained in a rollover accident was someone to depend on, neighbors say.

Norma Agatha Littleck died shortly after she was thrown from her 1988 Celebrity after the car careened out of control on northbound Truck Road around 7 p.m. Sunday. The car struck a guard rail, rolled over and hit a tree in a nearby wooded area.

"If she's not in heaven, there isn't a heaven," said Carol Keith, a resident of Little Valley Estates trailer park where Littleck lived. "She was a beautiful

Please see FATAL, A5

