

# Farmington Observer

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### CLOSINGS

**Closed:** Offices for the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills will be closed Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1.

### MONDAY

**Don't forget:** Jan. 8 is the deadline for the Farmington Community Library's first creative writing competition for teens in Farmington and Farmington Hills. Age groups 11-14 and 15-19 may submit essays of fiction or non-fiction from 250-2,500 words or poetry items containing three-100 lines typed. Judges will consider these qualifications when reviewing submissions: creativity, grammatical correctness and spelling and originality. First-place winners in each category will receive a \$100 gift certificate and second-place winners will receive a \$50 gift certificate. For information, call 553-0300 or 474-7770.

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## Chase ends with a thud

A police chase ended with a large thud, but this didn't involve any crash or injuries.

The noise was the man's body hitting the ground after Farmington Hills police literally tackled him when he tried to run away from a stolen van in the middle of Middlebelt and Eight Mile Tuesday morning.

### FARMINGTON HILLS

Around 8 a.m., a van was reported stolen from a driveway in the Middlebelt and Nine Mile area. Police tried to stop the van, which pulled up on the curb near St. Paul Lutheran Church and then stepped in the middle of the intersection.

Surrounded by patrol cars, the driver got out and started to run. Officer Stacy Swandowski chased the man and pulled him down in a shopping center on the southeast corner.

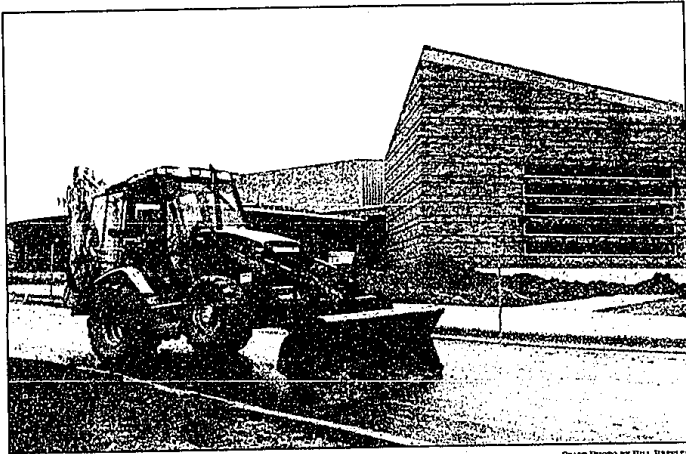
"It was a nice job by her and a safe ending," said Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus.

A Bellville man, 34, is expected to be charged with auto theft, fleeing and eluding and narcotics paraphernalia possession. The man has a previous criminal record and is on parole from a three-year jail sentence for similar felonies, police

Please see THUD, A2



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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRACKER

**Construction:** At the end of the work day, a backhoe clears dirt from the parking lot at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington, where about 100 cars stop to let off and pick up kids.

## Convergence

### City looks at ways to alleviate traffic bottleneck at Sorrows

BY TIM SMITH  
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Every morning and afternoon, about 100 cars — mostly driven by parents either dropping off or picking up their children — converge on Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington.

And, with ongoing construction at the parochial school, Farmington city officials recently were asked to study whether or not something could be done to alleviate the bottleneck along Raphael Street, between 10 Mile-Shinawasee.

One suggestion was to open up the north driveway, now closed due to the construction.

Visiting the site last week were

Gary Goss, Farmington director of public safety, and traffic engineer Bob DeCorte, of the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County. "They run there in 10 minutes and it does back up (onto Raphael)," Goss said Friday. "But everybody pretty much knows what the environment is."

"(Drivers) are not really looking to park, they are looking to do a particular activity at the same time and at the same place."

Despite the heavy amount of traffic during the peak times, Goss said he was impressed with the safety-insuring system that Sorrows'

administration has in place, and with the cooperation of these parents who enter and exit the Raphael Street lot for drop-offs and pickups. "I have to applaud what the school has done over there," Goss said. "There are a lot of parents in and out in a short period of time. It's ... evident safety (of students) is their highest priority."

During those crunch times, Goss said Sorrows teachers are out in the lot supervising and making sure students safely make their way into or out of the school.

Goss emphasized, however, that nothing has yet been determined and

Please see SORROWS, A4

## Out of the bag: Great Harvest is coming

BY TIM SMITH  
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"I just received news that's just like a Christmas present," Judy Downey, Farmington Downtown Development Authority executive director, said Monday.

The news Downey received was that Great Harvest Bread Company last

week signed a lease with Kimco Realty Corp. to bring a store to the Downtown Farmington Center.

Exactly where Great Harvest will set up shop is being kept confidential, Downey emphasized, to protect whichever business will be displaced.

Other details pertaining to the deal were not disclosed.

Rob Nadler, Kimco's vice-president

### BREAD COMPANY

for the Midwest region, did not return several telephone calls Monday and Tuesday.

Downey said Great Harvest won't be in direct competition with Panera Bread, a bakery-restaurant being built

"I just received news that's just like a Christmas present."

Judy Downey  
—DDA director

Please see BREAD, A4



## Birthdays become holiday celebration

It was an old-fashioned holiday and birthday celebration all wrapped up into a rollicking good time for seniors at Botsford Commons this past week.

"Every month, we have a group birthday," said Tony Fama, Botsford Commons social

programming director. That celebration usually brings songstress Robin Beck and her dog, Katie, to the center to entertain. But with the holiday spirit in the air, the monthly birthday celebration welcomed a few more entertainers, such as three area young

women who will compete for Miss Michigan. Among those contestants was Miss Farmington Erin Cogswell, who performed a number from the Nutcracker ballet. "They came out as a special appearance for the holidays," Fama said.

### On her toes:

Miss Farmington Erin Cogswell entertains seniors at Botsford Commons with an updated version of the Nutcracker ballet during the monthly birthday celebration.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRACKER

Sing a song: Robin Beck sang plenty of old holiday standards for the appreciative seniors. Her dog, Katie, was a big hit, too.

## Rules set for project review

Hills officials want to make sure that the Eleven Pines project is done right and have come up with some rules to review proposals.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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When considering nine proposals to develop a golf course, Farmington Hills city officials pledge to take all the care and precision of a PGA pro lining up a putt on the 18th hole at Augusta.

"They won't be rushed. We want to do it right," City Manager Steve Brock said. "It's a key piece of land for us and the developer."

On Monday, Dec. 21, Brock briefed Hills city council members as to process of how proposals will be reviewed for development of the 92-acre Eleven Pines property, which includes the expansion of city-owned San Marino Golf Course from nine to 18 holes.

Proposals submitted for the Halsted-11 Mile site call for everything from condominiums to offices. All that is required is "nine holes of golf," Brock said.

The step-by-step process includes: At a study session in mid to late January, city staff will use an aerial map of Eleven Pines and San Marino Golf Course and lay the various proposals — without the developer's names — over the top. Staff and council members will decide what ideas are worth considering.

As a result of the study session, developers will then have a chance to amend their original proposals to better reflect those concepts city officials favor. Also, it gives them a chance to take include a parcel of school-owned property near San Marino that the city

Please see PROJECT, A4